

CUTS International *Global Affairs*

Occasional News Wrap - #82/January 2025



Trump's Second Act

Geopolitical Recalibration and Global Perspectives

Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the United States on January 20, 2025, in a ceremony marked by bold proclamations and decisive actions. Held indoors due to severe weather, Trump in his speech talked of ushering in a "golden age" for America, emphasising unity and strength. As the 47th President recommences his tenure, global political dynamics face potential recalibration emphasising nationalist agendas and challenging post-war liberal norms. This term will be closely watched for its impact on global affairs and U.S. policy directions.

The January 2025 edition of the CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) provides a nuanced overview of President Donald Trump's return to the White House. It critically examines diverse international perspectives, exploring implications across geopolitical, economic, and diplomatic landscapes, offering readers a comprehensive snapshot of emerging global shifts.

Op-eds	Key Takeaways
Trump's first day: What to make of it? <i>The Washington Post</i> January 21, 2025	On his first day in office, President Donald Trump issued several executive orders signalling a shift in U.S. policies. He granted pardons to individuals involved in the January 6 events, reinstated stringent immigration measures, and initiated actions to boost fossil fuel production. Additionally, he signed orders to dismantle diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and to define gender strictly as male or female at birth. These actions reflect a more aggressive and norm-defying approach to governance.
It's Time for a U.S.-India Trade Deal <i>Foreign Policy</i> January 21, 2025	The article from <i>Foreign Policy</i> discusses the potential for a U.S.-India trade agreement under President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It suggests that both leaders' nationalist agendas could facilitate a deal that balances economic interests with strategic considerations in the Indo-Pacific region. The piece highlights the importance of aligning trade policies with broader geopolitical goals to strengthen bilateral relations.
Trump 2.0, China's Xi Are Sizing Each Other Up <i>U.S News</i> January 21, 2025	This article highlights the cautious interactions between President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping as they address issues like trade, fentanyl, and TikTok. Both leaders are opting for diplomacy over conflict, with Trump avoiding new tariffs. The article suggests this could lead to a more stable U.S.-China relationship
On the Panama Canal, Donald Trump has much to learn from Jimmy Carter <i>South China Morning Post</i> January 21, 2025	President Donald Trump's recent statements expressing a desire to reclaim U.S. control over the Panama Canal , a move that has raised concerns in Panama and among international observers. Trump's approach with that of former President Jimmy Carter, who, through the Torrijos-Carter Treaties of 1977, facilitated the peaceful transfer of the canal to Panamanian sovereignty in 1999.
As Trump 2.0 begins, the world is poised for change — India must find new paths to manage shifts <i>The Economic Times</i> January 21, 2025	This article argues that Trump's potential return to presidency could significantly reshape global power dynamics , particularly focusing on the complex interplay between U.S.-China relations and the strategic positioning of India in technological trade and geopolitical partnerships.

Op-eds	Key Takeaways
What Donald Trump's return to the White House means for the Middle East <i>Arab News</i> January 21, 2025	For the Middle East , Trump's inauguration is expected to reshape US engagement in the region, focusing on expanding the Abraham Accords and intensifying pressure on Tehran.
'Donald Trump could drive up the yuan or the euro and claim victory in his trade war with the rest of the world' <i>Le Monde</i> January 22, 2025	The article from <i>Le Monde</i> discusses how President Donald Trump could potentially manipulate currency values , such as the yuan or the euro, to claim success in his trade war without directly imposing tariffs. By influencing these currencies, Trump might achieve trade advantages, thereby asserting victory in his economic confrontations with other nations.
Trump Inherited a Strong America. That's a Weak Europe's Problem <i>Bloomberg</i> January 22, 2025	This article discusses how President Donald Trump's return to power presents challenges for Europe . The U.S. has become more self-reliant, reducing its role as Europe's protector, which has left Europe unprepared for a protector turned rival. This shift has led to increased trade tensions, with the U.S. imposing tariffs on European goods, and has prompted Europe to reconsider its defence and economic strategies.
Not just a change of regime, Trump is reshaping post-War America <i>Indian Express</i> January 22, 2025	C. Raja Mohan's article discusses how Trump's second term marks a departure from post-war liberal norms, with policies focused on restoring traditional values, tightening immigration controls, and challenging free trade. His foreign policy emphasises national interests, reducing global involvement, and rethinking relations with powers like Russia and China. These shifts signal a transformative change in U.S. politics and global engagement.
What Donald Trump's return to power in US means for Africa? <i>DW</i> January 22, 2025	The article discusses African perspectives on Donald Trump's second term, highlighting cautious optimism among some Ghanaians who hope for strengthened US-Africa partnerships, while others express concerns over potential impacts on LGBTQ+ rights and immigration policies.