







A large grey naval ship, likely a destroyer or cruiser, is shown from an elevated perspective, sailing on the open ocean. The ship is moving towards the viewer, leaving a white wake behind it. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, dark blue font.

National Security
The World Today
and
Your Bottom Line

Global Security Environment

A large grey naval ship, likely a destroyer or cruiser, is shown from a high-angle perspective, sailing on the open ocean. The ship is moving towards the viewer, leaving a white wake behind it. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The ship's superstructure is complex, featuring various radar masts, antennas, and satellite dishes. The overall scene conveys a sense of global military presence and power.

- **Rules-Based World Order**
- **Strategic Environment – 1938**
- **Conflicts**
- **Resource Competition**
- **Hybrid / Information / Cyber Warfare**

Key National Security Issues

- National Security Framework – **D I M E**



DIME

Instruments of National Power

- **D**iplomatic
- **I**nformational
- **M**ilitary
- **E**conomic



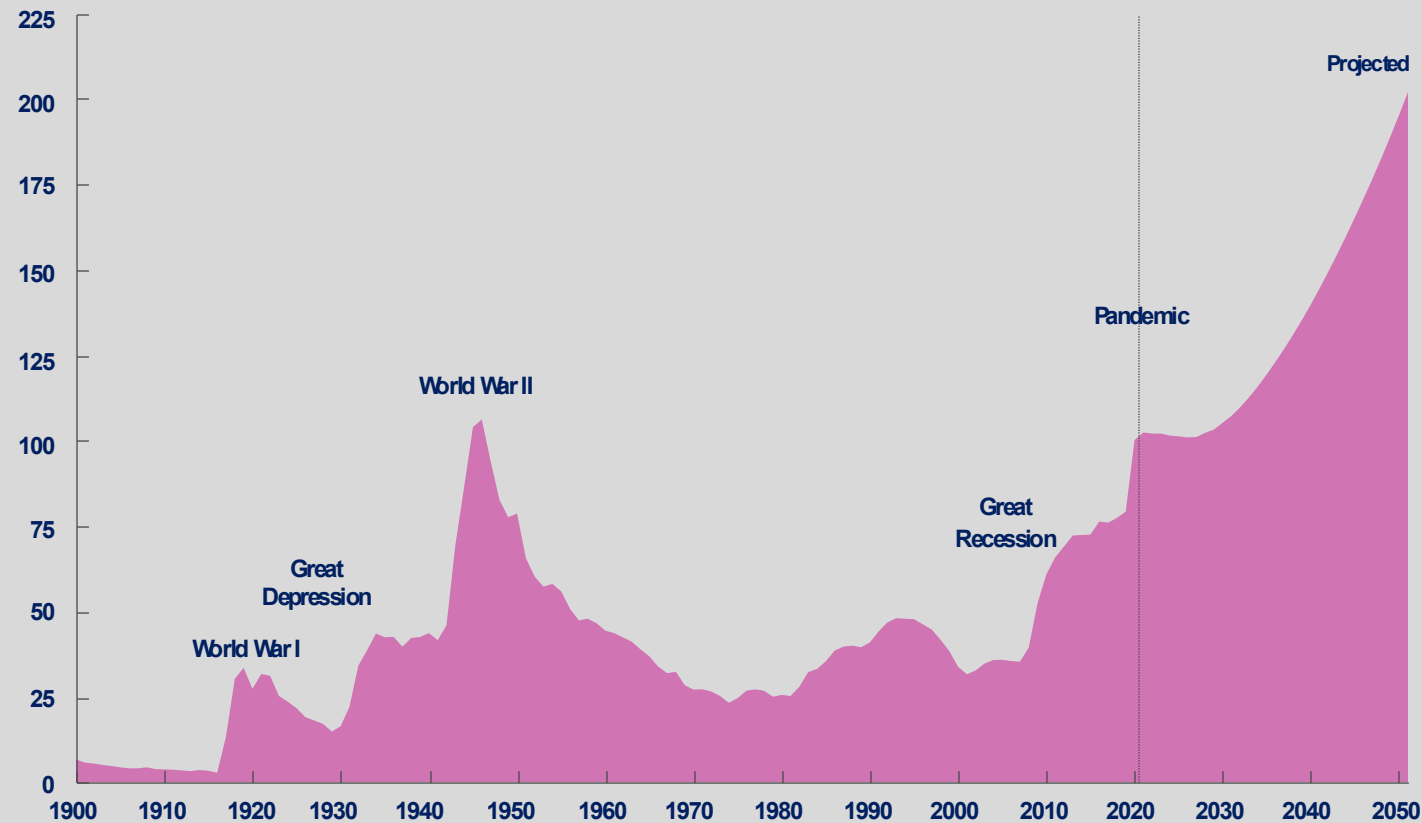
Key National Security Issues

- National Security Framework – **D I M E**
- Current National Debt – 2024: \$37.61 Trillion (est.)



