

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh



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TRUTH

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Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

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What is most worrying is our knowledge
of the truth and our ignoring it.
This takes place
because we omit the role of planning in
any work we want to accomplish!
We succumb to our difficult
circumstances.
And we often fail...

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

INDEX

A New Era of Digital Excellence.....	12
Except my Homeland – Syria, the other Part of my Heart	14
The Alarming Environmental Cost of Data Centers	16
The IMF’s Surcharge Policy	18
The Security of AI Systems: Implications for National Security	20
China’s Blockchain Goals.....	22
AI Agents - The Future of Learning.....	23
United States Debt, Politics, and Non-Governmental Actors	25
The Arab World Stands Today at the Threshold of a Historic Moment	27
American Isolationism: Loss of Influence and an Opportunity for China	29
Challenges Facing AI Momentum	32
South Africa... a Model of Resilience in the Face of International Pressures.....	34
China - A Step Closer to Near-Limitless Energy	36
Is a Shadow Government Undermining US Democracy?	38
Interactive Programming at the Heart of the U.S.-China Conflict	40
Technology, Power and Democracy.....	42
Trump-Zelensky Debate Proves the Wisdom of His Majesty King Abdullah II	44
A Call for Establishing Global Regulations for Interactive Programming	46
The Hot War Between the United States and China	48
In a World of Absurdity	51
Reforming the United Nations is not a luxury, but an imperative necessity A vision for the reform of the United Nations.....	53
Securing Prosperity for the Global South.....	56
Trade Policies Drive Washington and Brussels toward Confrontation.....	58

Musk Facing the Storm: Tesla’s Decline,
“X” Crises, and the Politics Game 60

Palestine Is a Cause Lived by Jordanians—of All Origins and
Backgrounds—with Every Fiber of Their Being 62

Trump Has Not Learned the Lessons of the Great Depression
and May Be Rewriting It with His Own Hands 64

Reclaiming Global Climate Leadership 66

Self-Sufficiency Guarantees Complete Sovereignty 68

Turning the USAID Crisis Into An Opportunity 70

The Suez Canal: The World’s Artery and the Strategic
Demands of the Future 72

A New Era of Global Economic Uncertainty 74

“Manus”: Beijing Unveils Its New Technological Face 76

Gaza Will Not Be Broken, and the Entity Is Cracking Under the
Weight of Steadfastness 78

When Global Debt Surpasses the Limits of Reason 80

A new Cold War Driven by Economy and Technology 82

Your Steadfastness is a Victory Our Respect for the
People who Spread Hope and Know no Defeat 84

Digital Transformation in Jordan: A Strategic Choice and an
Investment in the Future That Cannot Afford Hesitation 86

China’s Path Toward Self-Sufficiency in 88

Artificial Intelligence 88

Gaza is Facing Famine and Abandonment 90

Liquidity Management: The Backbone of Global Institutions and a
Guarantee for Continuity 92

When the Language of Logic Triumphs Over Red Lines of Doubt 94

Global Expansion of Renewable Energy and
Future Challenges 95

Washington, Beijing, and the Future of Technological Dominance 97

Big Promises Massive Tariffs and a Contracting Economy 99

Sharing Bruce Stokes’ Analysis of the Ongoing
U.S.–China Relationship..... 101

Abu-Ghazaleh Shares Bruce Stokes’ Analysis of President
Trump’s First 100 Days in Office 103

Washington, Beijing, and the Future of Technological Hegemony 105

The Chip Battle: The Future of American Industry at Stake 107

The Chip Battle: Between Two Conflicting Visions..... 109

A New Era of U.S. Diplomacy Based on “Strongman” Politics..... 111

With Quality and Commitment, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global
Maintains its Leading Accounting Position within the Forum
of the Top Twenty Global Firms. 113

China’s Quantum Advantage 115

The Slowdown of the German Economy Due to the Escalating
Trade Conflict with the United States..... 117

From Consumption to Innovation..... 119

The United Nations, Once Again 121

Two Powers, One Order - The Negotiated Future of
Global Leadership..... 123

History Does Not Spare Those Who Bet on
Symbolism Without Action..... 125

Gustavo Petro... A Voice That Resonates with Dignity..... 127

“The World After Gaza... Reform or Free Fall.. Gaza, and after it,
everything changed 130

A Call for Greater US-India Dialogue 132

Space Race: When Competition between China and the US
Becomes a Test of Global Leadership..... 134

Jordan: An Education that Shapes the Future with
a Digital and Humane Vision..... 136

Intellectual Property... An Investment in the
Future of Our Nation..... 138

A Reading into the Interactive Programming Economy 141

International Justice Exposes the Face of Genocide in
Gaza and Unmasks the Occupation 142

Gaza Workers Will Rebuild What the Zionist Occupation Has
Demolished With their Own Hands 144

Recent Developments in the UN..... 146

A Global Mandate for Justice in Palestine..... 148

Washington and Beijing, on the Brink of Endless Conflict..... 150

Open Technology and Smart Policies: The Path Toward
Productive and Innovative Societies..... 152

A Thaw in Tensions..... 154

Pope’s Visit to Lebanon A Message of Love in Unfinished Lines..... 156

Dragon’s Dominance Over Rare Earth Metals A War to Take
Over the World..... 158

Climate Change as a Player in Shaping National Policies..... 161

A Fragile and Interconnected World Economy..... 164

A ceasefire, a peace agreement, or something else!..... 166

Abu-Ghazaleh Shares Stokes’ Analysis on the
US Global Disconnect..... 168

Computing: The Language of Children, the Future, and a Strategic
Investment to Break Dependency 170

Moving Beyond American AI Models..... 172

Is the World Prepared for an Economic Downturn? 174

List of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global Digital Publications 177

PREFACE

A Treasure for the Present, a Shield for the Future

Ghada Fouad Alsamman

“Read the book by its title”, so says the proverb. Therefore the title of Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh’s book, “Because I Care About You and the Truth” reflects two values, caring and being truthful, which everyone on this earth should be pursuing. Along the way, however, some get tired, some get bored, some get evasive, and some quit.

Only those committed to the truth continue their pursuit steadily, as they believe in its lifelong message. Truth is clear to them and becomes even clearer with experience. Overtime, their experiences accumulate and horizons widen. They then make multiple attempts to change the bitter, dark reality into a bright one; one way or another, no matter how varied the risks and the obstacles they may face . They rely on confidence and certainty in their journey.

In this manner, Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh sought knowledge to lighten our Arab nights. He embarked on his journey from the day when he was evicted from his homeland in Palestine as a result of the Zionist invasion in 1948.

The harsh days he lived did not break him. The challenges he faced never made him stumble. He lived his day-to-day life, while keeping an eye on the future. He knew how important the time factor was and that was why he was ahead of everyone. He did not care about the negative aspects. On the contrary, he disregarded them. He sowed the seeds of hope and optimism, attracted youth, invested in scientific competencies, and multiplied the positive aspects, until he established his own institution: “Talal Abu Ghazaleh Global.” Everybody praised him and was eager to become acquainted with him, including enemies and friends, those who loved him and those who envied him; competitors and partners alike.

He did not restrict his knowledge to his business and varied activities only. He planned it to be comprehensive and to benefit others too. He was never tired of thinking about the issues of his community and the problems

facing the generations. He laid the facts before everyone and shared his dreams cleverly over the days. He constantly reiterates that there is nothing impossible or unbelievable in his life. He believed that all good ideas are realizable shareable.

He shared his dreams, rules, theories, and devices with every public and private institution, department, sector, facility, school, university, worker, specialist, amateur, and professional. He also translated his ideas into articles, interviews, seminars, and workshops.

It is very difficult to count Dr. Talal's theoretical and practical accomplishments. This book therefore is including a limited number of articles Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh has published in the most significant websites, magazines, and newspapers. The table of contents of the book reflects how serious, diverse, and bold the ideas discussed in the articles are.

Every time I read a book written by Abu Ghazaleh, I tell myself it is his best, only to find out that he is about to issue a new masterpiece. The ideas tackled in this book prepare us very well to embrace the future. He reads history to learn from it, he fights for the truth, gives important pieces of advice for success, loves work and hates laziness, and demands teaching technical education for the coming generations rather than the traditional teaching methods. He persistently rejects the Zionist occupation of Palestinian. He has made various initiatives to face world crises. He has built a CV that is admired by many. He inspires generations and gives hope to all people without exception. His interests are multiple and his knowledge are diverse.

He is a wise man, who applies his beliefs and principles on himself before passing it to the others. He listens. He knows how to utilize the capacities and provide the community with distinguished cadres in all areas.

“Because I Care About You and the Truth” is a book that combines a series of articles Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh has written and published in various outlets. They tackle various topics of interest to readers of today, tomorrow, and the future.

Truth taught me to love others, to care
for them and to respect them.
Truth taught me to confront and to win.

Truth taught me to be considerate and
modest: what I am.

This is what I choose to share with you

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

A New Era of Digital Excellence

As I marvel at the unfolding of the digital world before my eyes, I cannot help but be in awe of the immense strides man has made, with much more to come. In my journey as an advocate for digital transformation and as the founder of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), I have witnessed firsthand the evolution of technology and its profound impact on our lives. Today, we are witnessing a new era driven by disruptive technologies that promise to reshape our future in unimaginable ways.

Generative AI marks an advancement in the field of AI by empowering machines to produce content that closely resembles human creations, thereby bringing about a transformative impact on creative sectors worldwide. As an individual deeply engaged in the global IT sector, I view generative AI as a valuable instrument that enhances human imagination and opens up avenues for innovative exploration.

Quantum computing represents a cutting-edge innovation with the capacity to tackle challenges that traditional computers cannot handle. The development has the potential to transform industries, like cryptography and material science while also enhancing complex system simulations, extending to governance and security by reshaping how we safeguard data through encryption and cybersecurity measures.

5G networks are set to transform our digital landscape by providing faster data transfer speeds and supporting the proliferation of IoT devices. This enhanced connectivity will enable smart cities, autonomous vehicles, and advanced healthcare solutions, driving efficiency and innovation across various sectors. As a proponent of digital excellence, I believe 5G will be the backbone of our interconnected future.

Edge computing is set to change the way we manage data by handling it to where it originates from which helps in decreasing delays and conserving bandwidth. This approach is perfect for uses like self-driving cars and urban planning systems that are intelligent, in nature and react promptly to changes.

The evolution of robotics and automation is revolutionizing sectors by enhancing effectiveness and minimizing the necessity for human involvement in risky or monotonous activities such as manufacturing and healthcare. The strides being made in this sector are truly astounding.

