



TANKIE TIMES

NEWS SERVICE



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GEOPOLITICS, LABOUR STRUGGLE, AND SOCIALIST HEADLINES

Belt & Road Debt Trap Myth Debunked

IN THIS ISSUE:

History of USA Aggression On Iran

Trump Wants to Meet Kim Jong Un

WWP Commentary on USS Lincoln

Lao, Cuba, Vietnam, China and DPRK news!

WHY EXPELLING US MILITARY AND DISMANTLING THEIR ASSETS ARE KEY TO REGIONAL PEACE

By Press TV Strategic Analysis Desk

The prospect of a stable and peaceful West Asia has remained elusive for decades, primarily because the military presence of outsiders has been detrimental to regional security.

The 40-day war waged by the US-Israeli coalition against Iran, which started on February 28, 2026, has brought this reality into sharper focus than ever before.

The unprovoked and illegal war has starkly illuminated that the very military apparatus designed to provide security has instead become the primary engine of instability and destruction. What was marketed as a protective shield has proven to be a catalyst for precisely the kind of large-scale warfare it was ostensibly meant to prevent.

This war has therefore raised a fundamental and uncomfortable question about the strategic logic underpinning the long-standing illegal US military presence across West Asia.

It is worth examining how the deployment of American forces, particularly in the immediate vicinity of Iran, has created a profoundly dysfunctional dynamic. In this arrangement, the host nations are not genuinely protected but dangerously exposed, their national security callously sacrificed on the altar of US strategic objectives that bear little relation to the welfare of the local populations. The allies have become hostages to an agenda not of their making.



This creates what might be described as a "protection paradox." Persian Gulf states host foreign military forces in the expectation that they will enhance their security. Yet the very same military infrastructure can rapidly morph into a source of strategic vulnerability when the protecting power engages in reckless military adventurism in the region.

The presence of military bases, logistics hubs, airfields, and intelligence facilities associated with the US military presence transforms host territories into legitimate targets. It narrows the distinction between being protected by an alliance and being geographically exposed by it, reducing them to forward operating bases in a war against their neighbor they never sought.

The recent war has consequently demolished the long-standing assumption that the US military presence functions as a "security umbrella." The US military footprint has made the host countries shields; their territories transformed into legitimate targets for Iranian retaliation.

A sustainable peace, therefore, requires the host countries to expel the hostile external forces that contribute to destabilization and exacerbate tensions between countries in the region.

The era of the United States as the regional policeman is ending, and for the sake of the people of West Asia, it cannot be allowed to return. The real path to peace is through the expulsion of foreign military forces and the establishment of a region where security is defined by co-existence, not by the presence of an army. - [PressTV](#)

COUPS, SANCTIONS, WARS

- Indifference to the 1918 famine
- 1953 coup: Direct hostile interference
- Training SAVAK: building a repressive apparatus
- US military and political backing for the dictator
- 1979-1980 asset freeze and economic restrictions
- Operation Eagle Claw: Military incursion into Iranian territory
- US support for Iraq during the 1980s Imposed War
- 1987-1988 US naval aggression in the Persian Gulf
- Iran Air Flight 655: Murder of 290 civilians
- Continuing economic embargo and sanctions escalation
- Dual containment and support for anti-government groups
- US legislation allowing seizure of Iranian assets
- Stuxnet and the cyberwar against Iran
- Pressure during the 2009 riots
- Maximum pressure after Trump's 2018 withdrawal from the JCPOA
- Assassination of General Qassem Soleimani
- US seizure and forfeiture of Iranian oil and assets
- 2026 US-Israeli aggression on Iran
- Minab school attack
- US attacks on Iranian civilian infrastructure
- US naval blockade of Iran



As US President Donald Trump once again demands compensation from Iran for damage to American assets, the historical record reveals a far more substantial ledger of unprovoked attacks, assassinations, sabotage, and coups carried out by the United States against Iran, a debt that, by any honest accounting, far exceeds any claim Washington might assert.

The audacity of Washington's demands for Iranian compensation stands in stark contrast to the documented history of US acts of aggression against the Iranian people.

From the orchestration of the 1953 coup that overthrew Iran's democratically elected government, to US support for Saddam Hussein during the 1980s Imposed War, including the provision of assistance that facilitated his chemical-weapons program, to the downing of a civilian airliner carrying 290 people, and the imposition of sweeping and illegal sanctions that have severely restricted Iran's access to medicines and other essential goods, the United States has accumulated a record of harm that spans more than seven decades.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly documented these issues, presenting evidence to international bodies and pursuing legal remedies through international institutions.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has also issued rulings in cases involving the United States and Iran, including findings that Washington violated treaty obligations and orders concerning compensation. – [PressTV](#)

UKRAINE DELIVERS NATO INSTRUCTORS BY SHIPS, WHICH IT ASKS RUSSIA NOT TO HIT

Russian troops liberated two communities in the Donetsk region over the past 24 hours in the special military operation in Ukraine, Russia's Defense Ministry reported.