Federal Debt Held by the Public 1900 to 2051

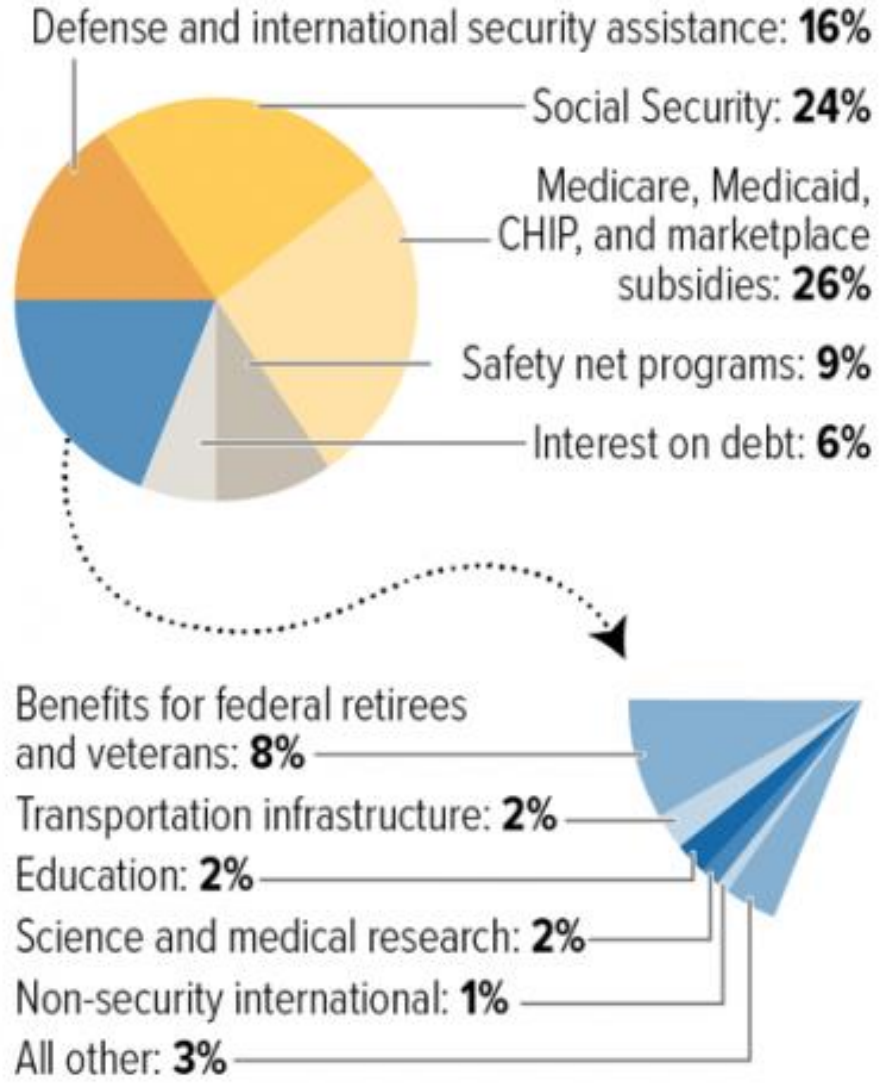
Federal debt held by the public is projected to equal 202 percent of gross domestic Product (GDP) in 2051, and the deficit is projected to equal 13 percent of GDP.



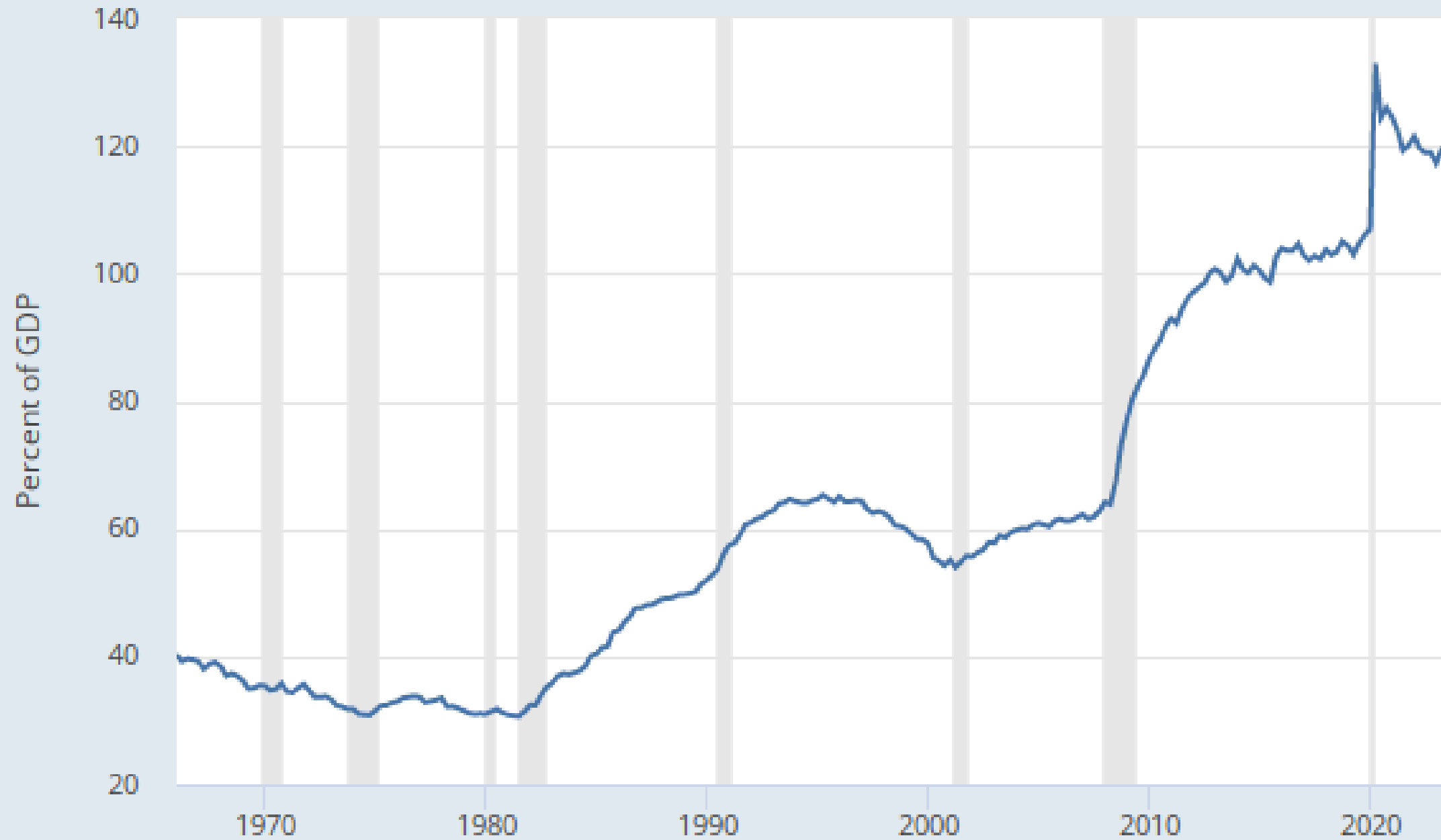
In CBO's projections, federal debt held by the public reaches 107 percent of GDP (surpassing its historical high) in 2031 and continues to climb.