Cyber threats are becoming more prevalent by the day and the importance of enhancing cybersecurity measures cannot be overstated. Utilizing AI powered threat detection systems and innovative quantum encryption technologies is proving to be vital in safeguarding our online assets, data and networks, which are lifeblood of our digital world.

The use of augmented reality is moving away from gaming, and is extending to sectors such as education and healthcare. These innovative technologies provide experiences that not only redefine how we engage with our surroundings, but also revolutionize how we learn and share knowledge. As someone who values the transformative power of technology in education, I am excited about its potential to enrich our lives.

Rapid advancements in DNA technology are opening up possibilities for treating genetic disorders and enhancing agricultural and medical practices. The innovative nature of this technology offers hope for tackling issues facing humanity in areas such as healthcare and food sustainability.

There are many more areas that are advancing at an unprecedented rate, leading to greater breakthroughs, fueling a cycle of innovation that man has never witnessed.

As we embrace these advancements, we must also consider their implications for society and governance. By fostering a culture of multilateralism, innovation and collaboration, we can harness the power of these technologies to create a better, more connected world.

The future is bright, and the possibilities are limitless. My message to all my sons and daughters is to envelop themselves in this digital world and learn how to harness it for good, putting digital excellence at the forefront of all their functions. Man has truly proven that whatever he can imagine, he can create.

Except my Homeland – Syria, the other Part of my Heart

I am not here to take part in the celebrations of the Syrian people, nor to share in the mourning of some of them. The phase the Syrian state is going through is extremely delicate and fraught with sensitivities, repercussions, uncertainties, and ambiguities, which are undoubtedly concerning.

Our focus is not on the nature of the past regime in Syria, nor do I concern myself with the nature of the new regime. This is a matter that pertains solely to the Syrian people and their leadership, whom I can only respect, as long as my country remains safe, its leadership enjoys good relations with its neighbors, sleeps peacefully, and wakes up with a clear mind, untroubled by tension or burdened by any form of pressure, under any guise.

My primary concern in my close monitoring of the Syrian situation is the relentless and ongoing aggression that has persisted since Syria opened its doors to bid farewell to one era and usher in another. The acts of aggression have not ceased. They began in southern Syria and extended beyond the Golan Heights under the pretext of requiring a buffer zone, compelling Syria—preoccupied with its internal affairs—to overlook the destruction wrought by the active aggression along its borders.

Not a single day passed after the establishment of the demilitarized zone in the Golan before Israeli tanks and bulldozers advanced, swallowing up Quneitra and the surrounding villages and regions, eventually reaching deep into Syrian territory, just 40 kilometers from the Syrian capital, Damascus. Moshe Dayan's dreams, which he openly recorded in his memoirs when he stated, "I stand on the Golan Heights, and my gaze reaches Damascus; only 70 kilometers separate me from my dream."

And now, Israeli forces have crossed the boundaries of reason, boldly, confidently, and shamelessly advancing into the heart of Syria, clearly to reach the capital. They have even reoccupied the summit of "Jabal Al Sheikh," which was liberated during the 1973 October War. Moreover, they have carried out 418 continuous airstrikes over several days on Damascus and Latakia, under the pretext of destroying weapons and ammunition sites

belonging to Syrian army remnants, with the latest strikes targeting various communication and surveillance platforms, both wired and wireless, as well as radar systems, among other things.

It is important to note that the writing of this “protest,” if I may call it that, coincides with the meeting of Arab foreign ministers in my beloved country, Jordan. All the opinions gathered unanimously condemned the Israeli violations of Syrian territory. These opinions were shared by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, the Lebanese Republic, and others. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken attended the meeting and expressed his support for the final statement of the Arab Foreign Ministers’ Conference, which Jordan convened. This conference resulted in a very significant final statement, consisting of 17 points, all focused on the rebuilding of the Syrian state, both government and people.

As for Palestine, as I have said before and will say now, no one can blame anyone. Palestine is equally sought after by its people in exile as it is by those inside, for liberation. There is no distinction between the two, unless Palestine, for its people, is merely a keychain for a luxury car, a picture on a golden necklace, or a faded painting on a forgotten wall. The Lebanese resistance has made great efforts, sacrificing money and lives to free Jerusalem. However, the treacherous enemy has relied on a formidable arsenal that is not easily defeated. Therefore, it is time to recognize that all Palestinians, from all corners of the world, must unite on a common ground and acknowledge that Palestine is theirs and for their children, just as the Jews have done—yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

The Alarming Environmental Cost of Data Centers

In recent years, major technology companies such as Google, Microsoft, Meta, and Apple have claimed to be making significant efforts to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. However, closer examination reveals that emissions from these companies' data centers are substantially underreported. This is likely due to the global explosion of cloud-based services, which are hosted in data centers around the world. Demand continues to grow as we consume more internet services, with some analysts suggesting that the true emissions from these data centers may be up to 662% higher than official figures.

The rise of artificial intelligence has further exacerbated this problem. AI applications, such as ChatGPT, require far more energy than traditional cloud-based applications. For example, processing a single ChatGPT query requires nearly ten times the electricity needed for a Google search. This surge in energy demand is expected to continue, with data center energy requirements projected to grow by 160% by 2030.

One of the main factors contributing to emissions underreporting is the use of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). These allow companies to claim the use of renewable energy even when the actual electricity consumed comes from non-renewable sources. This practice—often referred to as “creative accounting”—results in official emissions figures that do not accurately reflect the true environmental impact of data centers.

This discrepancy is further highlighted by the difference between market-based and location-based emissions reporting. Market-based figures, which include RECs, often show significantly lower emissions than location-based figures, which account for the actual energy consumed. For example, Meta's officially reported Scope 2 emissions for 2022 were 273 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent, while the location-based figure exceeded 3.8 million metric tons.

As demand for data centers continues to grow, it is essential for technology companies to adopt more transparent and accurate methods of emissions reporting. This includes phasing out the use of RECs and adopting proper

environmental accounting measures—approaches I have been advocating for nearly three decades. Only then can we truly understand and mitigate the real environmental impact of the technology industry.

In 2024, the Biden–Harris Administration announced new actions to disclose and reduce major climate pollutants, as part of its ongoing efforts to combat climate change. While these updates reflect continued global progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we must also strive to enforce environmental accountability in order to fully understand the impact of the technology sector. This requires robust accounting practices that enable companies and governments to accurately report and comprehend environmental costs and liabilities.

In 1999, I oversaw the preparation of a comprehensive report entitled “Environmental Cost and Liability Accounting and Financial Reporting”, in collaboration with international experts. This initiative was conducted under the auspices of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA)—which I founded in 1984—and was completed in cooperation with the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR), which I chaired.

As President of the Union of Sustainable Urbanization, I call upon authorities to revisit this important work to help reduce “creative carbon accounting” and establish practices that properly hold these companies accountable. We must all assume responsibility, as the world calls for real change to aid its recovery from the widespread damage caused by carbon pollution.

The IMF's Surcharge Policy

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has faced criticism in recent years for its surcharge policy, which imposes additional fees on countries that exceed borrowing thresholds. This policy has led to a paradoxical situation where financially distressed countries, have become the largest source of net revenue for the IMF. These surcharges, which were initially intended to discourage excessive borrowing, have instead exacerbated the financial burdens on these nations, contradicting the IMF's mission of maintaining global financial stability.

The IMF's surcharge policy has significantly impacted countries already struggling with debt. For instance, Pakistan, has faced severe economic challenges, including devastating floods that submerged a third of its territory. The surcharges, which have risen alongside the IMF's basic rate from under 1% to nearly 5%, have pushed the total lending rate for countries to as much as 7.8%. This increase has made it harder for these nations to emerge from debt distress, as they are forced to allocate more of their scarce foreign currency reserves to repay the IMF.

Having advised the WTO and UN in various leadership capacities, I see the surcharge policy as counterproductive and inherently pro-cyclical. By increasing the financial burden on countries during times of crisis, the policy undermines the very rationale of the IMF, which was established to provide counter-cyclical financing. The surcharges do not ensure repayment or protect IMF finances; instead, they make countries more dependent on the Fund. This dependency limits their ability to accumulate foreign-exchange reserves and regain access to international capital market, increasing fiscal stress on countries which is at odds with the IMF's mission of protecting financial stability.

The IMF's ongoing review of its surcharge policy presents an opportunity to address these issues. Several prominent voices, including the G24 group of developing countries, and various US legislators, have called for reform. The

most straightforward solution would be to eliminate surcharges altogether. If this proves politically unfeasible, other reforms could include capping total interest charges or raising the thresholds for imposing surcharges. Aligning these thresholds with the current limits would ensure that surcharges are only applied in extraordinary circumstances.

Additionally, counting surcharge payments as principal repayments on IMF loans could alleviate some of the financial pressure on indebted countries. These reforms would help reduce the excessive burden on countries in financial distress, allowing them to focus on achieving sustainable growth and meeting international commitments, such as the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris climate agreement.

By reducing or eliminating surcharges, the IMF can better support countries in crisis, helping them to recover in a challenging global economic environment, allowing them to rebuild their nations and develop economies that positively contribute to the global community.

The world now has a choice and America needs to pay attention if it wants to maintain its global market dominance as technology rivals are fast catching up.

Technology is our future and those countries that want to ensure they have a role to play in this digital future would be wise to focus on building knowledge workers to serve this ever-growing sector. This was the prime reason for me to author 'The Brave Knowledge World'; a book that is a factual journey into the future, showing how technology will change the course of human history in the 4th industrial revolution.

I welcome anyone wanting to secure a position in our digital future to read this book a build capacity in the technology areas mentioned which are set to revolutionize our existence.

The Security of AI Systems: Implications for National Security

The rapid proliferation of AI globally has brought about significant advancements and opportunities. However, it also introduces a new set of vulnerabilities and threats, particularly concerning national security. As AI systems become more integrated into critical infrastructure, defense mechanisms, and governmental operations, the potential for abuse by state actors and other malicious entities continues to grow.

All this is very concerning as the world becomes a more dangerous place, particularly with the recent infiltration of telecommunication devices in Lebanon, which led to tragic loss of life. Such sabotage will inevitably move into other technology areas, including AI. The major concern with AI is the scale at which such attacks could cause devastation if compromised, due to the increasing power of such systems as they are more powerful, and as their implementation spreads within governmental and military circles across the globe.

