Should we expect a new Yalta-45, and await a world divided into spheres of influence?

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Preface

The world is going through an extremely unstable period associated with the transition towards large-scale geopolitical changes. These changes will affect the structure of international relations and will be a new historical era. So far, it is impossible to clearly determine what the main parameters of the emerging new world order will be. In today's tense situation within the international area – we can only try to determine the approximate outlines of the future.

So far, the only obvious thing is that the political world map will be radically redrawn – where new superpowers will appear. The balance of power between them will be redistributed, and states will have to negotiate mutual rules, confirm existing agreements and establish new ones.

The collective West is destroying international laws and established norms. Examples of this are: numerous illegal sanctions and instruments of direct physical influence; or the destruction of industrial and logistical facilities, pipelines. Attempts are being made to block international transport corridors, seize merchant ships. Illegal restrictions are applied, along with threats of so-called secondary sanctions against those who do not agree in the interests of others, but protect only their national interests.

At the same time – within the countries that have initiated sanctions, there are problems of: budget deficit, growing public debt, and industrial recession. So, these countries themselves have come face to face with the consequences of their actions.

> "*The risk of a full-scale conflict throughout Eurasia is very real, which is a matter of serious concern. According to our data, European leaders are betting on controlled escalation, following the strategy of balancing on the brink of war developed by Western intelligence services in the last century*," said Sergei Naryshkin, the director of the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) of Russia, at the 22nd meeting of the heads of security and intelligence services of the CIS member states in St. Petersburg.[1]

Sergei Naryshkin believes, that in this way European leaders are driving their own selves into a trap – the propaganda mechanisms launched by politicians create such a harsh picture of the world, that they become its hostages.

> "*At some point, the general tension can reach such a degree that any, even insignificant event can bring down the entire system. Diplomacy in this situation no longer works. And the powers literally fall into an all-out war, often with a devastating outcome for everyone. We are obliged to prevent such a turn of events*," Naryshkin said.

Understanding the current harsh picture of the world, global tensions and conditions that could lead to all-out war, – it is highly probable to assume, that the leading powers are now agreeing on the contours of a new world order.

Major global events are always preceded by behind-the-scenes negotiations that are not meant for public disclosure. The world has reached a point where a decision must be made about the path forward. Key figures have begun making this decision doing so privately, away from the public eye. Simple logic suggests that the first step is to reach an agreement on what that decision might actually look like.

Will the recent summits turn out to be a "new Tehran ‘43"? These summits are: the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)[2] summit (August 31 - September 1 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) and the BRICS Business Forum[3] (September 11-13 in New Delhi, India) along with the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)[4] summit (November 18-19 in Shenzhen, China) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)[5] summit in Manila, Philippines (to which president Putin has been invited).

Will a "new Yalta ‘45"[6] follow, where the contours of a new world order are discussed? Who will join the coalition of key players on the new geopolitical map of the world? How many chairs will there be for a group photo of the new participants at "the new Yalta"? Let’s try to analyse this and draw some feasible conclusions.

The Tehran Conference of 1943 was the first meeting of the leaders of the "Big Three": Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill (USSR, USA and Great Britain), held during November 28 - December 1, 1943, in Tehran, Iran, – at which the future of the post-war world was discussed. The main outcome and decision of the conference (if we consider only the political, and not the military component of the meeting): was the adoption of a declaration on security and post-war cooperation, aimed at maintaining peace and security.

The Yalta (Crimean) Conference of the Allied powers (4-11 February, 1945, Yalta, Crimea, USSR) was the second multilateral meeting of the "Big Three" leaders dedicated to establishing the post-war world order.

Signs of the emerging contours of a new world order

What was the reason for CIA Director to fly to Moscow?

On 25 August, 2026, CIA director John Ratcliffe flew to Moscow to meet with SVR director Sergei Naryshkin.

In the United States, Ratcliffe's trip was officially called "almost routine." However, according to The Wall Street Journal, Ratcliffe was sent personally by the US president, and the publication called Ratcliffe's mission "so delicate" that even senior officials in the presidential administration did not know about the trip.[7] According to The Wall Street Journal, Ratcliffe met with his Russian counterpart to discuss security issues in Europe, including the risks of a possible escalation of relations between Russia and NATO.