Growing deficits are projected to drive federal debt held by the public to unprecedented levels over the next 30 years. By 2051, debt is projected to reach more than 200 percent of gross domestic product.

Most of Budget Goes Toward Defense, Social Security, and Major Health Programs



Source: 2016 figures from Office of Management and Budget, FY 2018 Historical Tables



Key National Security Issues

- National Security Framework – **D I M E**
- Current National Debt – 2024: \$35.17 Trillion (est.)
- China – International Law / Taiwan / South China Sea / North Korea / Economic Warfare and Espionage / Supply Chains



China





RUSSIAN FEDERATION

ezilon.com

ASIA

0 km 600 1200 1800 km

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A large grey naval ship, likely a destroyer or cruiser, is shown from a high-angle perspective, sailing on the open ocean. The ship is moving towards the viewer, leaving a white wake behind it. The sky is filled with scattered white clouds. The text "China International Law" is overlaid in the center of the image.

China

International Law

International Law

A large grey naval ship, likely a destroyer or cruiser, is shown from a high-angle perspective, sailing on the open ocean. The ship is moving towards the viewer, leaving a white wake behind it. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the water is a deep blue-grey color. The ship's superstructure is complex, with various antennas, radar masts, and gun turrets visible. The overall scene conveys a sense of maritime power and international presence.

- **International law refers to a body of rules derived from customs or treaties, which nations recognize as binding in their relations with one another**
- **China's View of the International Order**
 - **Equal say in how rules are formulated – space / deep-sea mining / climate change / cyber domain / intellectual property / sovereignty issues**
 - **Inconsistent application of how rules are applied – human rights**
 - **“Developing nation” status and influence over policy**
- **Mindset**
 - **Power of Economy / Population Size**
 - **Territorial Claims**
 - **Growing military size and capability**

A large grey naval ship, likely a destroyer, is shown from an elevated perspective, sailing on a deep blue ocean. The ship is moving towards the viewer, leaving a white wake. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds. The word "China" is overlaid in a large, bold, dark blue font across the upper part of the ship's superstructure.

China

Taiwan

Taiwan Strait Area



A large grey naval ship, likely a destroyer or cruiser, is shown from an elevated perspective, sailing on the open ocean. The ship is moving towards the viewer, leaving a white wake behind it. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The ship's superstructure is complex, featuring various radar masts, antennas, and missile launchers. The overall scene is a clear, bright day at sea.