AI technologies are increasingly being utilized in national security for tasks such as surveillance, intelligence analysis, and autonomous defense systems. The integration of AI enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of these operations but it also expands the attack surface for adversaries, with the US National Security Agency (NSA) highlighting the importance of securing AI systems to protect national interests.

State-affiliated threat actors have been identified as using AI tools to enhance their cyber capabilities, as well as compromising those being used by others. Securing these systems can be a daunting task, particularly as those based on machine learning can be complex and opaque, making it difficult to identify and mitigate vulnerabilities. AI systems rely heavily on large datasets, which can also be targeted for theft or manipulation.

It is vital for countries to bolster their national cybersecurity infrastructures, invest in AI research to develop their capacity to identify and mitigate such threats, as well as educate policymakers, military personnel, and the general public about AI and its security implications to build more resilient nations.

There must be international cooperation and information sharing to help nations to collectively defend against AI threats, develop advanced detection systems, and foster collaboration between private and public sectors to build a multi-layered defense mechanism as components of a holistic strategy to stay ahead of the evolving threats in this domain.

AI is the new technological frontier that we must harness and conquer with full confidence to ensure that we are never held to ransom by any state actors that are looking to do us harm due to our naivety of such technology.

China's Blockchain Goals

China has recently signed off on an initiative to leverage blockchain technology for its national data infrastructure. I see this as a significant milestone in the country's digital transformation journey that aims to establish a unified national data infrastructure by 2029.

I have spoken about blockchain technology extensively in the past, notably in my book titled "Brave Knowledge World", detailing how this will revolutionize the way records and transactions are stored. The blockchain provides a shared, immutable ledger that facilitates the recording and tracking of transactions and assets.

This can be thought as a modern day version of the old paper ledgers, allowing anything of value to be tracked or traded, with a time stamped digital ledger. This is managed by a group of distributed computers, bound to one another through advanced encryption which makes it resistant to unauthorized modification and highly secure.

The beauty of blockchain is that no single person can control it, and there is no single point of failure. Having such features make it an attractive proposition for any sector that needs to store and retrieve transactional information in a secure and rapid manner.

China's adoption of blockchain for its data infrastructure is a strategic move to enhance transparency and trustworthiness in data management, by creating a blockchain specifically for national data assets and transactions. This will enable traceability and accountability, ensuring that data is managed in a secure and transparent manner.

While China has started to make strides in leveraging blockchain for its national data infrastructure with a clear roadmap for implementation, the US is still in the early stages of exploring and implementing blockchain. China's ambitious plan to leverage blockchain technology represents a significant step towards enhancing data management, transparency, security, and efficiency.

By building a customized blockchain, China is positioning itself as a leader in digital innovation, setting another benchmark for other countries to follow.

AI Agents - The Future of Learning

Education is a fundamental human right and is something I have been passionate about my entire life. It is essential for us to eliminate illiteracy and democratize education if we are going to eradicate poverty and build societies that positively contribute to global development.

In 1995 as Chair of the UN Task Force on Standards and Disclosure, I chaired the first UN Conference on Change of Education.

In my pursuit of this goal, I have set up many education institutions and training centers in the past, with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Digital University (TAG-DU) being the most recent one, founded on the basis of providing quality education to all those who seek it. I believe that education must change and adopt innovative educational methods to produce well-educated knowledge workers needed in this digital world.

With the explosion of the Generative AI systems, the use of AI agents in education has become the new technology which is set to transform the process of teaching and learning. There is a shift from the conventional education to flexible and inclusive education, where AI agents provide customizable platforms through which routine tasks can be automated, such as course planning, evaluation and assessment, freeing up educators to focus on achieving better learning outcomes.

Using sophisticated AI algorithms and student information, such systems have the ability to analyze student interests, their past performance and career aspirations to recommend courses tailored to their goals, ensuring personalized learning experiences, making learning more personalized and relevant. AI-driven tools are playing pivotal roles in personalized learning, automating tasks, and providing real-time feedback, making education more dynamic and collaborative.

The democratization of AI in education is a game changer as it promotes innovation in a manner that simply was not previously possible. Many educators in schools and universities are now able to create their own AI agents with the help of natural language. This accessibility makes sure that

the needs of both the learners and the educators are met by the AI-driven tools while at the same time enhancing the quality of education.

AI agents promise a smarter, more connected education, paving the way for a brighter educational landscape for all. This is very much needed as we are dealing with a broken, outdated traditional education system that was built to serve economies of the past, not the technological one we find ourselves in today.

By harnessing the power of AI, we can create a more equitable and effective educational system that empowers students and educators alike. The revolution has already begun, and the future of education looks extraordinarily promising.

I have called for many years for the traditional education system to transform and look forward to see what this year has in store for education. I urge all educators and institutes to become AI literate and hubs of AI learning, to build a future generation of skilled digital workers.

United States Debt, Politics, and Non-Governmental Actors

As part of efforts by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to avoid a shutdown of the federal government, both chambers recently passed a temporary funding measure that ensures continued federal funding at current levels until 14 March 2025. This legislation, which was signed into law by President Joe Biden, includes USD 100 billion in disaster relief assistance, in addition to USD 10 billion in support for farmers.

The bill ran counter to a prior demand by former President Donald Trump to suspend the U.S. debt ceiling. Nevertheless, its passage prevented a government shutdown that could have affected thousands of federal employees and disrupted holiday travel. The political drama surrounding the bill also highlighted internal divisions within the Republican Party and the extent of Trump's influence, revealing that he does not exercise the level of control over the party that he had assumed.

The United States has been caught in a prolonged cycle of debt, marked by massive borrowing that carries significant implications for its future growth prospects. The country's debt-to-GDP ratio currently stands at 110.39%, indicating that national debt exceeds total economic output. Since 2019, U.S. debt has surpassed GDP, an unfavorable economic indicator. This elevated level of debt poses serious challenges to national welfare and economic growth, particularly as its main competitor, China, continues to record relatively optimistic growth and substantially lower debt levels, despite the economic challenges it faces.

Within the current U.S. political landscape, Elon Musk has emerged as an influential political actor. He voiced strong opposition to the funding bill and played a key role in disrupting the preliminary agreement. Musk's influence lies in his significant ability to shape decision-making among policymakers, including Republican members of Congress and President-elect Trump, who adopted Musk's views and called for the suspension of the public debt ceiling. Musk's objections to the bill included misleading

information regarding government finances and public health preparedness, raising serious questions about the nature of his influence—particularly in light of reports indicating that he provided substantial financial support to Trump’s election campaign.

Musk may become an even more influential figure in U.S. politics despite not being elected, a development that does not reflect positively on the world’s most powerful democracy. Although he is not an elected representative of the people, Musk is set to lead—alongside Vivek Ramaswamy—the “Department of Government Efficiency,” a non-governmental body tasked with advising the government on cost-cutting measures.

All of this points to a significant potential conflict of interest arising from Musk’s appointment to such a role, as his interests may not necessarily align with those of the public, and there is a strong possibility that his business and personal agenda could influence his recommendations.

I anticipate major challenges under the incoming U.S. administration if Musk remains in this position. I also foresee significant challenges for the U.S. economy in 2025 if the debt-to-GDP ratio does not improve.

The Arab World Stands Today at the Threshold of a Historic Moment

Behind the unfolding events in the region, various projects and plans are emerging to redraw the map of the Arab world and to fragment it politically, socially, and geographically. These efforts surpass the dangers posed by the infamous Sykes-Picot Agreement, which has lasted for over a century, keeping the region ensnared in the interests of regional and international powers that have long exploited our weaknesses to advance their agendas at the expense of the people and their future.

Recent events point to efforts to divide the Arab world into competing spheres of influence, with Syria serving as a central element in these plans. The fragmentation of Syria aligns with the strategic interests of the occupying power, with disastrous consequences for the region's stability, as it creates power vacuums and intensifies conflicts.

Several countries, are involved in shaping this complex equation, while Iran faces international pressure to weaken its regional influence. The expected outcome is the undermining of the entire regional stability, turning Arab countries into fragmented, weak entities with no hope of joint Arab action.

Amid these interconnected challenges, our central Palestinian cause takes center stage. While it has historically been a symbol of Arab unity, it now faces a continuous decline in its status regionally and internationally. This is further exacerbated by factors such as the weakening of Arab commitment, shifts in regional alliances, and the reduced regional role of Iran, which had been a principal supporter of the resistance axis and the unity of the various fronts.

In light of these circumstances, the Arab world cannot remain passive. Arab countries must reject division and inaction, working together to confront these challenges and standing firm against any attempts to divide Syria

or Iraq. They must uphold the sovereignty and unity of these nations. Furthermore, they must reinvigorate the Palestinian cause by renewing Arab commitment through robust diplomatic and financial support, while exerting pressure to restore its central role on the international agenda.

Arab cooperation must be strengthened, and coordination between Arab countries as a strategic necessity must be enacted to counter external interventions by leveraging diplomacy and soft power, both of which are abundant. Additionally, the Arab identity must be emphasized as a cornerstone for restoring solidarity and unifying the vision for a shared future.

I therefore affirm that the Arab world stands today at the threshold of a historic moment. The challenges are formidable, and the errors lie behind and ahead of us. The only remedy is the collective will to reverse the path of disintegration. This demands nothing less than clarity of purpose, resolve in execution, and a steadfast commitment to the principles of unity and sovereignty.

American Isolationism: Loss of Influence... and an Opportunity for China

In a move reflecting a growing isolationist tendency and a disregard for its historical role, Republican lawmakers are seeking to withdraw Washington from the United Nations—a proposal that mirrors the “America First” ideology embraced by President Trump during his first term and further reinforced during his current term.

In my view, this decision not only threatens Washington’s standing as a global superpower, but also weakens the international system it helped build since the end of World War II, opening the door for Beijing to fill the resulting vacuum.

Despite its shortcomings, the United Nations remains the only platform that brings together the world’s nations to address shared challenges, ranging from humanitarian crises to climate change. Withdrawal, therefore, would not merely represent diplomatic isolation, but a voluntary relinquishment of global leadership—especially given that the United States contributed more than USD 18 billion in 2022, equivalent to nearly one-third of the organization’s budget. Can it truly afford to abandon its influence within an international system it finances on such a scale?

Historically, similar proposals have been introduced in Congress, but they failed to secure sufficient support. Nevertheless, I believe that withdrawing from the United Nations would constitute not only a betrayal of the global order, but also a betrayal of the very principles upon which the United States was founded. Instead of reforming the organization, Washington would be choosing to undermine it; instead of supporting human rights, it would retreat from the international arena, leaving a vacuum that other powers would inevitably fill.