An analytical pieces by the British publication UnHeard also claims that Ratcliffe's trip was an important, but informal, channel of communication between the heads of the opposing intelligence services, and the meeting allegedly addressed issues on how to prevent the escalation of the war in Ukraine into a larger European or global conflict – a scenario, that would pose a massive security threat to the entire world.[8]

The versions expressed by The Wall Street Journal, UnHerd, Axios, and other reputable publications, – these fit well into the standard explanations offered to the general public; namely, that these are merely routine, confidential diplomatic communications, typical of these turbulent times – and nothing more.

Ratcliffe's secret visit to Moscow remained a mystery for a long time. However, we need to look at the timing of the subsequent events – as immediately after Ratcliffe's meeting, Russian president Vladimir Putin met with president of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, and delivered statements at SCO and BRICS summits. President Putin has a busy international schedule ahead of him: the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shenzhen, and a series of talks with key world leaders.

According to sources close to the Kremlin: it is more likely that Ratcliffe's visit could only be a smokescreen for a more significant meeting – to align the points of view of the leading world powers on the structure of the future world order. So, this trip most likely masked real negotiations and was a cover operation. Together with the director of the CIA, another American allegedly arrived in Moscow, and it was he who could meet with the President of Russia to prepare important political decisions, regarding the contours of the new world order.[9] That is why the topic of the visit disappeared from the public information field so quickly – both in the Russian and in foreign media. That this was done intentionally, so that no one would begin to express unnecessary speculation to the actual reality.

It is interesting to note that shortly after Ratcliffe's visit, SVR director Naryshkin indicated that he might pay a return visit to the United States; he specified that an invitation from the American side had already been received and that further meetings with the CIA director in Moscow were also possible arrangements for which are currently being discussed between Moscow and Washington.[10]

In conclusion, – it seems that preparations are underway for important geopolitical decisions. It is quite possible, that they are trying to launch a new stage of negotiations on the future world order.

Visit of the Russian Finance Minister to the United States

In all likelihood, following the "Anchorage 2025" meeting, Moscow and Washington utilized a separate channel to discuss the contours of the future global order even though the "spirit of Anchorage" was, from the outset, far more of a political formular than a concrete, formal agreement (indeed, no such agreement was ever signed). Nevertheless, the negotiating machinery set in motion at Anchorage continued to function. President Donald Trump's representatives, Witkoff and Kushner, had travelled to Moscow to deliver American proposals and receive signals from the Russian side. Now, a representative from Moscow has made the reverse journey to obtain the American terms and convey them back to Moscow.

On August 31, Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov and U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent held a personal meeting at the G20 summit, held from August 29 to September 1 in Asheville, North Carolina, USA, in order to discuss (according to the officially stated American version) Russian-American financial cooperation and the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine.

What is more interesting is this: why did Washington find it necessary to discuss peace between Russia and Ukraine, specifically with Russia's Finance Minister? And why did Moscow and Washington need precisely that interlocutor?

Most likely, behind the outwardly strange meeting of the finance ministers of Russia and the United States, a very calculated plan could be hidden. Washington could be probing Moscow. The

Americans, represented by Bessent, could simultaneously solve two problems: to understand what Moscow thinks about the future of the global financial system; and to find out the real limits of its readiness for the emerging new world order. The dollar is especially important here – against the backdrop of talks about the weakening of the dollar as a reserve currency, deglobalization and the strengthening of independent financial structures, including BRICS and the SCO. In other words, Bessent could try to get information from Moscow. But Moscow could also do the same – get the fullest possible information about the future negotiating position of the United States, which was the main purpose of Siluanov's visit to the United States.

In this reading, the meeting between Siluanov and Bessent takes on a completely different meaning. According to sources close to the Kremlin, Moscow's task was to force the American side to put on the table what price the United States is ready to set for the future world order. This is especially important, given the prospect of a possible meeting between Presidents Putin and Trump at the APEC summit in China in November this year. If Moscow knows the American position in advance, the Russian president will come to the talks with a full understanding of what proposals should be expected from the United States – when discussing the contours of the new world order, including its financial component. It is not for nothing that they say: money is the circulatory system of any economy! If this is so, then Siluanov's meeting with Bessent is no longer a diplomatic improvisation, but quite understandable intelligence of the US negotiating position. Clearly, Siluanov would not have dared to discuss topics outside a financier's usual purview without first clearing it with the head of state, Putin.