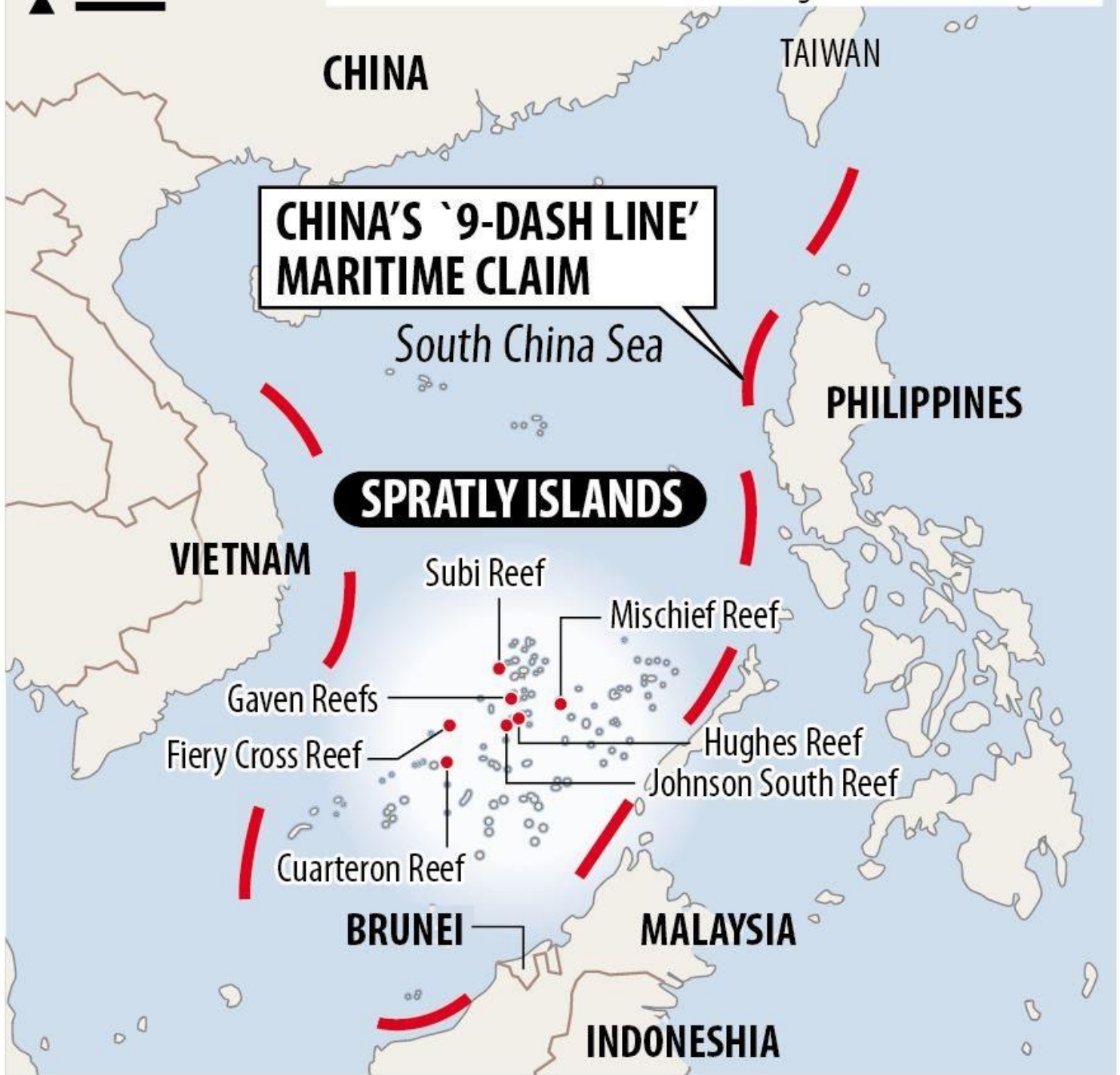
China

South China Sea



N 200km

• Reefs China has said it was building into artificial islands





Fiery Cross
Reef



Mischief Reef



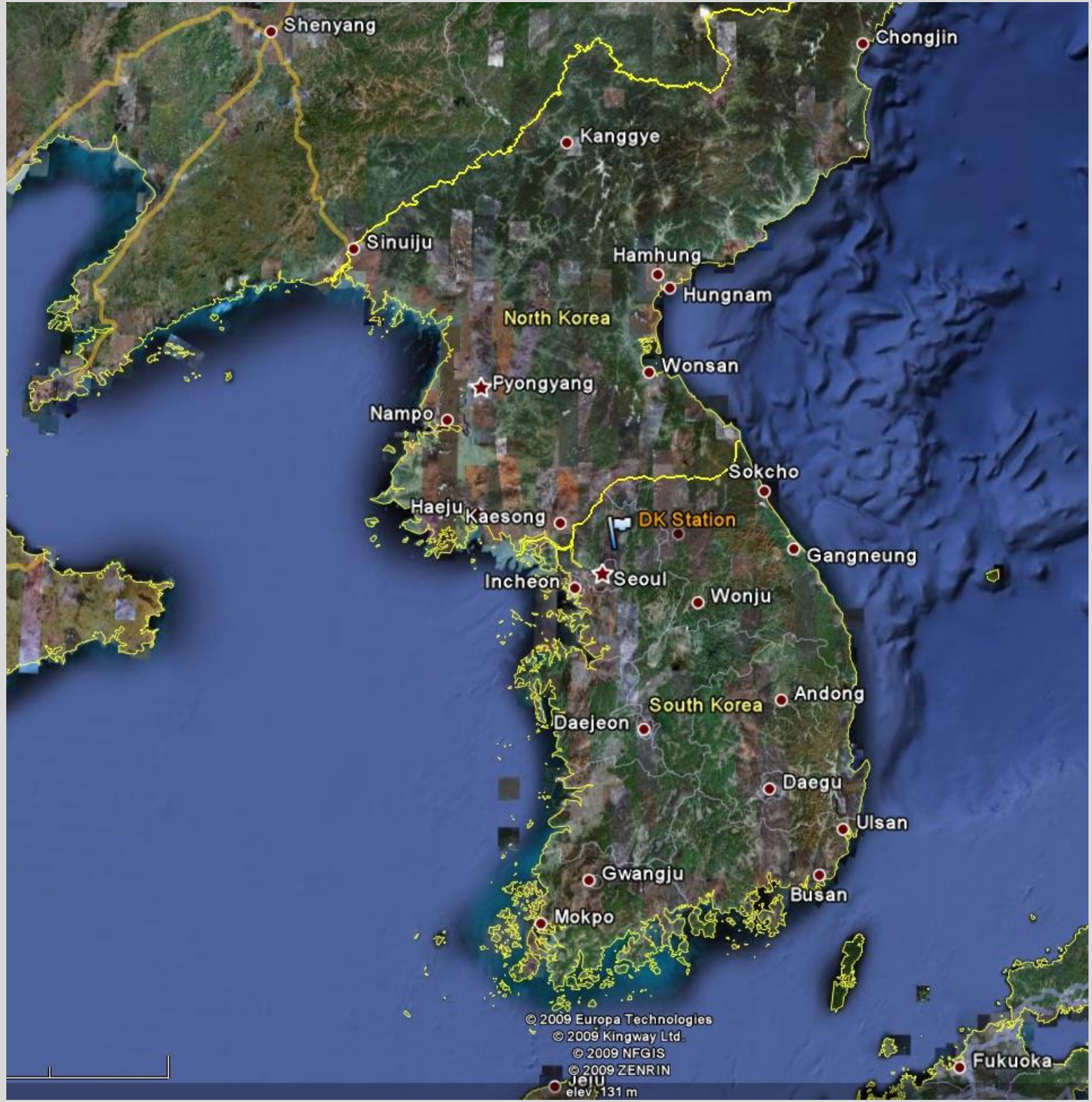
Subi Reef



A large grey naval ship, likely a destroyer or cruiser, is shown from an elevated perspective, sailing on a deep blue ocean. The ship is moving towards the viewer, leaving a white wake. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds. The text 'China' is overlaid in a large, bold, dark blue font, centered over the ship's superstructure.