Should this proposal come to fruition, Beijing would be the primary beneficiary. As the second-largest financial contributor to the United Nations, China would significantly expand its influence within the organization and strengthen its presence in UN-affiliated bodies such as the World Health Organization and the Human Rights Council. Washington's absence would present China with a golden opportunity.

Moscow, for its part, would seek to strengthen its alliances with countries in Africa and Latin America to bolster its influence within the organization. Nevertheless, its impact would remain limited compared to China's, given Beijing's far greater economic leverage.

As for the Old Continent, in the absence of the United States, the European Union may attempt to assume a larger role, despite its inability to fully compensate for U.S. funding. European countries may gradually increase their contributions, while France, Germany, and the United Kingdom could play a more active diplomatic role—albeit without fully offsetting the American withdrawal.

New Delhi, which aspires to a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, may seize the opportunity to reinforce its demands. Meanwhile, Brazil and South Africa—members of the BRICS group—may expand their influence within UN-affiliated agencies such as the World Food Programme.

At the Arab level, Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates may seek to increase their financial contributions in order to expand their global diplomatic influence.

I believe that a U.S. withdrawal would not immediately lead to war, but it would increase global instability, intensify regional conflicts, and trigger a new arms race—thereby raising the likelihood of future wars. To

confront this shift, states may resort to alternatives to the United Nations, such as NATO, whose role in certain security matters could expand, or the Quadrilateral Alliance comprising the United States, Japan, India, and Australia, potentially widening to include additional countries in an effort to counter Chinese influence.

We may also witness the emergence of new regional alliances, potentially dividing the world into competing blocs—one led by the European Union alongside Japan, Canada, and Australia, and a counter-bloc led by China and Russia, including Iran, North Korea, and several countries in Africa and Latin America.

The only silver lining may be that the Zionist entity, which has long benefited from the U.S. veto at the Security Council, could find itself facing a new reality: no eternal American protection and no immunity from international justice—particularly given that since the 1970s, Washington has used its veto power dozens of times to shield it from international condemnation.

Thus, we are not facing the “America First” championed by Trump and his team, but rather “America Alone”—followed by its allies—in a world that will not wait.

Challenges Facing AI Momentum

Millions across the globe are now waking up to AI, with companies spending billions to develop it and attain global supremacy. Nevertheless, there are indications that this may begin to stall as worries regarding sustainability, profitability, and enormous costs of development start to dwell on the minds of those involved in this sector.

A primary concern is the cost of developing these systems that are reported to have reached hundreds of millions of dollars in computation power and data. US investors are looking to get their money back from the huge investment they made and are reluctant to continue investing into a technology that has no clear path to profitability.

Another issue is the environmental impact of the development of these complex systems and the resulting increase of CO2 emissions. We cannot continue developing bigger systems without any consideration for the environment. Chinese AI systems like DeepSeek and Qwen prove that it is possible to get cheaper performance, with lower resource consumption, offering a way of alternative method of developing AI technologies.

Furthermore, there has been a hype associated with these AI systems as the ultimate technology solution. Such expectations are misguided and made worse by overzealous sales and marketing people, which are increasingly difficult to realize. When the reality fails to meet the projections, skepticism takes hold and investors begin to wonder where their money should go. Should confidence decline, then the flow of capital required to sustain research and deployment will follow suit, effectively slowing innovation across this sector. An example of this is the launch of DeepSeek that prompted a huge US stock sell off, showing that investors are very wary of what they are investing in.

It is evident that China is moving rapidly in this dynamic sector and has focused on developing efficient algorithms despite US technology sanctions

on it, focusing on producing on-par systems with the US at a much lower cost with greater optimization and scalability. Maybe US firms need to rethink their current course of AI development and take a leaf out of the Chinese AI development strategy.

It is evident that there are numerous challenges that could slow down the momentum of AI development including spiraling costs, energy issues, investor concerns and geopolitical risks. I believe that there should be greater international cooperation between technologists, governments and companies in this sector, as there are shared concerns and risks that that would be better mitigated through collaboration rather than isolated efforts.

Having served as the Chairman of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development in the United Nations, I understand the importance of a healthy AI sector and I avail all the resources in TAG.Global for this purpose. This is probably the most important innovation in modern time, requiring a spirit of working for the greater good for all of humanity, rather than sole corporate profit.

South Africa... a Model of Resilience in the Face of International Pressures

South Africa has consistently been an example of unwavering commitment to its principles, particularly its support for the Palestinian cause, despite significant adverse consequences. Having endured decades of apartheid, the South African nation has a profound understanding of injustice and oppression. Therefore, its support for Palestine transcends mere political alignment, embodying a moral obligation deeply rooted in its own historical experience.

Despite mounting American pressure to withdraw the lawsuit against the occupying entity before the International Court of Justice, which involves the suspension of aid and the freezing of significant trade agreements such as AGOA—threatening exports valued at \$3.6 billion—Pretoria remains resolute in its stance.

This noble South African position was previously translated into an unprecedented legal action when, last year, a lawsuit was filed before the International Court of Justice against the entity on charges of committing genocide in the Gaza Strip.

The lawsuit presented strong evidence supporting the case, affirming that the world cannot turn a blind eye to such crimes.

However, this position has not been without cost, as economic sanctions and political pressures jeopardize South Africa's stability, which is already facing intricate internal challenges.

Nevertheless, the nation's leadership maintains that international justice is not a mere slogan, but a noble and heroic principle that deserves to be defended, regardless of any cost.

In this regard, I commend the statement made by the South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr. Ronald Lamola, which reaffirms this commitment.

He remarked, “We come from a history of struggle and the quest for freedom, and we believe that every individual deserves justice and human dignity. South Africa will not withdraw its support for the Palestinian cause.” He stressed that while upholding principles may be costly, it is crucial to safeguard international law from disintegration.

South Africa’s stance represents more than a mere political or legal challenge; it is a struggle to uphold human dignity and international order in the face of competing geopolitical interests. In an era marked by diminishing adherence to international law, South Africa continues to honor the vision of its late leader, Nelson Mandela, who stated: “Our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians”.

While the challenges predominantly arise from external sources, Pretoria also confronts internal difficulties. Some voices within the government advocate for reassessing relations with Washington, whereas others perceive American pressures as part of a larger campaign aimed at undermining the independence of international decision-making.

Nevertheless, South Africa maintains that justice must not be subordinated to political coercion, and that human values should take precedence over narrow interests.

China - A Step Closer to Near-Limitless Energy

Energy is a vital commodity in our modern world, being top on the agendas of the all nations globally. Energy security was a matter of high urgency during the sessions I attended while advising the World Trade Organization (WTO) on defining the future of trade, and during my tenure as a member of the International Chamber of Commerce in France. Governments have this as an utmost priority as energy independency opens up the floodgates of innovation, prosperity and technological progression.

China has emerged at the forefront of the race for sustainable energy solutions with its Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) reactor after advancements in nuclear fusion technology. The reactor has earned the name ‘artificial sun’, recreating the high temperatures of the sun inside a specially designed chamber, releasing a tremendous amount of energy with minimal radioactive waste compared to current nuclear reactors.

This is not only an important scientific achievement, but also an important strategic move that may have profound consequences for the Chinese economy and its global standing. The successful commercialization of fusion technology could transform China’s energy sector by reducing its dependence on fossil fuels and lead to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. However, the road to nuclear fusion technology is not without its challenges, being several years away from being economically viable.

The US government has also been active in pursuing fusion technology, with government funded initiatives like the National Ignition Facility (NIF) and private ventures that are working toward fusion energy breakthroughs. However, China’s centralized approach with substantial state support have given it a considerable advantage in advancing fusion research.

The success of the commercialization of fusion energy will be highly important for the Chinese economy, as it will provide a stable energy source that will reduce energy costs and stimulate further innovation in the economy. This will help to increase Chinese political influence on the global stage and make it one of the leading players in this new energy market.

I congratulate the Chinese scientific community on these achievements, and highly commend President Xi Jinping for creating a conducive environment in which energy innovation can grow and thrive.

Is a Shadow Government Undermining US Democracy?

Elon Musk who funded Trump's election campaign to the tune of \$250 million, is now serving as leader of the non-governmental Department of Government Efficiency (DoGE), centralizing a dangerous amount of power and authority in the hands of an unelected individual, eroding the health of US democracy and all it stands for.

Though the DoGE is a non-governmental organization, Musk appears to exercise a good deal of power within the US government, with a 'carte blanche' from the President. This is seen in his recent attempts to downsize or merge government agencies like the US Agency for International Development (USAID), accusing it of corruption with little evidence to that effect. If he gets his way, Musk will tear down the world's biggest supplier of humanitarian aid, which would be disastrous for global humanitarian operations. This has already led to chaos and disruption in government agencies, with 600 USAID employees being locked out of their systems with an unknown future. It seems that DoGE is suffering from a lack of transparency and accountability in its actions, with Musk at its helm as its all-powerful leader.

In his new role, it seems he is able to avoid financial disclosures and the public vetting process, which is a serious issue in respect to transparency and accountability in the federal government. Being the owner of the social media platform X (previously twitter) is enabling him to use his considerable media influence to justify his actions, sway judgement and promote his conjectural opinions, often laced inflammatory statement, being dismissive of legitimate criticism and polarizing public opinion even further.

DoGE and Musk's actions have not gone unchallenged. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has stated that an unelected shadow government is staging a hostile takeover of the federal government, and that DoGE had no right to shut programs down or to disobey federal law. Musk responded by

calling the reaction hysterical, adding fuel to the fire.

Government accountability groups have voiced their own concerns over DoGE and have brought four separate lawsuits against the department on the grounds that it has violated federal transparency laws. It seems they were right to be worried as Musk and his team have gained access to sensitive government systems in the Treasury Department, as well as exerting control over the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the General Services Administration (GSA), which controls federal real estate.

The attempts to block Musk's team have led to the ousting of several top agency officials. For instance, the acting secretary of the Treasury Department quit after refusing to allow Musk's team to access highly secure systems. Likewise, senior security officials at USAID were placed on administrative leave for attempting to keep DoGE workers from accessing restricted areas.

This mix of wealth and political power is a problematic cocktail that undermines US democracy. Musk's behavior suggests a power hungry bully, exerting autonomous control in the government with no oversight, checks or balances. This is dangerous for the US as it erodes democratic processes, creates chaos within government agencies and sets a dangerous precedent.

