



January 2025



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Need to Know is an unclassified open-source, multi-platform media collation, produced by **CSIS Academic Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement**, on issues considered relevant to Canada's broad national security interests. The objective is to highlight and share a diverse array of perspectives on Canadian and global security matters, with a focus on emerging developments and sources of expertise across disciplines. Inclusion of a document, source, expert or event does not constitute endorsement by, or affiliation with, CSIS.

A Look Ahead at Geopolitics, Defence, and International Security in 2025

The World in 2025 – Chatham House's "The World in 2025" outlines key global developments anticipated in the coming year. It begins by highlighting the potential impact of a second Trump presidency on international relations. The authors also examine the evolving dynamics of global trade, emphasizing the role of economic security and the influence of technological advancements. The article examines a series of growing security concerns, such as the role of space in defense strategies and the importance of public-private collaboration, *Chatham House*. Read [the article](#).

Uncertainty ahead: 10 trends that will impact 2025 – In this article, Tom Standage, Deputy Editor of *The Economist*, outlines 10 key global trends and developments anticipated for 2025. The article examines geopolitical tensions, regional conflicts, and alliances among Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea. It also addresses economic concerns such as the potential impact of U.S. tariffs on China, China's leadership in clean technology, and challenges related to inflation and aging populations, *IESE Business School*. Read [the article](#).

5 geopolitical questions for 2025 – This article explores the challenges of navigating a fragmented global order. Five critical questions are presented for 2025, focusing on advancing security, ensuring economic stability, regulating emerging technologies, fostering climate action, and promoting social cohesion in polarized societies. The author argues it will require innovative strategies and global collaboration to adapt to the evolving geopolitical landscape, *World Economic Forum*. Read [the article](#).

Podcasts of Note



The World Ahead 2025

The Economist's trademark podcast is back again for another year of discussions, analyses, and predictions. What might 2025 hold? Listen and read now for some insights into the future. *Some content is subscription based only.*



China 2025: What To Watch – This “China 2025” report examines China’s increasing geopolitical tensions, particularly with the United States, and China’s efforts to strengthen ties with the Global South. The article notes growing social discontent and political distrust among the urban middle class within China. The analysis underscores the complexities China faces as it navigates persistent challenges and uncertainties in 2025, *Asia Society Policy Institute*. Read [the article](#).

What to expect in 2025: Looming talk for a brooding peace – In this policy brief, the author examines the evolving geopolitical landscape shaped by leaders like Trump, Putin, Xi, and Modi. The article argues that despite unchanged national goals and resources, 2025 will witness a shift towards less confrontational engagements due to war fatigue and humanitarian crises. The author emphasizes the need for strategic creativity to navigate these complexities, highlighting the importance of diplomacy and collaboration in achieving global stability, *Observer Research Foundation*. Read [the article](#).

See also: Assad has fallen. Now what?, *Atlantic Council*, read [the article](#). **What’s next in South Korea?**, *Council on Foreign Relations*, read [the article](#).

Upcoming Events



Unpredictable America: Donald Trump and the future of American Foreign Policy by Thomas A. Schwartz
Munk School of Global Affairs
 Event in Toronto, Ontario [online available]
 Click [here](#) for more information.

16 January, 2025
 16:00 – 18:00 EST

Inheriting the Bomb: A History of Ukraine’s Nuclear Disarmament and Why It Matters
Munk School of Global Affairs
 Event in Toronto, Ontario
 Click [here](#) for more information.

27 January, 2025
 18:00 – 20:00 EST

93rd Ottawa Conference on Security and Defence
CDA Institute
 Event in Ottawa, Ontario
 Click [here](#) for more information.

5-6 March, 2025

Diversions



Still thinking of the year past?
 Don’t worry, so are we.

Take a look back at 2024 through Google’s [Year in Search](#) or Britannica’s [Year in Review](#).

Feedback



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