In conclusion, "Anchorage 2025" no longer appears to be the culmination of negotiations, but rather part of a longer intriguing game. The visits by Witkoff and Kushner may have constituted one stage of this; Siluanov's visit represented the next: he went, gathered information, and brought it back.

Summit SCO, 31 August - 1 September 2026, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

The SCO was originally created to maintain peace in Central Asia, but after the inclusion of India, Pakistan and Iran, its goals became more ambitious. All members of the organization are interested in independently determining the fate of the Eurasian space, and resolving disagreements among themselves without the participation of external (that is, Western) forces.

As a result, another 27 documents were signed. The central document was the "Bishkek Declaration". I highlight below those provisions, that support my analysis:

- opposed unilateral coercive measures that contradict the UN Charter and other norms of international law, rules and principles of the WTO;
- called for the further improvement and reform of the global economic governance system.

A very important direction for the world political agenda was the negotiations between Presidents Vladimir Putin and Masoud Peseschkian, which became an open signal to the whole world: that the era when Washington could dictate terms in the Middle East is over. Moscow and Tehran are creating an economic framework that ensures stability in the space of Greater Eurasia from the Caspian Sea to the Persian Gulf, and makes any attempts to block trade routes meaningless. This is facilitated by the large-scale "North-South" corridor through the Caspian Sea, which is completely isolated from external blockades, connects Russian ports with the Indian Ocean and is a key transit gate for the two countries to the markets of Asia and the Middle East.

The Iranian leader made it clear that the experience with the "Islamabad Memorandum"[11] has shown that it is pointless to agree with the White House without firm international guarantees. Washington's sanctions blackmail has finally reached an impasse. The White House's attempts to threaten blockades and secondary sanctions are shattered by the new reality.

> "*The Strait of Hormuz, a key point through which America has manipulated oil prices for decades, will lose its strategic importance to Washington in two years*," – Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent speaks with the press during the 2026 G20 Financial meeting in Asheville, North Carolina on August 31.[12]

The Strait of Hormuz has de facto come under the control of Tehran. This waterway ensures the functioning of 20% of the world economy. Hormuz is a direct road to the Suez Canal (12% of the world economy), it is a direct connection with a huge part of the world, it is the shortest corridor to other countries of the continent. Therefore, in terms of impact on the world economy, almost 35% of the world economy is already under the control of the Islamic Republic.

In conclusion:

- Russia and Iran are redrawing the map of Greater Eurasia and forging a powerful trade and energy alliance, that excludes the United States.
- Iran is promoting the idea of resistance to this hegemon within the Islamic world.

BRICS Business Forum, 11-13 September 2026, New-Deli, India

The important outcomes of this forum are:

- The BRICS bloc has begun establishing its own payment mechanisms and infrastructure specifically, a Central Bank Digital Currency independent of SWIFT and the US dollar. This process should be viewed as one element of a large-scale transformation of the global financial system.
- A long-term strategic framework for relations is being established among Russia, India, and China; these relations can serve as a model for BRICS member states on how to jointly overcome shared challenges and prevent internal discord within the BRICS group.
- It is possible that India could act as a significant mediator in resolving differences between other BRICS members, particularly Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

BRICS continues to shape the contours of a new, just, and democratic world order, a vision that drove the bloc's explosive expansion in 2024. While helping to dismantle the unipolar global model, BRICS simultaneously assists the world in weathering the disorder instigated by the West by: prioritizing trade relations, which serve as a stabilizing factor in these turbulent times.

Over the past five years, the BRICS share of global GDP has risen to over 40%, while the share of the G7 countries has steadily declined, standing at just 29%.

> "*The center of gravity of the global economy has shifted, and the numbers [...] objectively reflect reality. […] Right now, there are fundamental changes in geopolitics. […] The unipolar system of international relations, which served a narrow group of countries, is becoming a*

thing of the past. The balance of power is being redistributed in favour of new growth centers in the global South and East. More and more states are loudly saying that they will protect their own national interests. And at the same time, they are ready to take part in solving global problems," said President Putin at the summit.[13]

In conclusion:

- The previous system of international relations has failed and is becoming a thing of the past.
- BRICS is forming a new sustainable platform for global growth.
- BRICS is so far the only format that is able to offer an alternative to the system of international relations promoted by the collective West.

Summit APEC, 18-19 November 2026, Shenzhen, China

The APEC summit will be attended by representatives of 21 countries, including Canada, Japan, Mexico, and South Korea.