Interactive Programming at the Heart of the U.S.-China Conflict

It appears that the United States has moved beyond its focus on Chinese applications in the realm of social media and has broadened its scope to include interactive programming models referred to as artificial intelligence, as clearly demonstrated by the growing controversy surrounding the Deep Seek app.

Reports indicate that Republican Senator Josh Hawley, a lawyer, and politician, has proposed a bill to ban Deep Seek, accompanied by penalties including up to 20 years of imprisonment and fines reaching millions of dollars for its users, under the justification of safeguarding national security and protecting American businesses.

The United States has consistently employed the national security argument as a powerful tool in its technological conflict with China, as evidenced by its actions against Huawei and TikTok. Today, a similar situation is unfolding with Deep Seek, where the app is accused of data breaches and exploitation without substantial evidence. In other words, the proposed legislation appears to be a new instrument aimed at reinforcing American technological dominance, particularly in light of the swift rise of Deep Seek as a competitor to ChatGPT.

Therefore, I regard this proposal as indicative of a divisive strategy that undermines international collaboration in interactive programming and accelerates a technological race that may impede human innovation. Notably, when compared to the U.S. legal system, the proposed penalties are twice as severe as those for offenses such as rape or manslaughter in certain states. Moreover, the imposition of a fine of up to 100 million dollars on companies presupposes, without awaiting the outcomes of investigations into allegations of data theft from “OpenAI” and “Microsoft,” that the use of Deep Seek is inherently criminal.

Rather than fostering innovation among American companies, Washington is turning to repressive legislation as a means to eliminate competitors, particularly given that investigations into “Deep Seek” have not yet provided any definitive evidence of wrongdoing. Nonetheless, Congress is moving swiftly to impose sanctions, prompting concerns about the motivations behind this action and its fairness.

What is concerning about this U.S. campaign is the evident double standard in addressing issues related to data theft. In recent years, American corporations such as Facebook, Google, and Microsoft have repeatedly engaged in the collection and exploitation of user data through questionable means, whether for marketing or other purposes. Furthermore, we cannot overlook the recent revelations by The Washington Post, which disclosed that Google supplied the Israeli military with advanced artificial intelligence technologies in the early stages of the assault on Gaza. Despite these actions, we have yet to witness the imposition of stringent laws or severe penalties against these companies.

The threat posed by such a protectionist mindset does not reside in the immediate effects of the proposed legislation but in its far-reaching implications for international relations.

Beijing may retaliate with comparable actions against American companies at a time when global cooperation is essential to tackle significant challenges, such as climate change and pandemics. In this regard, modern technologies risk becoming instruments of conflict, rather than fostering openness and collaboration.

In conclusion, I would say that Beijing has realized that the future lies in interactive programming, and thus, it has made substantial investments in developing its technologies, while Washington focused on imposing sanctions.

In conclusion, it can be said that Beijing has recognized that the future lies in interactive programming, leading it to make significant investments in the development of its own technologies, while Washington has focused on the imposition of sanctions.

Technology, Power and Democracy

The technology sector has exploded over the past fifty years with exponential innovation, creating massive wealth and huge corporations the likes of which we have not seen before. This is testament to man's ability to create what the mind can conceive, with scientific and engineering breakthroughs propelling technological innovation to incredible heights while creating many billionaires in the process.

The great technology wealth has created many jobs, with leading firms having been bestowed much power. Wealth does not just lead to more wealth, it also leads to more political and economic power being concentrated in the hands of a few which is highly problematic.

Many feel that the US system serves the capitalist rich which can be seen in the huge wealth divide in the country. The wealth gap has widened significantly over the past few decades with the richest 1% now holding more wealth than the bottom 90% combined. This concentration of wealth has far-reaching implications, not just for the economy, but for the political landscape as well.

Wealthy individuals and corporations wield significant influence over politics and policy-making, which is evident in the way political campaigns are funded, the lobbying power of large corporations, and the revolving door between corporate boardrooms and government positions. The recent inauguration of Trump highlighted this dynamic, with tech leaders from Google, Meta, Amazon, and Tesla taking prime seats at the event. These tech giants have seen their wealth increase by hundreds of billions over the last decade, while the federal minimum wage has remained stagnant at \$7.25 since 2009, greatly exacerbating economic disparity.

The growing wealth divide creates a poverty vicious cycle. As the rich get richer, they gain more power to shape policies that favor their interests, often at the expense of the broader population. This leads to reduced social mobility, fewer opportunities for the middle and lower classes, and a growing sense of disenfranchisement among the populace.

US capitalism in its current form is failing the masses and in turn democracy. The balance between capitalist owners and the money they redistribute in society is highly unbalanced. The wealthy hold formidable power in their hands, with the uneven wealth distribution between them and their workers exacerbating social and economic inequalities. This imbalance threatens the very foundation of democracy, as people care less about the system ruling them and more about their well-being, opportunities, and prosperity, regardless of what system of government is ruling over them.

To ensure the survival of democracy, there must be a concerted effort to address wealth inequality. This includes implementing policies that promote fair wages, progressive taxation, and robust social safety nets. Additionally, there must be measures to curb the influence of money in politics and ensure that the voices of ordinary citizens are heard and valued.

The US can either continue down the path of concentrated wealth and power, leading to further erosion of democracy, or it can take bold steps to rectify the imbalances and create a more equitable society. The choice is clear. For democracy to thrive, the wealth divide must be addressed, and the power of the few must be checked to ensure the well-being and prosperity of the many is being maintained above all else.

A more equitable society certainly must be created to ensure the survival of US democratic principles and to bring together a highly fragmented American public.

Trump-Zelensky Debate Proves the Wisdom of His Majesty King Abdullah II

The media and social media were abuzz with reports of the heated exchange between U.S. President Donald Trump and his guest at the White House, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, regarding the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

Although I am not concerned with the event itself, nor with its exaggerated portrayal by the media, what matters to me is the tendency of some to draw comparisons between the encounter of Ukrainian President Zelensky with President Trump and Vice President JD Vance, and the meeting of His Majesty King Abdullah II with President Trump at the White House in mid-February. It is essential to recognize that there is no valid basis for comparison between the two situations, either in terms of form or substance. I had previously published an article about His Majesty's meeting, which appeared in Al-Rai newspaper, where I expressed my disapproval of those who sought to manipulate the situation and criticized His Majesty's position without any supporting evidence.

Returning to the matter at hand, I believe that the incident involving the Ukrainian president, contrary to ill-intentioned interpretations, once again highlights His Majesty's wisdom, his diplomatic conduct as a guest, and his careful consideration of the significance of the message he sought to convey during his visit to the White House on that day.

Therefore, I would like to remind once again of the following facts:

When His Majesty the King was unexpectedly surprised with the presence of the press during his meeting with the U.S. President (a development that had not been prearranged), he listened calmly and thoughtfully to President Trump's responses to the journalists. These responses included issues that were in direct contradiction to the King's positions on the primary objective of the visit. This objective was to reaffirm His Majesty's firm rejection of the displacement of the people of Gaza from their ancestral homeland to any other location, particularly to Egypt or Jordan, as President Trump had suggested at the time. This rejection stemmed not only from the potential impact on Jordan's strategic and security interests but also from the fact that forced displacement is fundamentally unacceptable under international law and violates established global norms and standards.

This royal position of Jordan was already well-established, as His Majesty the King had publicly declared it prior to the visit. It was also articulated by both official and public Jordanian circles—a clear rejection of any displacement from Gaza, the West Bank, or any other location.

It is customary for a press briefing to be held after official discussions at this level, following the formal meeting, to inform the media about the agreements reached. However, the aforementioned press meeting took place before the official meeting. Consequently, His Majesty deemed it inappropriate to address the press regarding matters he intended to present to President Trump during the official meeting. His Majesty also considered it inappropriate to prematurely disclose the Arab position being under discussion, particularly with regard to the issue of displacement.

Nevertheless, His Majesty provided a brief response to the question regarding the humanitarian initiative of facilitating the reception of 2,000 children in need of medical treatment in Jordan, with the intention of returning them to their homeland afterward. Over the past decades, Jordan has consistently received the wounded and sick from Gaza, providing treatment before returning them to their home country. His Majesty also clarified that ongoing Arab discussions are taking place to develop appropriate solutions for the reconstruction of Gaza Strip, stabilizing its residents, and restoring their normal lives.

All of this underscores that there is no basis for comparison between the situation with the Ukrainian guest and His Majesty King Abdullah. The evidence of this lies in the fact that, upon learning of the malicious interpretations surrounding his meeting with the Jordanian King, the U.S. President recorded a televised message specifically addressed to the Jordanian people, commending His Majesty's wisdom, leadership, and outstanding diplomacy, and describing him as one of the greatest leaders he has ever worked with.

Meanwhile, the heated debate continues between the American and Ukrainian sides following the interview. For these reasons, I felt it necessary to revisit this topic, which reaffirms that His Majesty the King, with his distinguished Hashemite character, political acumen, and diplomatic skill—qualities he inherited from his late father, the beloved King Hussein, may God rest his soul—acted in accordance with that wisdom, the principles of proper conduct, and the national interest.

A Call for Establishing Global Regulations for Interactive Programming

Interactive programming, known as artificial intelligence, holds the potential to significantly enhance human life at an unparalleled pace. However, it also raises concerns regarding privacy infringements, spread of misinformation, and making critical decisions without adequate human oversight and regulation. Consequently, it is essential to implement laws and ethical frameworks to govern its use to leverage its advantages. Collaborative efforts and ongoing supervision are the most effective means of ensuring that it remains beneficial and secure for all.

In my capacity as the chair of the United Nations Internet Governance Task Force (UNICTTASKFORCE), I have developed a profound understanding of the critical importance of implementing digital governance mechanisms in our increasingly interconnected world. I have actively participated in various international forums addressing these issues and I have contributed to research advocating for the establishment of a global framework for interactive programming.

Today, I extend an open invitation to leading thinkers and technology experts to actively participate in formulating regulations to govern this technology before it becomes uncontrollable, including prominent figures such as Bill Gates and others.

In this regard, the Paris Summit on Artificial Intelligence represented a significant step toward realizing this objective. With broad participation from global leaders, the summit sought to lay the groundwork for regulating interactive programming to ensure its safe and ethical use.

Despite the challenges and differences among nations, the mere convening of this summit reflects global recognition of the need for cooperation to prevent interactive programming from becoming an unaccountable tool. The summit itself underscores international acknowledgment of the

critical importance of digital governance and signals a positive step toward fostering a global consensus that prioritizes the well-being of humanity over commercial and political interests.