China

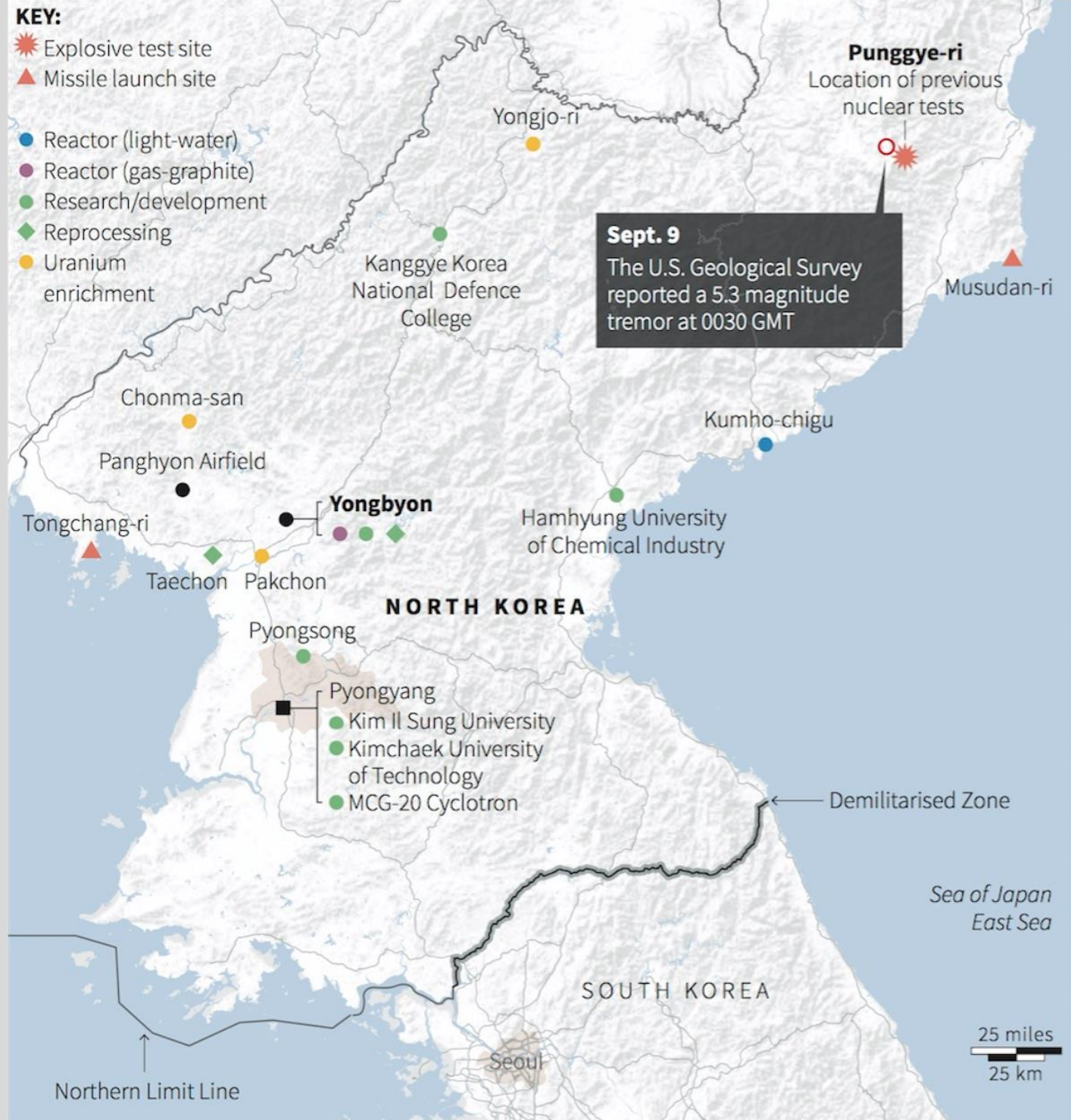
North Korea



Military and Nuclear Capacity

- Air combat headquarters
- Air force base
- Army corps deployment
- Naval headquarters
- Naval base
- Chemical weapons facility
- Missile facility
- Nuclear reactor site
- Nuclear reactor under construction
- Nuclear-related site





Sources: Nuclear Threat Initiative; Federation of American Scientists; U.S.-Korea Institute, Johns Hopkins University; USGS.

Staff, 09/09/2016

REUTERS




A large grey naval ship, likely a destroyer or cruiser, is shown from an elevated perspective, sailing on the open ocean. The ship is moving towards the viewer, leaving a white wake behind it. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The ship's superstructure is complex, featuring various radar masts, antennas, and satellite domes. The overall scene is a clear, bright day at sea.

China

Economic Warfare and Espionage

Economic Warfare & Espionage

A large naval ship, possibly a destroyer or cruiser, is shown from an elevated perspective, sailing on a blue ocean under a cloudy sky. The ship is white with various antennas and radar equipment on its mast. The ship is moving towards the right, leaving a white wake behind it.

- **Economic Dominance**
 - Use of resources to coerce behaviors and actions
 - Belt & Road Initiative
 - Current economic status in China – anemic growth projections to sustain the economy
- **Manufacturing Dominance / Critical and Rare-Earth Minerals**
 - Regional trading partners – Taiwan / Japan / Australia
 - Defense industry impact and limitations
 - Nation building and engagement
- **Technological Dominance**
 - Use of dual use technology – Microchips – Resource restrictions (Gallium and Germanium)
 - Education in US system to build their future
 - Innovation tipping point

A large grey naval supply ship is shown from an elevated perspective, moving across the open ocean. The ship is leaving a white wake behind it. The sky is filled with scattered white clouds. The text "China Supply Chains" is overlaid in the center of the image.

China

Supply Chains

Supply Chains

A large grey naval ship, likely a destroyer or cruiser, is shown from a high-angle perspective, sailing on the open ocean. The ship is moving towards the right, leaving a white wake behind it. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, and the water is a deep blue-grey color. The ship's superstructure is complex, with various antennas, radar domes, and masts visible. The overall scene is a maritime setting, possibly representing global supply chains or international trade.