The heads of state of Russia and China discussed the possibility of organizing a trilateral meeting with the participation of US President Donald Trump at the summit in Shanghai. So far, this is just an idea, but it was discussed at the SCO summit in Bishkek by the Russian and Chinese leaders. If Trump agrees, it will be a global sensation for a number of reasons.

If Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping and Donald Trump sit down at a general round table, this will inevitably be regarded as the creation of a new "Big Three" and will cause, among other things, a panic attack among some Western Atlanticists.

In geopolitics, the term "Big Three" is firmly associated with the wartime meetings of the leaders of the three Anti-Hitler coalition powers: the USSR, the USA, and Great Britain. Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill first met in Tehran in November 1943. Today once again in November, but this time in the Chinese city of Shenzhen the term "Big Three" may be making a comeback in global politics.

A potential meeting between Vladimir Putin, Donald Trump, and Xi Jinping has begun to be referred to as a "new Yalta." However, this comparison should be treated with caution. In February 1945, Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill did indeed discuss the postwar world order in Yalta. The current situation is fundamentally different, as there is no unified package of agreements, and the interests of the three powers diverge on many issues.

There is currently no talk of forming a new coalition of nations intent on shaping a new world order, yet the very fact that the leaders of three global powers are meeting will be an event of immense significance. While an alliance of the three powers akin to Yalta 1945 is not in the cards at the moment, even symbolic gestures will carry weight; the joint appearance of this trio of leaders would send shockwaves through the world and spark widespread discussion.

There is no doubt that, sooner or later, the leaders of the world's most militarily powerful nations will meet to shape a new global order. But has the right moment to discuss this matter arrived? It would seem so, yet there is currently no certainty that such a meeting will take place in Shenzhen this November. It would benefit Putin and Xi, while Trump would presumably like to host the first trilateral summit of great powers in modern history. Trump would likely fail to dominate such a meeting, but he would undoubtedly portray it as a clear success of his own.

Given that the spirit of "Anchorage 2025" has dissipated while the spirit of Shenzhen is on the horizon, it is highly likely that at the November summit, Russia and China will cement President Trump's defeat and secure guarantees for his future successors – specifically regarding how Moscow and Beijing will engage with the Republican opposition during a Democratic comeback.

Beijing and Washington have a distinct set of points of contention, including trade, technology, and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Russia and China, for their part, maintain close political and economic ties. Therefore, the trilateral meeting will likely involve a direct exchange of positions among three states that play a central role in global politics.

In conclusion, it would be fair to say, that a potential meeting of three world leaders in Shenzhen could become a significant diplomatic event where the contours of the future world order might be discussed.

What's next? Indicators of the crisis of the collective West

What might the future hold for the world?

The superpowers that are United States, China and Russia – in terms of military and economy, will soon be joined by Irian, a country that will become one of the main world leaders. Iran is turning from a regional player into a powerful superpower, which will play the same important role in world politics as Russia, China and the United States play today.

The agreements made at the recent SCO and BRICS forums, and during meetings between the leaders of Russia, China and North Korea in 2025-2026 do not bring anything good to the collective West. These agreements have demonstrated joint economic power and political unity. Russia and China, which are the leaders in the SCO and BRICS associations, as well as Iran and North Korea, which is not part of the associations, which have been unofficially called the "Axis of Change", are becoming another international instrument in building a new multipolar world that will replace the "rules-based world order" created by the collective West.

New major geopolitical forces

There will be four superpowers in the world: the United States, China, Russia and Iran, and the balance of power will obviously be in favour of the last three states – Russia's allies friendly to Russia, which will strengthen Russia's position in the international arena very sharply.

> "*The West and especially Europe, which have lost the ability to objectively dominate, are becoming more dangerous and have turned into a badly wounded beast. The level of instability in the world has exceeded the indicators of the Cold War period of the 1970s*," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.[14]

The military component

It is highly likely that a Russian victory in the special military operation in Ukraine will eventually lead to the collapse of the European Union and the disintegration of NATO, as the US withdraws its forces from Europe – a process already underway de facto, given that the Trump administration began reducing its military presence in a number of European and Middle Eastern countries.