However, this alone is not sufficient. It is essential to build upon this initiative and intensify collaborative efforts to establish clear regulations that mitigate risks while promoting the beneficial uses of interactive programming. Given that the day is rapidly approaching when we will rely on it to address challenges across diverse sectors, including healthcare, engineering, education, and economics, among others, it is crucial that we act now. We must ensure that it does not evolve into a problem in itself. Therefore, I propose the establishment of a committee for interactive programming, comprising experts in data science, law, and ethics, to define clear standards and assess their potential impacts.

At Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Academy and its Digital University, we are conducting advanced research on the impact of this technology and exploring ways to utilize it more responsibly.

Our goal is to serve as an ideal platform for global dialogue aimed at establishing regulations to govern interactive programming, ensuring its use for beneficial purposes rather than harmful ones. A question that has repeatedly come to my mind, and continues to do so today, is: what if interactive programming becomes a weapon? This is where the greatest threat lies. It is not only employed in fields like medicine and industry but also in warfare. The Zionist entity has used it in unprecedented ways to target humans, with advanced algorithms automatically identifying military targets. This has resulted in execution decisions based on mathematical equations, leading to brutal massacres implemented by digital data, in clear violation of international law.

But what comes next? Interactive programming is a powerful tool, but it is neither inherently good nor bad; it is up to us to decide how to utilize it. If we do not act now to establish clear regulations, we may find ourselves in a world where algorithms control our life decisions and destinies.

The Hot War Between the United States and China

Several decades ago, I formed a firm belief that the majority of conflicts that erupted in various regions of the world during the Cold War, which ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union at the end of the 1980s, and in the period that followed, can be attributed to a hidden struggle between the two superpowers for global leadership, both politically and economically.

When I emphasized this reality in my writings and numerous television interviews, and predicted a potential military confrontation between these two powers, many rushed to accuse me of pessimism and making unrealistic predictions. However, I remain steadfast in this conviction, and it may be helpful to revisit some key facts to demonstrate the validity of the warning I previously issued, which are as follows:

America's contribution to global economic growth is still 17% while China's is 35%, this is one of the elements of competition.

The Russian ambassador to Washington says he sees no possibility of peaceful coexistence with the West.

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Schenayan states that America's three primary priorities in the world are China, China, and China.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, who disagreed with President Trump on the management of the internal crisis, stated that America must concentrate on an impending conflict in which China and Russia are the primary adversaries, and it will be characterized by high-intensity warfare. He further emphasized that the Chinese economy represents a significant threat to the United States.

In an interview conducted years before his death, former President Carter stated that President Trump had expressed deep

concern about China surpassing the United States. Carter agreed, explaining that the reason for this was America's expenditure of 3 trillion dollars on wars, while China directed its spending toward infrastructure development.

Experts, including The Economist magazine, anticipate that the initial spark of conflict will arise in the South China Sea.

Russian analyst Alexander Nazarov stated that the United States seeks to engage with China to establish a new global system and unified leadership, but China has rejected this proposal. However, he believes China will be compelled to agree due to the ensuing military conflict.

Trump stated that the September 11 attacks and the events at Pearl Harbor in 1941 are comparable to the COVID-19 crisis, but the latter is even worse.

U.S. statements have progressively centered on the Chinese Communist Party.

The new U.S. Director of National Intelligence, John Ratcliffe, asserts that China represents a threat to America's national security.

Trump threatens to disclose information regarding the responsibility for everything that occurred in America during the COVID-19 crisis, stating that China made a significant error and must both acknowledge and be held accountable for it.

China's investments in the BRICS countries project surpass 35 trillion and have risen by over five trillion in the past four months.

Pompeo claims that the Chinese regime is antagonistic to the ideology of free nations, as he characterizes it. Consequently, the expectation, as in other countries, is that each nation must alter its system to align with the American model.

Trump demands that China comply with U.S. trade policies.

The Chinese president asserts that China must enhance its military preparedness in anticipation of war, emphasizing that this should occur now, rather than after the COVID-19 crisis concludes.

For my part, I assert that the fact that China and the United States are both nuclear powers does not preclude the possibility of war between them, as nuclear power is no longer a weapon of war, but rather a deterrent of war.

As I have consistently emphasized, war between the two giants poses a significant risk and harm to both parties and others. It is not an objective in itself, but rather a means to initiate negotiations and establish the framework for a new world order.

These facts may serve to confirm what I have previously cautioned about and continue to stress.

In a World of Absurdity

In a world of absurdity, the Zionist occupation authority presents us with a new project—one studied and planned by the so-called geniuses of Zionist gangs. By this I mean the colonizers themselves; not merely the occupation authority, but the authority of Zionist settlers, who assume the role of sabotage and destruction in areas outside the direct control of the occupying power in Gaza and the West Bank. They continue to build colonies they misleadingly call “settlements,” a term that the entire world has unfortunately adopted.

It thus becomes apparent that the insistence on expanding these colonies is not solely aimed at disrupting and destroying the lives of the country’s indigenous population, but also at fragmenting the land into isolated enclaves, thereby stripping the Palestinian National Authority of control and seeking to divide what has already been divided into areas ruled by these colonizers. This has become clearly evident through their actions in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, earning them the label that aptly describes them as a cancer.

The picture has now become unmistakably clear: these colonizers—wrongly referred to as settlers—have assumed official responsibilities in drafting plans, acting as so-called experts in spreading this cancer to devour what remains of Palestine and other targeted Arab countries, through the continued, systematic destruction, displacement, genocide, and ethnic cleansing.

It is astonishing to hear a blunt statement by President Trump declaring that America fully supports everything Israel does, as if showing no regard whatsoever for the proceedings currently underway at the International Court of Justice, which has accused Israel of genocide. Such a stance renders the United States, under the Court’s statutes, a partner in these defined crimes.

A year ago, I predicted the outbreak of a civil war within the occupation authority. Today, we hear explicit political debate at the Zionist level suggesting that the occupation authority may already have entered such a war. Even Prime Minister Netanyahu's categorical denial that a civil war is expected only serves to confirm the plausibility of such an outcome.

Today, I anticipate the phase that follows a civil war—namely, a move by the occupation authority toward what may be termed a “constitutional war.” The dispute among the parties is fundamentally rooted in disagreements over what they call a constitution and over the powers of various institutions under that constitution. This conflict, which has also drawn in the state's legal adviser and the Supreme Court to adjudicate constitutional disputes, represents a stage preceding the complete dissolution of the entity, as the current disagreement now revolves around the false foundations upon which this artificial entity was established.

Reforming the United Nations is not a luxury, but an imperative necessity. A vision for the reform of the United Nations

Undoubtedly, the United Nations, founded on the principles of peace and justice, is no longer capable, in its current form, of addressing the complexities of the 21st century. It seems constrained by bureaucracy and the interests of major powers, which hampers its ability to effect meaningful change. Revitalizing the UN necessitates a fundamental reform that restores its core mission and ensures that it is more representative and equitable for its member states, rather than being dominated by the interests of great powers.

Over the years, through my work in the organization, leading IT and communications teams, the UN Global Alliance for Information and Technology, the UN Global Compact, and other initiatives, I have gained firsthand experience of these challenges and recognized the substantial gap between the stated goals and the practical realities. As a result, I am preparing to launch a new book that explores how to transform this institution into a more effective and equitable body, one that truly reflects the interests of the people, rather than serving as a tool for dominant powers.

One of the central issues I will discuss in my book is the complex bureaucracy that has caused the United Nations to become disconnected from the people it is intended to represent. Rather than functioning as a global platform for safeguarding human rights and ensuring justice, it has frequently transformed into a forum for ruling elites, where decisions are made behind closed doors, while the voices of the majority of world population remain ignored.

However, bureaucracy is not the sole issue, as the Security Council remains one of the most significant barriers in the way of achieving international justice. The veto power granted to the five permanent members turns the Council into a mechanism for safeguarding their interests, rather than serving as a guarantor of global peace. This absolute centralization of

decision-making perpetuates an imbalance within the organization, a flaw that cannot be ignored if we are to pursue genuine reform.

I believe that the reform of the United Nations will remain incomplete without restructuring the Security Council to make it more democratic and representative of the entire world. In my book, I will propose expanding the permanent membership to include countries from Africa, Latin America, and Asia, reflecting contemporary geopolitical changes and ensuring a more equitable distribution of power. Additionally, I will advocate for the abolition or the reduction of veto powers, so that the Council's decisions become more responsive to the collective will of the international community, rather than the interests of select member states.

However, reform should not be confined to political aspects alone; it must also encompass the development of new avenues for people to engage in international decision-making. In this regard, in my book, I propose the idea of establishing a global digital platform that enables individuals from various countries to voice their opinions and participate in international decisions. This platform could serve as the foundation for a "Global Digital Parliament," providing people with a say in critical issues, rather than leaving decisions exclusively in the hands of governments.

Reform should also encompass the United Nations' role in addressing major global challenges, such as climate change, pandemics, and inequality. These issues pose a significant threat to the future of humanity, yet the United Nations lacks the necessary tools to effectively tackle them.

Therefore, I will propose the establishment of a Global Environment and Climate Council with extensive executive powers, allowing it to implement effective international environmental policies. I will also call for enhancing the independence of the World Health Organization, ensuring its ability to respond to health crises without political or financial interference.

As global challenges continue to mount, U.S. influence remains a critical factor in shaping the future of the United Nations. As the organization's largest financial contributor, the United States wields substantial influence

over its decisions, positioning itself as a key player in the direction of reform. However, the increasing discussions surrounding the potential U.S. withdrawal from the United Nations raise a fundamental question: Would this withdrawal jeopardize the continuity of the organization, or offer an opportunity to reshape it on a more just and independent foundation?

In my book, I will propose new alternatives for financing the United Nations, such as implementing global taxes on international financial transactions or carbon emissions, which would reduce the organization's reliance on the support of major powers and enable it to function independently, responding to the needs of the people rather than the interests of dominant powers.

Therefore, reforming the United Nations is not a choice, but an essential imperative. An organization founded to uphold peace cannot remain impotent in the face of conflict, and an organization that champions justice cannot operate according to unjust standards. What I propose is not merely theoretical suggestions, but a practical vision for revitalizing the United Nations, grounded in justice, transparency, and public participation.

I am thoroughly convinced that the United Nations has the potential to evolve into a more effective and equitable entity, but this can only happen if there is a true commitment to its reform.