"Battlegroup South units liberated the settlement of Orekhovatka in the Donetsk People's Republic through decisive operations. <...> Battlegroup Center units liberated the settlement of Krasnopodolye in the Donetsk People's Republic through active operations," the ministry said in a statement.

Overall, the Russian Armed Forces have destroyed 674 Ukrainian combat aircraft, 284 helicopters, 212,445 unmanned aerial vehicles, 669 surface-to-air missile systems, 30,624 tanks and other armored combat vehicles, 1,774 multiple rocket launchers, 36,186 field artillery guns and mortars and 69,581 special military motor vehicles since the start of the special military operation, the ministry reported. – [TASS](#)



TRUMP WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH KIM JONG UN THIS AUTUMN



US President Donald Trump is demanding that his aides arrange a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this autumn, [The Wall Street Journal](#) (WSJ) reported, citing sources.

Trump has discussed with his advisors the possibility of holding face-to-face talks with Kim Jong Un during his next trip to Asia, according to sources. Trump may travel there in November to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in China's Shenzhen, according to the publication. No official planning for a meeting between the US and North Korean leaders is currently underway, the report said.

Trump views the meeting with Kim Jong Un as an opportunity to resume dialogue and attempt to persuade North Korea to abandon its nuclear program, The Wall Street Journal wrote, adding though that experts and a number of US officials do not expect significant progress from the talks between the two leaders. – [TASS](#)

FIVE CIVILIANS INJURED IN UKRAINIAN DRONE ATTACK ON BELGOROD REGION

The Ukrainian armed forces have attacked the Belgorod Region, injuring five people, the region's emergency response center reported. – [TASS](#)

USS LINCOLN IN CRISIS

Major U.S. media have delivered the news of a collapsing supply line to the U.S. war fleet in the West Asia region. Thousands of personnel on aircraft carriers and other warships in the region have experienced exhausting working conditions, threats to safety on deck, a lack of supplies, food shortages, water contamination and disruptions in the mail system.

That's according to their relatives, who showed their anger at an Aug. 7 virtual town hall meeting with top U.S. Navy officers in San Diego. MS NOW reported the discussions, which were then reproduced in military newspapers, in the Guardian and later in the New York Times and other media.

Pentagon spokesperson Vice Admiral Douglas Verissimo blamed Iran's knocking out the U.S. naval base in Bahrain, a logistics hub, for the inability to deliver mail and supplies.

Conditions on the ships have led to mental health crises, with little to no counseling available, and to attempted suicides, which even the corporate media have reported.

The extensive news coverage of the deteriorating conditions aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln nuclear-powered aircraft carrier has shone a spotlight on a broad change in attitude at least among the enlisted personnel (non-officers). It's what the Naval leadership describes as "demoralization."

Often in military history what appears as demoralization is the first step to a greater consciousness. This is a consciousness that the people giving you orders and determining your life are acting neither in your interest nor for some ideal, but to serve the interests of the ultrarich who rule society.



At least some of the flight deck personnel are aware that a growing proportion of people in the U.S. consider the work of the USS Lincoln to constitute war crimes. A half-dozen military veterans in the U.S. Congress last December told the world that U.S. military personnel have not only the right but the duty to disobey orders to commit these war crimes.

Organizations like Veterans For Peace have publicized the right of people in the military to refuse to obey illegal and unconstitutional orders, like orders to commit war crimes. They have reached out by placing billboards near many bases around the U.S. and the world. Other groups have offered legal counseling. All this is good.

Can the movement also promote the idea that rank-and-file personnel in the U.S. Armed Forces have the right to form their own organization, much as workers would form a labor union?

Can the movement demand that the military personnel and their relatives have access to media of all types and have the right to report on and express their opinions on what is happening to them?

The actual form of any organization of active-duty personnel will have to grow from their own needs and reflect their own demands, but the movement can begin to find ways to provide support. Antiwar veterans of prior U.S. wars of aggression — against Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, for example — can play a valuable role in this work, as they have already begun to do. - WWP



BREAKING ON X

USS LINCOLN PROBLEMS

USS Lincoln wasn't resupplied because Hegseth 'hid' that Iran destroyed main U.S.:
<https://x.com/brontyman/status/2089714517894742370>
[MS.NOW](#)

AOC STAFFER ON CONTROVERSAL PHOTOSHOOT

AOC Staffer explains how they KNOW the photographs at the fence were staged:
<https://x.com/ZeynabDay/status/2089141958975316242>