However, the U.S. has significantly increased its defense spending. The U.S. defense budget for fiscal year 2026 is historically unprecedented, with nearly $922 billion (3.5% of GDP) compared to 2025 (~$848 billion, 3.1% of GDP), an increase of 13.4% compared to 2025.[15] The U.S. defense budget for 2026 is about 4 times larger than China's and 7 times larger than Russia's, i.e., 2.5 times the combined defense budgets of China and Russia for 2026.

The United States demonstrates a clear intention to maintain military superiority in an era of growing geopolitical competition, which will have far-reaching consequences for the global security architecture, points to the potential for a new arms race with China and Russia, and inevitably leads to the destabilization of international relations and an increase in the risk of conflicts.

Financial system

The world's reserve currency, the U.S. dollar, will continue to be the world's currency, but its role will be significantly reduced. The new reserve currency is likely to be the Chinese yuan, which is already used in international settlements, or the new BRIC currency, to get away from the economic dictates of the United States.

A very unstable situation is developing in the United States. The United States, which until recently considered itself a world leader, is rapidly weakening by bogged down in economic problems, internal political conflicts, showing the whole world its inability to solve the crises it has itself created.

Industrial inflation in the United States has intensified: if in January 2026 this figure was 3.5% year-on-year, then in May it was already 13.1%. The United States continues to live on loan at the expense of its printing press, on which it can issue as many dollars as it wants. The US national debt has reached an astronomical figure of 40 trillion dollars, or 125% of US GDP. It is expected that by 2030 it will grow to 50 trillion dollars.[16] Uncontrolled printing of the dollar undermines confidence in the American currency and gives an advantage to the Chinese yuan and other national currencies, and sooner or later this state of affairs will lead to the emergence of financial bubbles and distortions in the economy of the United States and economically dependent countries.

> "*United States are living in debt. This means that they don't live within their means and are shifting some of the burden of their own problems onto the entire global economy. To a certain extent, they are parasites on the global economy and their own monopoly on the dollar. They live like parasites on the global economy and their dollar monopoly,*"– Vladimir Putin.[17]

Economic system

The economic system will be gradually rebuilt - new settlement and interbank systems will appear, which will take world trade away from the control of the collective West.

The former hegemons of the United States and the collective West, in an effort to maintain dominance and prevent the superiority of competitors, use the economy as a weapon, destabilizing the global economy with sanctions, tariff wars, and the destruction of established production and trade chains.

> "*The collapse of the OPEC oil alliance*[18]*is inevitable after the normalization of the situation in the Middle East,*" said U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. [19]

China's economy already ranks second in the world ($20 trillion) trailing only the United States (over $30 trillion) in terms of nominal GDP and first in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP). Germany holds third place.[20] Russia has risen to fourth place in terms of GDP at purchasing power parity, economic resilience, and key standing within global governance forums such as the UN, BRICS, and the G20[21] thereby solidifying its significant role in shaping the new operating principles of international and regional markets, trade chains, and transport corridors.

BRICS nations account for over 40% of global GDP with a growth rate of nearly 50%, whereas the G7 countries represent just 29% with a growth rate of 18%. Given these figures. So, can the collective West catch up with the dynamically developing East and Asia?

Will the European Union survive?

The world has already become multipolar, as America is weakening, given its waning weight in the global economy and politics, and Europe is losing its position even faster.

Most likely, very serious processes await the European Union in the coming years. The main question is: will the European Union as such survive in the foreseeable future? There is no need to enumerate both inherent defects and accumulated problems and disagreements: suffice it to say, that the European Union was originally a purely political project with a time bomb, with countries and nations with sometimes diametrical views on their interests, culture and historical place in the world.

The genetic Russophobia of the European elites and the hope to finally deal with Russia at the hands of Ukraine has led the European Union to the most acute crises – political, social, economic and military, and there are very serious reasons to believe that the "good old" European Union does not have long to exist.

Emmanuel Macron admitted that Europe is on the brink of an abyss.

> "*If we fail to reform the European Union, it may disappear. Our Europe is mortal. […] It can die, and it all depends on our choice,*" – Emmanuel Macron.[22]

In conclusion:

- The collective West, experiencing a political and economic crisis, is trying to impose it on others.
- The US is incapable of leading the world forward, and its primary goal is to contain the development of other countries.