Securing Prosperity for the Global South

To overcome the current challenges imposed by President Trump's nationalist "America First" agenda, countries of the Global South must adopt strategies that emphasize resilience, adaptability, and inclusiveness. In this tense climate, it is essential for these countries to avoid being drawn into the binary competition between China and the United States, and instead seek to maintain strategic neutrality while engaging in smart diplomacy that can safeguard sovereignty and enhance regional stability. The erosion of traditional alliances under Trump's policies presents an opportunity for Global South countries to build new partnerships, diversify their strategic options, and reduce dependence on any single power.

These countries must focus on innovation and sustainability by investing in advanced industries such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and renewable energy. As a long-standing advocate of the knowledge economy, I have repeatedly emphasized the importance of integrating sustainability into the innovation process to ensure long-term benefits for all. Global South nations should strengthen strategic ties with regional and global blocs and strive to move beyond their current capacities to enhance cooperation that transcends geopolitical divisions. Priority should be given to policies that address poverty and inequality, ensuring a fair distribution of economic gains, as inclusiveness is a strategic necessity for resilience.

In light of current global developments, I believe that countries of the Global South possess the capacity to reshape the global order by strengthening advocacy for justice and equality. The time has come to defend international norms that support peace and prosperity, while calling for the reform of outdated systems that no longer serve global interests. Through this dual approach—defending what works and reforming what does not—smaller states can collectively demonstrate their ability to exert influence.

These countries must prioritize building trust and transparency within their societies, and invest in comprehensive public awareness campaigns and digital knowledge programs to empower citizens with modern digital skills, enable them to critically evaluate information, and resist divisive narratives, whether internal or external. This is essential for strengthening

social cohesion and ensuring that the benefits of economic growth and innovation are distributed equitably. Such efforts contribute to creating a more stable and unified foundation for future development, fostering a culture of modernity, and producing a workforce equipped with advanced digital skills.

By recognizing the opportunities that exist amid the challenges posed by Sino-American competition and Trump’s policies, countries of the Global South may be able to chart a path toward enhanced resilience and prosperity. The need for unity and cooperation has never been more urgent than it is today, as the Global South plays a critical role in shaping a more just and sustainable global order.

Trade Policies Drive Washington and Brussels toward Confrontation

The relationship between the United States and the European Union is approaching a new challenge, as tensions rise over reciprocal tariffs that Washington intends to impose next month. This development could alter the trade dynamics across the Atlantic and have significant repercussions on the global economy.

The origins of the dispute, however, extend beyond the current crisis. Trade policies between the two parties have long been a point of contention, with Trump openly criticizing the European Union for its tax policies and measures targeting American technology giants such as Apple, Google, and Facebook. In turn, Brussels has made it clear that it will not remain passive in the face of new tariffs, warning of potential retaliatory actions.

At the Munich Security Conference last month, tensions heightened after the rhetoric of U.S. Vice President, JD Vance escalated and intensified the situation, by accusing European leaders of intimidating their citizens. Vance emphasized that the primary threat to European democracies is internal, rather than external, exacerbating the already strained relationship.

In reality, the United States and the European Union are each other's largest trading partners, with annual trade between them totaling approximately one trillion euros. As a result, any increase in tariffs on European goods, such as automobiles, machinery, and pharmaceuticals, could disrupt supply chains and lead to higher costs for both businesses and consumers.

Regarding the German automotive industry, companies such as Volkswagen and BMW may be confronted with two choices: either relocate part of their production to the United States to avoid tariffs, or bear additional costs that could impact their competitiveness. Simultaneously, U.S. companies may be forced to seek new suppliers outside the European Union, potentially compromising production efficiency, especially in industries that depend on integrated supply chains, such as automotive and aerospace.

However, there is a lack of consensus within the United States regarding these policies, with widespread opposition from businesses, consumers, and lawmakers, particularly in sectors that depend on European imports.

Conversely, the European Union has effective tools for retaliation, most notably the “Anti-Coercion Instrument,” which enables it to impose countermeasures in response to any unfair trade practices. Furthermore, with a market of 450 million consumers, the EU is well-positioned to absorb economic shocks.

However, tariffs are not solely an economic tool; they signify a deeper political rift. During President Trump’s first term, the United States imposed tariffs on European steel and aluminum, prompting the European Union to retaliate with similar measures, resulting in an escalation that persisted until a partial resolution was approved in 2021. A repetition of this scenario could intensify mistrust between the two sides and have broader implications for other strategic matters, such as NATO funding, climate change cooperation, and the regulation of technology companies.

Amid these tensions, Brussels may accelerate its efforts toward “strategic autonomy” by strengthening its trade partnerships with Asia and Latin America to reduce dependence on the U.S. market. Additionally, Beijing may seize the opportunity to expand its economic influence in Europe through broader investments in infrastructure and projects like the “Belt and Road Initiative,” further complicating the geopolitical landscape.

Despite the escalation, there remains an opportunity to avert a full-scale trade conflict. Common interests, especially in light of the geopolitical challenges posed by competition with China and Russia, render confrontation a costly option for both parties. Notably, diplomacy has previously played a key role in defusing trade crises, as demonstrated in the Airbus-Boeing dispute of 2021. Nonetheless, it is clear that the transatlantic relationship has entered a critical phase that could redefine trade and political alliances for the coming decades.

Musk Facing the Storm: Tesla's Decline, "X" Crises, and the Politics Game

Elon Musk, the U.S. Secretary of Government Efficiency and one of the most influential figures in technology and business, is facing a series of challenges that jeopardize his economic empire.

These include a decline in Tesla's stock, crises at the "X" platform (formerly Twitter), and the political and economic pressures that are overshadowing his ambitious projects.

Recently, Tesla's stock saw a significant decline, losing nearly half of its market value and dropping by \$130 billion in a single day, marking its worst performance since 2020. This downturn can be attributed to several factors, most notably reduced demand for electric vehicles, especially in the European markets, where Tesla reported a 50% decrease in sales in January compared to the previous year.

Additionally, Tesla is facing intense competition from Chinese companies offering electric vehicles at competitive prices, further intensifying the pressure on Tesla. The U.S. monetary policies, particularly the increase in interest rates, have also affected car financing, resulting in demand decline.

However, the losses extended beyond Tesla, affecting Musk personally as well, with a loss of \$22.8 billion in his wealth in just one day, reducing his net worth to \$319.6 billion. This comes at a time when he is grappling with managerial challenges, particularly in his role as an advisor in the White House during President Donald Trump's administration. This position has generated significant controversy due to his austerity policies and the restructuring of government agencies.

Alongside the Tesla crisis, the "X" platform is encountering growing challenges, including frequent cyberattacks and technical disruptions, particularly following Musk's decision to dismantle the teams responsible for

combating misinformation. This has made the platform more susceptible to breaches and criticism. Additionally, Musk's ties to the U.S. administration and his political positions have turned the platform into a target for those opposed to his views.

The space sector has also not been spared from crises, as SpaceX is grappling with challenges following two consecutive explosions of the "Starship" rocket during its test flights, undermining one of Musk's most significant ventures in the future of space exploration.

Musk's relationship with the U.S. administration, particularly with Trump, has further contributed to market uncertainty. Policies such as higher tariffs have had a negative impact on the electric vehicle sector, raising concerns among investors, who have become increasingly cautious regarding his companies.

Amid these challenges, Musk is undergoing a significant test of his leadership capabilities. The pressing question is whether he will succeed in rescuing Tesla, managing the attacks on "X," and resolve the technical issues at SpaceX, or his controversial remarks and political affiliations will only exacerbate the crisis.

The answer will unfold in the coming months, but it is certain that Musk's empire is currently facing one of its most challenging periods. Its future sustainability will hinge on his ability to navigate these challenges and regain investor confidence.

Palestine Is a Cause Lived by Jordanians—of All Origins and Backgrounds—with Every Fiber of Their Being

Any talk of the “Jordanian option” or the “alternative homeland” is a desperate, hopeless, and pathological attempt to sow discord. The Jordanian state—its leadership and its people—has made it unequivocally clear that this is a red line. There is therefore no need to repeat slogans, because reality itself is the true slogan: who stood against the so-called Deal of the Century, who rejected the liquidation of the Palestinian cause despite all pressures, and who continues to open borders for humanitarian assistance? It is Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein.

Accordingly, those who worry about Jordan because of the so-called “threat of Palestinian refugees” should be reassured, for the real threat is not the refugee, but rather those who seek to strip the refugee of identity and Jordan of its firm principles. Recently, the American magazine *Foreign Affairs* published an article warning that the war on Gaza could turn into an existential crisis threatening Jordan, hinting that the reception of Palestinian refugees might destabilize the Kingdom’s internal balance and revive what is known as the “alternative homeland option.”

At first glance, the argument appears tightly constructed and supported by cold political analysis. Yet anyone who lives in Jordan, knows the details of its streets, and listens to the pulse of its people understands well that this narrative is far removed from reality and deliberately ignores a clear truth: Palestine is not a problem for Jordan; it is a cause lived by Jordanians with every fiber of their being—of all origins and without exception.

Those who promote the idea of a “silent internal conflict” between Jordanians of different origins and backgrounds clearly know nothing about Jordan—whether in the streets, universities, demonstrations, or the ranks of the armed forces. Everywhere, one sees unity of position: Jerusalem is a red line, Gaza is our blood, and Palestine is our central cause.

Thus, the alleged division between the East and West Banks exists only in reports that wish for Jordan's collapse more than they analyze it. Jordanians, of all roots, know that the occupier of Palestine is the same force that threatens Jordan's security, and that the one killed in Gaza is a cousin of the one who prays in Karak, Salt, or Irbid.

Those who claim that Jordanians oppose the presence of Palestinians in the country are merely repeating the same old narrative once used by Zionist parties to divide the Jordanian front—a narrative that has failed and will always fail. Those who fought in Latrun and Bab al-Wad never asked about the origins of the fighter beside them; they asked only about his sincerity in defending land and honor. Those confronting today's threats of forced resettlement do not see a demographic danger, but rather an assault on a just cause that Jordanians have supported from the very beginning.

As for the magazine's talk of Washington's anger and Israel's displeasure, this does not intimidate those accustomed to saying "no" in the face of pressure—of which His Majesty the King's positions are constant testimony. The United States changes its stance with changing administrations, while Jordan remains steadfast in rejecting any project that liquidates the Palestinian cause at its expense or at the expense of others. As for the entity, since when has it ever sought the good of anyone in this region? An entity that knows only occupation and aggression cannot be trusted with peace, nor is its anger worthy of respect.