TRUMP SOCIAL MEDIA METHOD REVEALED

An unearthed video offers a window into the Trumpist method of posting his thoughts to social media:
<https://x.com/HQNewsNow/status/2089355925727465764>

BEN GVIR LOVING MAYOR CONFRONTED

Yves Engler, previous running for the NDP leadership race has confronted Montreal Mayor on comments that hanging a Ben Gvir effigy is "antisemitism"
<https://x.com/EnglerYves/status/2089735412881223939>

CHINA'S REUSABLE ROCKET SETS DOWN ON LAND

China's reusable rocket Zhuque-3 has achieved first stage recovery on dry land, achieving a major breakthrough using landing legs.

https://x.com/XH_Lee23/status/2089873581199311144

RUSSIA REMEMBERS SOVIET ASSAULT ON KURIL ISLANDS

in 1945, Soviet forces launched the Kuril Islands Landing Operation – an amphibious assault to liberate the archipelago from Japanese militarists. It helped seal the defeat of Hitler's allies in the Far East, accelerating the end of WW2:

https://x.com/mfa_russia/status/2089730730435748136

POLICE VS SLUM LORD

Police in Missouri breaking into the second story of a house find the deck suddenly gives way under the weight of too many donut lovers:

<https://x.com/LovelyLeninist/status/2089924064093896855>



**HEADLINES FROM SOCIALIST
COUNTRIES!**

SOCIALIST HEADLINES

LAOS STRENGTHENS TOURISM MARKETING THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

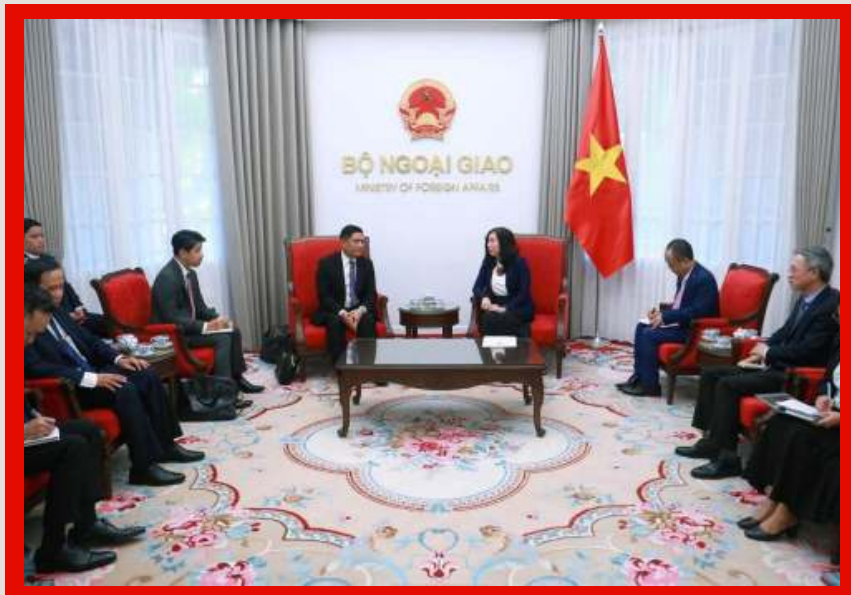


The Tourism Marketing and Promotion Department of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism signed cooperation agreements with HTH Import-Export Sole Co., Ltd., MATT Sole Co., Ltd. and LS Education Center in Vientiane Capital on August 18, 2026, to strengthen the promotion of Lao tourism.

The agreements focus on three key areas: promoting Lao cultural identity through souvenirs featuring the "White Elephant" symbol; advancing digital tourism through the Meekula.com website and tourism application; and strengthening human resources through training in foreign languages, tourism marketing and professional communication.

The initiative supports the 2026–2030 Culture and Tourism Development Plan and aims to make Lao tourism more attractive, digitally accessible, competitive and sustainable for domestic and international visitors. – KPL

LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS DELEGATION STRENGTHENS COOPERATION WITH VIETNAM



Mr. Somkhit Vanhkham, Director-General of the Press Department and Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR, led a delegation on an official working visit to Vietnam and paid a courtesy call on Ms. Le Thi Thu Hang, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, in Hanoi on August 18, 2026.

Ms. Le Thi Thu Hang warmly welcomed the Lao delegation and said the visit would further strengthen cooperation between the two foreign ministries, particularly between their respective press departments. She highlighted the importance of the visit following the 14th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the 12th National Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, which further advanced bilateral ties as a relationship of "great friendship, special solidarity, comprehensive cooperation and strategic partnership."

She called for continued exchange of experiences, closer coordination and greater sharing of views on international issues of mutual interest. She also encouraged both sides to promote accurate and positive information about bilateral relations and developments in each country, particularly among younger generations.