- **De-escalation vs. Decoupling**
 - **Global economy impacts**
 - **COVID-19 highlighted supply chain vulnerabilities**
 - **Onshoring vs. Transfer – US / Mexico / Vietnam / India**
- **Market Forces**
 - **Sheer size of China's market – temptation**
 - **Ability to sustain manufacturing**
 - **US vulnerability**
 - **Mineral processing capacity = Control – Environmental impacts**
- **Identifying points of failure**
 - **Manufacturer knowledge and capability**
 - **Component vulnerability**
 - **Assembly and shipping process**

Key National Security Issues

- National Security Framework – **D I M E**
- Current National Debt – 2024: \$35.17 Trillion (est.)
- China – International Law / Taiwan / South China Sea / North Korea / Economic Warfare and Espionage / Supply Chains
- Russia – Ukraine / Europe & NATO / Syria / Middle East



A large grey naval ship, likely a Russian missile cruiser, is shown from an elevated perspective, sailing on the open ocean. The ship is moving towards the viewer, leaving a white wake. The sky is filled with scattered white clouds. The ship's superstructure is complex, featuring various radar masts, antennas, and missile launchers. The overall scene is a clear, high-angle shot of a powerful maritime vessel.

Russia

Ukraine

Russia Involvement in International Affairs

- **Ukraine**
 - **War on the European Continent – Crimea**
 - **Trilateral Statement / Budapest Memorandum**
 - **Support for Iran / Destabilization of Middle East**
 - **Weapons production – drones/missiles**



How military control of Ukraine has changed

Feb 2022: Before the invasion

Mar 2022: Russia's rapid advance



Nov 2022: Ukraine regains ground

Dec 2023: Stalemate on front line



■ Russian military control

▨ Limited Russian military control

■ Russian-backed separatist-held areas

■ Held or regained by Ukraine

□ Russia annexed Crimea in 2014

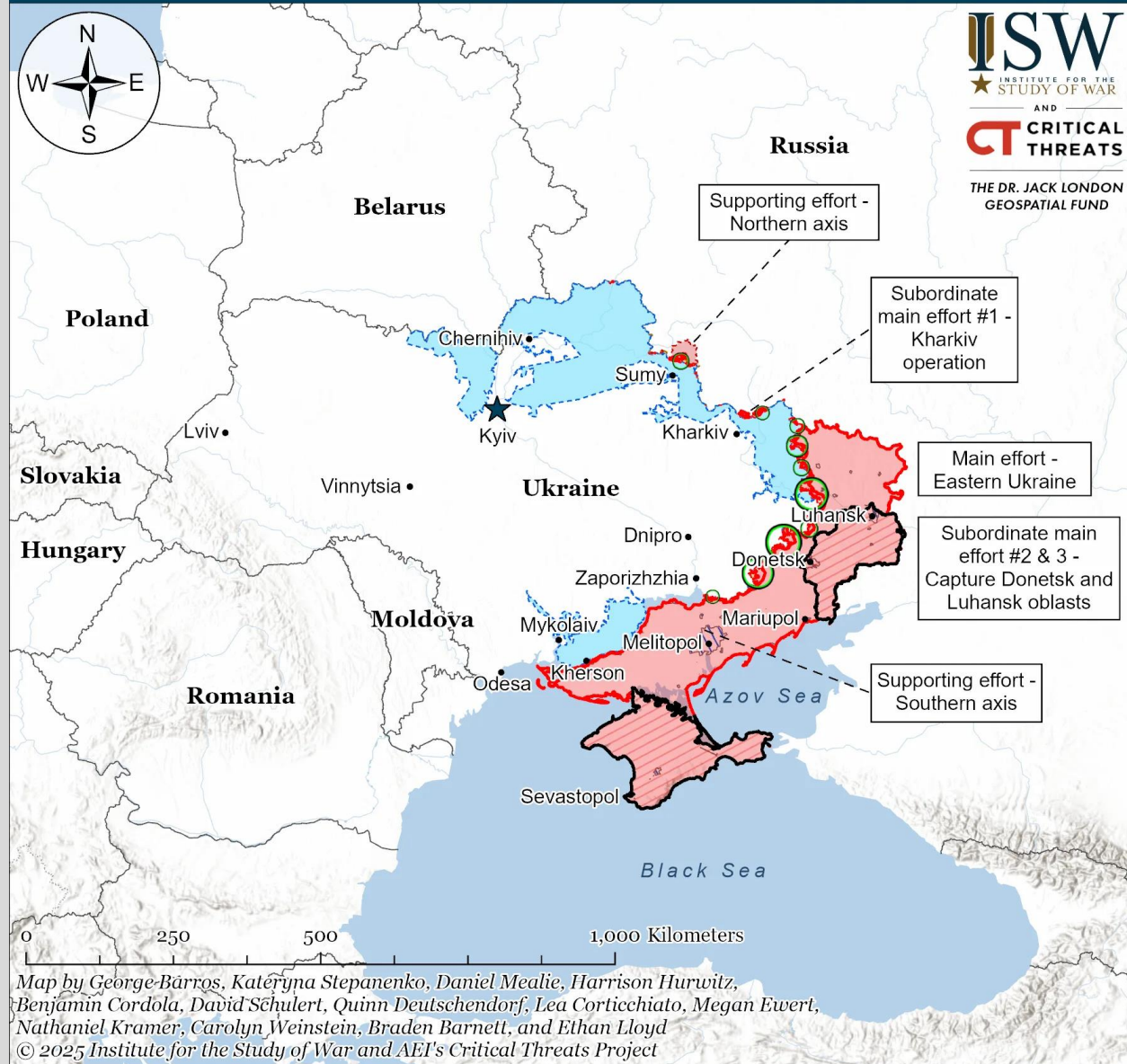
Note: Areas held or regained by Ukraine were reset by the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) on 12 May 2023

Source: Institute for the Study of War

BBC

Assessed Control of Terrain in the Russo-Ukrainian War


October 14, 2025 at 1:30 PM ET



Map by George Barros, Kateryna Stepanenko, Daniel Mealie, Harrison Hurwitz, Benjamin Cordola, David Schulert, Quinn Deutschendorf, Lea Corticchiato, Megan Ewert, Nathaniel Kramer, Carolyn Weinstein, Braden Barnett, and Ethan Lloyd
 © 2025 Institute for the Study of War and AET's Critical Threats Project

- | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Significant Fighting in the Past 24 Hours | Claimed Russian Control over Ukrainian Territory | Russian Advances in Russia |
| Russian-controlled Ukrainian Territory before 24 February 2022 | Claimed Ukrainian Counteroffensives | Claimed Russian Advances in Russia |
| Assessed Russian-controlled Ukrainian Territory | Reported Ukrainian Partisan Warfare | Ukrainian Advances in Russia |
| Assessed Russian Advances in Ukraine | | |

Russia Involvement in International Affairs

- **Ukraine**
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 - **Support for Iran / Destabilization of Middle East**
 - **Weapons production – drones/missiles**
 - **Syria – Fall of Assad regime / New government**
 - **Ahmed al-Sharaa regime**
 - **Chemical weapons**
 - **Turkey / Hungary / Slovenia**
 - **NATO members – Russian leanings (authoritarian)**
 - **Israel / Northern Syria / Kurds – implications for regional stability**
- 
- A large Russian naval ship, possibly a missile cruiser, is shown sailing on the open sea. The ship is viewed from a high angle, moving towards the viewer. It has a complex superstructure with various antennas and radar equipment. The ship is leaving a white wake in the dark blue water. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

Key National Security Issues

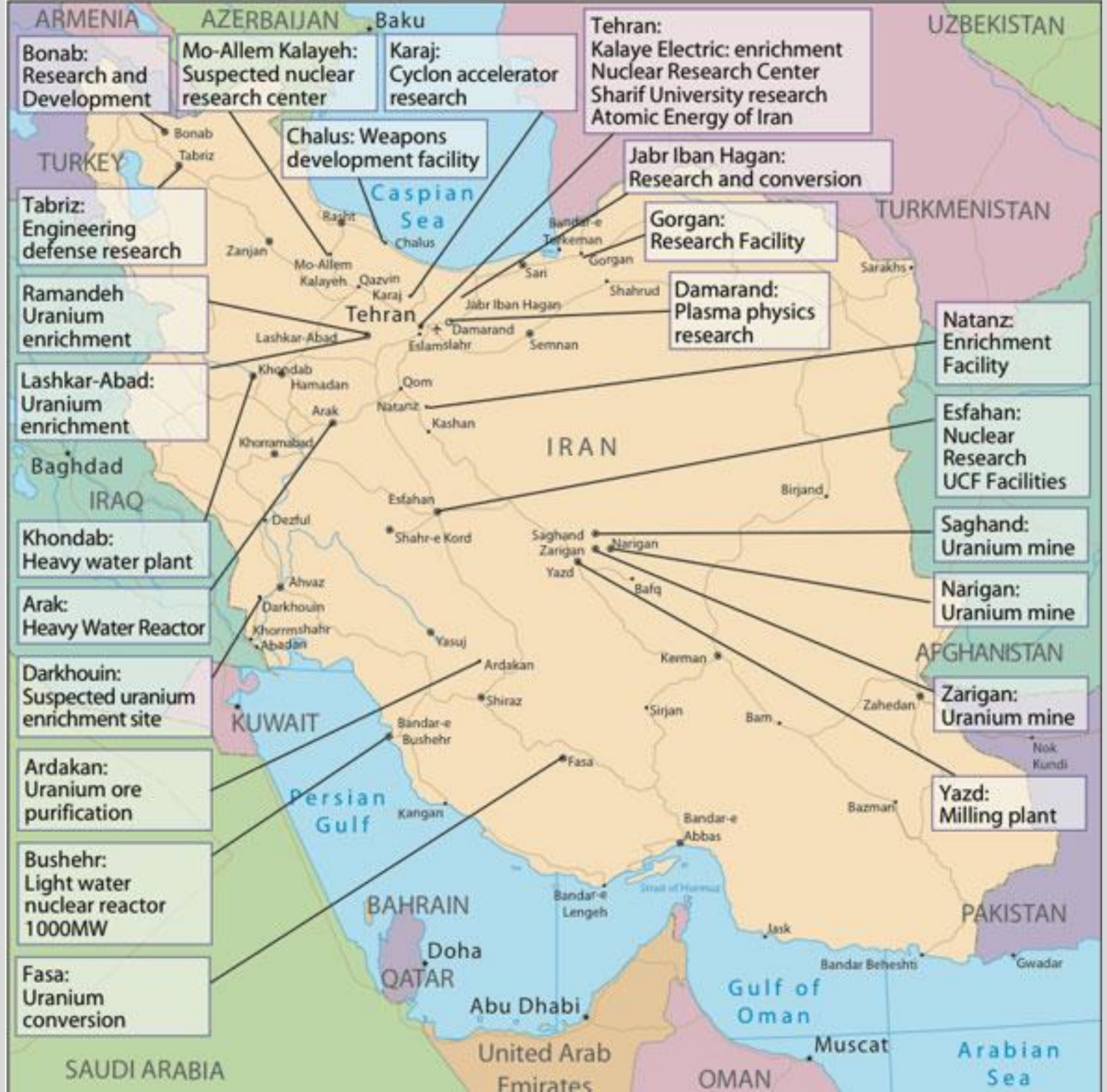
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Iranian Nuclear Weapons Development



- **Nuclear Agreement – Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action**
 - **US Withdrawal from JCPOA – Regional Impact / Signatories**
 - **Military Bases – not included**
 - **Ballistic Missile Technology – not included**
 - **Coordination with North Korea – missile/warhead**
- **US Strikes on Nuclear Facilities**
 - **Disrupt and disable enrichment capability**
 - **Targets:**
 - * **Fordow Uranium Enrichment Plant**
 - * **Natanz Nuclear Facility**
 - * **Isfahan Nuclear Technology Center**
- **North Korea Issues**
 - **Continued technology sharing – nuclear weapons and ballistic missile technology**



Iranian Involvement in Middle East Instability

- **Israel – October 7th Attacks / Nuclear threshold / Hamas / Black Swan**
- **Syria – Troops in Combat / Coordination with Russia / Fall of Assad regime**
- **Yemen – Support for Houthi Rebels / Saudi Opposition**
- **Lebanon – Hezbollah / Government Interference**



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- Hybrid / Information / Cyber Warfare / Cyber Command / DHS Coordination / China / DoD Authorities / Criminal Activity

A large grey naval ship, likely a destroyer or cruiser, is shown from an elevated perspective, sailing on a blue ocean. The ship has a complex superstructure with various antennas, radar domes, and masts. It is moving towards the viewer, leaving a white wake behind it. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. Overlaid on the center of the image is the text "Hybrid Warfare", "Information Warfare", and "Cyber Warfare" in a bold, dark blue font, stacked vertically.