Summary

1. Yesterday's hegemons – the United States and the collective West are forced to recognize a new reality – it is being created without them.
2. A covert struggle is underway globally over what the world will look like in the foreseeable future: whether it will be open and free, devoid of humanitarian and cultural barriers or artificial constraints on the development of economic and social life.
3. The CIA director's secret trip, the proposal for a summit between leaders in Shanghai, contacts between Moscow and Minsk, and the intensification of international negotiations all this

increasingly resembles preparations for a major political phase. The definitive answer to all the questions surrounding this new political game will become clear very soon.
4. Russia is asserting itself as one of the consolidating centers of the multipolar world order.
5. A destructive factor in modern global politics is its former driving forces – the countries of the West.

Let us return to the question: just how many chairs will be set out for the group photo at the "New Yalta" leaders' meeting, where the future of the world is to be discussed?

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[1] Alexei Nikolsky. Europe believes in a strategy of controlled escalation, Naryshkin said. *RIA Novosti*, September 4, 2026; https://ria.ru/20260904/naryshkin-2115481630.html

[2] The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) (founded in 2001) is a Eurasian political, economic and international security organisation of ten member states formed in 2001.

[3] BRICS is an international organisation (formed in 2009) currently comprising ten countries: Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

[4] Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is one of the largest and most influential intergovernmental forums in the region, established in 1989 to promote regional trade, investment and economic growth, uniting 21 member economies.

[5] The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is an intergovernmental forum of all 11 states in Southeast Asia formed in 1967. ASEAN primarily focuses on Southeast Asian economic development, peaceful coexistence and adherence to international norms.

[6] The Tehran Conference was a strategy meeting of the Allies of World War II, held between Joseph Stalin, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Winston Churchill ("Big Three") from 28 November to 1 December 1943.

[7] Alexander Ward and Thomas Grove. CIA director John Ratcliffe makes surprise trip to Moscow. *The Wall Street Journal*, August 25, 2026.

[8] Wolfgang Munchau. The case for de-escalation with Russia America is leading the way. *UnHerd*, August 31, 2026.

[9] Michail Khazin: While everyone was looking at Ratcliffe, the same American was brought to Putin. *Tsargrad*, August 31, 2026; https://tsargrad.tv/news/hazin-poka-vse-smotreli-na-rjetkliffa-k-putinu-zaveli-togo-samogo-amerikanca_1845121

[10] The head of the Foreign Intelligence Service did not rule out his return visit to the United States after the arrival of the CIA director in the Russian Federation. *Interfax*, September 9, 2026; https://www.interfax.ru/russia/1114145

[11] On June 18, 2026, Iran and the United States signed a memorandum of understanding, which outlines preliminary agreements to end the armed conflict between the two countries.

[12] Yash Roy. Bessent says Hormuz will be 'worthless' as oil bypasses it. *Bloomberg*, September 2, 2026.

[13] Meeting of the XVIII BRICS Summit in the "outreach" / "BRICS plus" format. *Kremlin. President of Russia. Events*, September 13, 2026; http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/80754

[14] Grigory Sysoev. The West has turned into a badly wounded beast, Lavrov said. *RIA Novosti*, September 8, 2026; https://ria.ru/20260908/lavrov-2116211569.html?in=t

[15] Nikola Lunić. The Largest Defense Budget in the History of Civilization. *Vreme*, July 16, 2025; https://vreme.com/ru/svet/najveci-budzet-odbrane-u-istoriji-civilizacije/

[16] Olga Samofalova. Nowhere to run: the United States has come to a dangerous line. *RIA Novosti*, August 26, 2026; https://ria.ru/20260826/ssha-2112877139.html?in=t

[17] Tom Balmforth. Russian PM Attacks U.S. Over National Debt. *Radio Free Europe. Radio Liberty*, August 2, 2011.

[18] OPEC is an international association created in 1960 by leading oil-producing states to coordinate production volumes, control export quotas and stabilize world crude oil prices.

[19] Max Bacall. Bessent predicts oil prices could drop as low as $40 after Iran conflict ends and supply floods market. *FOX News*, September 7, 2026.

[20] International Monetary Fund. World Economic Outlook. 2025 Global GDP; https://www.youtube.com/shorts/0lHjvSgDZeU

[21] The Group of Twenty (G20) is an informal club of governments and heads of central banks of states with the most developed and developing economies, created in 1999.

[22] Gėrard Araud. 'Our Europe is mortal. It can die.' Decoding Macron's Sorbonne speech. *New Atlanticist*, April 29, 2024.