– KPL

SOCIALIST HEADLINES

BEST TRIBUTE TO PREVIOUS GENERATIONS IS RESPONSIBILITY, ACTION OF TODAY'S GENERATION

General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and President To Lam on August 18 affirmed that the most meaningful tribute to previous generations is the responsibility and concrete actions of today's generation to build a stronger and more prosperous Vietnam. He made the statement at a meeting with former members of the Party Central Committee's Politburo and Secretariat in different terms, as well as members of the 13th-tenure Party Central Committee who are not continuing their positions in the 14th tenure, and to present Ho Chi Minh and Independence Orders and Party membership badges on the occasion of the 81st anniversary of the August Revolution (August 19) and National Day (September 2). [VNA](#) Photo



SOCIALIST HEADLINES

**CHINA MOVES TO UNLOCK
COUNTY-LEVEL CONSUMPTION,
ENERGIZE DOMESTIC DEMAND**



China on Tuesday unveiled a set of measures to unlock the consumption potential of counties and smaller cities, tapping into the vast lower-tier markets as a new source of domestic demand and economic growth.

The government calls for upgrading consumption channels in counties, including renovating township commercial centers, rural markets and local fairs, encourages domestic and international brands to open regional debut stores, and promotes the revitalization of existing land resources to improve services, according to a guideline jointly issued by the Ministry of Commerce and other authorities.

The guideline urges better services that cater to the elderly and children, more efficient urban-rural distribution networks, and stronger county-level employment, as well as more channels for residents to increase their incomes.

The measures come as China seeks to give consumption a bigger role in driving economic growth. – [CGTN](#)

**BREAKING THE MYTH OF 'DEBT-TRAP
DIPLOMACY': FORGING GOLDEN FUTURE
FOR BELT AND ROAD**



August 17, 2026 marks the 10th anniversary of the first Symposium on Advancing the Development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) held in China. Over the past decade, four successive national-level symposiums have established phased strategic priorities, guiding the BRI from an ambitious vision into a mature, institution-based framework for global cooperation.

Launched in 2013 as an initiative centered on infrastructure connectivity, the BRI has continuously evolved. It has moved beyond traditional infrastructure investment toward a broader model of high-quality cooperation that integrates livelihood improvement, institutional coordination, green development, digital transformation and multilateral governance.

Recent research covering nearly 200 economies has delivered a compelling empirical verdict: rather than creating so-called "debt traps," BRI participation has on average reduced sovereign debt pressure and curbed corruption risks for partner nations. The long-circulated "debt-trap diplomacy" narrative is largely a geopolitical construct, often detached from real-world project outcomes and debt restructuring cases. – [CGTN](#)

SOCIALIST HEADLINES

The 2026 National Exhibition of August 3 Consumer Goods took place at the Pyongyang Underground Shop between August 4 and 11.

On display at the exhibition, which was held on the theme of "Improvement of quality and diversification of consumer goods", were hundreds of thousands of products of over 4 000 kinds made by more than 400 units across the country.

As in the past, most attractive at the exhibition were local specialities.

The nine kinds of products of South Hamgyong Province, including salted Pollack entrails, pickled cod roe, pickled squid, salted anchovy and salted Pollack milt, were particularly popular with women as they build up the people's appetites with distinctive taste and are good for retarding ageing and convenient to store and use.

Various kinds of products made with agalmatolite and jade also attracted the interest of visitors. In the country the craftwork of agalmatolite has been developed for a long time, and agalmatolite pots help cook foods for a long time without charring them while keeping their unique flavour. And the taste of foods boiled in them is particularly good.

Honey products and dried edible herbs from Jagang Province also won favour with the visitors.

Honey from linden flower and Amur choke cherry flower enhances the resistance of the human body and

SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MADE IN QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION OF CONSUMER GOODS



helps contain bacteria, protect liver and lower blood pressure. And dried wild vegetables like *Athyrium nipponicum*, bracken and *Inonotus obliquus* are also products with high pharmacological effects on the human body.

South Hwanghae Province presented various kinds of grasswork in different shapes and forms. They lured many visitors as they are light, refresh the viewers and help relieve fatigue in the human body, and more importantly protect the users from the heat in summer.

Various units in Pyongyang presented products they had developed and completed in the course of diversifying consumer goods and improving their quality. Among them, a functional sofa presented by the recycling workteam of the Sadong District Direct Sales Shop was highly appreciated by experts.

The consumer goods cooperative production units in Tokchon and Kanggye cities and the recycling workteam of the Unsan County Direct Sales Shop also exhibited new kinds of products like foldaway umbrellas and armchairs they had produced by making effective use of locally available raw materials and resources.

And liquid and powder soap favoured by housewives, quilts that give warm and soft feelings and other household goods also attracted the attention of many visitors.

During the exhibition there was a presentation of experience gained by exemplary units in the production of consumer goods. - [The Pyongyang Times](#)