Hybrid Warfare
Information Warfare
Cyber Warfare

Hybrid Warfare



- **Definition**

- **Combination of conventional and unconventional methods, including military operations, cyber warfare, disinformation campaigns, and economic pressure.**
- **Non-attribution is the key theme. Denial of origin to gain strategic advantages without resorting to full-scale conventional warfare**

- **Recent Uses**

- **Russia – Aircraft/drone incursions into NATO countries**
- **China – Undersea cable damage – Baltic states**
- **Iran – Terrorist groups – Deniability**

Information Warfare

A large grey naval ship, likely a destroyer or cruiser, is shown from a high-angle perspective, sailing on the ocean. The ship is moving towards the viewer, leaving a white wake behind it. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, and the water is a deep blue-grey color. The ship's superstructure is complex, with various antennas, radar domes, and masts visible. The overall scene is a maritime setting, suggesting a connection to naval operations and information warfare.

- **Definition**

- **Information warfare is an operation conducted to gain an information advantage over the opponent. It consists in controlling one's own information space, protecting access to one's own information, while acquiring and using the opponent's information, destroying their information systems and disrupting the information flow.**

- **Recent Uses**

- **Russia – Social Media – Troll Farms / DNC Hack – Hillary Clinton campaign**
 - **Iran - Radical Islamic Terrorist Organizations recruiting**
 - **China – COVID-19 / Laid off Federal Workers / 2024 Election propaganda**

Cyber Warfare



- **Definition**

- **Cyber warfare consists of hostile or disruptive activities conducted through digital means, usually by nation-states or state-backed actors, intended to disrupt, damage, or gain advantage over another country's critical systems. Typical targets: Economic systems, networks, infrastructure, databases, and digital communications.**

- **Recent Uses**

- **Russia – Georgia and Ukraine – complement kinetic attacks / NATO – target support for Ukraine / non-NATO government destabilization**
 - **Iran – US Water Plants (PA and NY) / Electric Grid**
 - **China – Operation Solar Wind / US Treasury / OPM**

Cyber Security and National Security

A large naval ship, likely a fleet ocean transport ship, is shown from a high-angle perspective, sailing on the open ocean. The ship is white with a complex superstructure featuring various antennas, radar masts, and communication equipment. The ship is moving towards the viewer, leaving a white wake behind it. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

- **United States Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM)**
 - **Full Combatant Command as of May 4, 2018**
 - **Plan, coordinate, integrate, synchronize full spectrum military operations in cyber domain**
 - **Coordinate DoD activities with DHS, others**
- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**
 - **National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC)**
 - **Government priorities vs. Business access and trust**
 - **Communication and Access to incidents/events**

Cyber Security and National Security

A large naval ship, likely a destroyer or cruiser, is shown from an elevated perspective, sailing on the open ocean. The ship is white with a complex superstructure featuring various antennas, radar domes, and masts. The sea is a deep blue, and the sky is overcast with grey clouds. The ship is moving towards the viewer, leaving a white wake behind it.

- **China**
 - Surpassed Russia, Iran, North Korea in Cyber Attacks
 - “Gloves Off” Assessment – Economic / Financial / Industrial / Military / Research & Development
 - Coordinated Long-Range Strategy
 - Tariffs = National Security Response to Threats
- **Department of Defense Expanded Cyber Authorities**
 - Preventive Attacks
 - “Defend Forward”
 - U.S. Declines to Sign Declaration Discouraging Use of Cyberattacks
- **Criminal Activity vs. State-sponsored terrorism or warfare**
 - Active Engagement
 - US Declarative Policy – preserve options

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- Space – Space Command / Operational capability / Russia and China exploitation / Satellite technology

Space Command and National Security

A large US Navy ship, likely a fleet ocean surveillance ship, is shown at sea. The ship's mast is equipped with several large satellite dishes and other communication equipment. The ship is moving through the water, leaving a white wake. The background is a blue sky with light clouds.

- **United States Space Command (USSPACECOM)**
 - Initial Operating Capability as a Combatant Command as of August 24, 2021
 - Responsible for military operations in space
 - Coordinate DoD activities with DHS, Commerce, others
- **Space-based Capabilities**
 - Protect assets from attack – China / Russia
 - Defeat adversary space capabilities
 - Ensure US space systems degrade gracefully, if attacked
 - Reconstitute space-based capabilities in a timely manner
 - Deny adversary use of space systems to monitor, track, and enable attacks on US and Allied systems
- **Satellite Technology**
 - Initial Operating Capability as a Combatant Command as of August 24, 2021

Major National Security Factors Today

- President – Republican
- Senate – Republican – confirmation / filibuster issues
- House of Representatives – Republican . . . barely
- Divided Government = Compromise Government . . . maybe
- Hyper-partisan Actions **weaken** National Security
- Increased Pressure on Defense Spending – Man/Train/Equip vs. Combatant Commander mission requirements
- Department of Defense Acquisition System Reform vs. Congressional Influence vs. Admiral/General/SES Levels
- Health Care / Pharmaceutical Industry / Entitlement Reform
- Manufacturing / Industrial Base – Large Industry Support



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