For years, Jordan has stood against every scheme to liquidate the Palestinian cause: rejecting the Deal of the Century, maintaining custodianship over the holy sites, and insisting on the establishment of a Palestinian state on its own land—at no one else's expense. Jordanians—without exception—say with one voice: no to resettlement, no to the alternative homeland, yes to Palestine on its national soil.

Jordan is not fragile as some portray it. It is strong through its internal cohesion, its leadership, and its people. Even if it lacks abundant resources, it possesses what is far more precious: dignity and resolve that cannot be bought. This country has not grown weary and will not grow weary, because simply put, no foreheads bow here except to God Almighty.

Trump Has Not Learned the Lessons of the Great Depression — and May Be Rewriting It with His Own Hands

When Donald Trump announced during his election campaign his intention to “Make America Great Again,” it appeared that this slogan would translate—among other things—into a revival of economic policies from another era. Indeed, upon entering the White House in January 2025, he wasted little time in implementing what he had promised: imposing high tariffs on imported goods and launching what resembled an open trade war against traditional U.S. partners, from Canada and Mexico to China and the European Union.

Trump’s slogans were appealing: protecting jobs, reducing the trade deficit, and revitalizing industry. Yet economic reality is unforgiving of slogans. The protectionist plans quickly turned into reciprocal trade confrontations that unsettled markets, disrupted supply chains, and harmed American farmers and export-oriented industries more than they benefited them. It was as if we were witnessing an updated version of an old American experiment—one that had been tested before...and had failed.

My memory goes back to the 1930s, when Republican President Herbert Hoover signed the Smoot–Hawley Tariff Act in response to a severe economic crisis. At the time, more than a thousand economists warned of the law’s consequences, but it proceeded nonetheless. The result was disastrous: U.S. exports collapsed, countries retaliated with their own tariffs, and the Great Depression deepened instead of receding. Does this sound familiar?

What Trump has done, in essence, is nothing more than a repetition of the same pattern: building trade walls in a world that no longer recognizes borders, and betting on economic isolation at a time of globalization. True, the temporal and technological differences between 1930 and 2025 are vast, but the psychological and economic mechanisms that drive markets and

international actors have not changed much. If tariffs are raised, others will respond in kind; if doors are closed, American products will not wait long on store shelves.

The consequences were quick to appear. From China to Canada and the European Union, retaliatory measures followed. American farmers began losing their markets, factories suffered from rising raw material costs, and the message received by Washington's allies was unmistakable: America first—and the rest must fend for themselves.

History does not repeat itself exactly, but it often whispers the same lessons. Hoover's experience taught us that economic isolationism does not save nations from crises; it plunges them deeper into them. Trump's experience, in its modern form, offers further proof that today's world is far too interconnected to be managed through unilateral decisions.

Perhaps the time has come to rethink the structure of the global trading system and to distribute its gains more fairly. But the path to that goal does not run through tariff walls or trade wars; it runs through cooperation, dialogue, and mutual reform.

In a turbulent global moment, when it is easy to fall into the trap of populist policies, the importance of learning from history becomes ever more evident—not denying it. For those who fail to learn the lessons of the Great Depression may end up rewriting it... with their own hands.

Reclaiming Global Climate Leadership

The United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and its adoption of protectionist trade policies represent a profound challenge to the global fight against climate change. As one of the world's largest carbon emitters, the US has a critical role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Its retreat from international cooperation not only undermines the transformation of the global energy system but also threatens the rules-based international trade order that has long facilitated shared progress.

The consequences of America's withdrawal extend far beyond its borders. The "America First" agenda, characterized by tariffs and trade disruptions, has impeded the exchange of green technologies and renewable energy investments. Open trade systems are essential for lowering costs, transferring innovations, and building integrated solutions to combat climate change. Without these mechanisms, the path to achieving global emission targets becomes steeper and more uncertain.

Domestically, this retreat has left states, businesses, and communities grappling with the intensifying impacts of climate change. From devastating wildfires to catastrophic floods, the evidence of a warming planet is undeniable. Yet, the absence of US leadership has created a vacuum that other actors must now fill. This disjointed approach risks slowing the progress needed to safeguard future generations.

Despite these challenges, there are reasons for optimism. Both China and European nations have demonstrated that bold, collaborative action can yield significant reductions in carbon emissions while driving economic growth. Their investments in renewable energy technologies, such as solar and wind power, have dramatically lowered costs and accelerated the transition to a low-carbon future. These efforts serve as a model for other regions to follow.

In East Asia, the proposal for a green trade bloc under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) offers a promising pathway for advancing the climate agenda. By reducing the costs of sustainable goods and services and promoting technology transfer, such initiatives can catalyze

economic growth while addressing environmental challenges. Establishing common financial frameworks for green investment further emphasizes the importance of collaboration in achieving sustainable outcomes.

Here, I would like to call the world community to revisit the report, I led the production of, in 1999 under the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) in consultation with the United Nations and International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) called: “Accounting and Financial Reporting for Environmental Costs and Liabilities”. This framework enables businesses to transparently disclose their environmental impact, aligning their operations with the sustainability goals. Today, these principles are more relevant than ever. By embedding environmental costs into financial reporting, I believe we can drive better accountability and incentivize responsible practices across many industries.

The global community must now rewire the traditional international trade order to adapt to the new reality of diminished US participation. Like-minded nations must double down on multilateralism, leveraging existing frameworks to keep markets open for low-carbon goods and services. By revisiting the principles outlined in my 1999 report, we can develop robust systems to address the financial and ecological impacts of climate change.

While America’s retreat from international cooperation is undeniably disruptive, it also underscores the resilience of the global climate agenda. Through strengthened alliances, renewed frameworks, and a steadfast commitment to environmental accountability, we can navigate these new waters we find ourselves in where the global leader has chosen to chart its own course, leaving the rest of the world to shoulder the burden of collective climate action on its own.

Self-Sufficiency Guarantees Complete Sovereignty

The Chinese leader Mao Zedong considered self-sufficiency to be the foundation of nation's independence. He contended that a nation dependent on external sources for its food, medicine, and arms is vulnerable to domination, no matter how strongly it asserts its sovereignty. In his view, self-sufficiency was not merely an economic decision, but rather an essential aspect of full sovereignty.

With Donald Trump's return to the White House, the language of sanctions and economic boycotts has resurfaced as tools he has consistently employed as instruments of pressure. However, what some perceive as a challenge or a threat, I regard as a valuable opportunity and a precious gift for nations that have long relied on imports and external dependencies.

In a world beset by the turbulence of constant upheaval, economic sovereignty has ceased to be a mere luxury and has become an essential requirement. Boycotts reveal flaws and vulnerabilities, prompting a recurring question that arises with every crisis: Why do we depend on others for our food, medicine, and the education of our children?

It is true that boycott may initially be painful, it serves as a wake-up call to the complacent and negligent, motivating nations to cultivate what they consume and produce what they require. Food and medicine security are not merely items to be filed away; they represent the principal of defense against any external threat. In the example set by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), we find a noble model, as he stated: 'It is better for one of you to take his rope, go to the mountain, gather firewood, sell it, eat from it, and give charity, than to ask others, whether they give or withhold.' This is a profound prophetic invitation to labor

and self-reliance, even in its simplest form, for it carries a dignity far greater than that derived from seeking handouts.

Self-reliance is not an unattainable aspiration. We possess the land, the water, the intellect, and the willpower. What is required is a decision and determination. We must firmly believe that what we cultivate and produce, even if it comes at a higher cost, is ultimately more valuable because it upholds our dignity.

In the era of a returning Trump, where politics is driven by power and self-interest, we must take action. We must not passively await what is dictated to us; instead, we should take control of our own destiny with our own hands. A boycott is not a conclusion, but rather a new beginning for nations that have chosen to embrace freedom, no longer held hostage by the agendas of others.

Turning the USAID Crisis Into An Opportunity

The dismantling of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under Donald Trump's "America First" agenda has sparked intense debate. While USAID has undeniably played a vital role in providing foreign aid to many nations, its cessation may well be a blessing in disguise for countries that have long relied on this support. Necessity, as the saying goes, is the mother of invention, and this moment presents an opportunity for nations to confront their challenges head-on and chart a path toward self-sufficiency.

For decades, foreign aid has been a double-edged sword. On one hand, it has provided critical relief in times of crisis, funding health programs and infrastructure projects. On the other hand, aid often comes with strings attached and with terms and conditions that limit genuine progress and perpetuate dependency. As former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta aptly warned, foreign aid is not an acceptable basis for prosperity and freedom. It is time for nations to give it up and embrace self-reliance.

Trump's decision to cut USAID funding has disrupted the status quo, forcing countries to rethink their priorities. Dependency on aid has become deeply entrenched over the years, leading to a decline in trade and the atrophy of national ambitions to build industries and strengthen economies. Many aid-dependent nations have fallen into a vicious cycle, relying on external support while neglecting the development of their own fiscal capacity and accountability to their citizens. This reliance has weakened governance and fostered a "victim mentality" that stifles innovation and progress.

Now, with the aid severed, nations must refocus their efforts on achieving self-sufficiency. The immediate priorities should be ensuring food security, improving healthcare systems, and providing shelter for their populations. Countries must also support one another in this endeavor, building regional partnerships and fostering collaboration to compensate for the absence of a global aid leader.

Trade, not aid, is the key to sustainable development. Many aid-dependent nations have struggled to achieve economies of scale, resulting in low levels of trade and limited industrial growth. By investing in industries and infrastructure, countries can expand their aggregate output and increase trade, creating a foundation for long-term economic stability.

As I have often emphasized, crises are opportunities in disguise. The end of USAID is a wake-up call for nations to unleash the entrepreneurial spirit of their people and take control of their destinies. By pooling resources, developing productive infrastructure, and prioritizing self-reliance, countries can turn this challenge into a transformative moment for their societies.

The road ahead will not be easy, but the potential rewards are immense. Necessity is indeed the mother of invention, and I sincerely hope that this moment of disruption is the catalyst for a new era of progress and prosperity, as the nations of the world have much to offer and must forge ahead without American handouts.

The Suez Canal: The World's Artery and the Strategic Demands of the Future

Since its inauguration in 1869, the Suez Canal has remained a cornerstone of the global trade network, currently facilitating around 12% of international trade, according to data from the Suez Canal Authority. Beyond its strategic economic role, the Canal stands as a powerful emblem of national sovereignty, achieved with Egyptian will in 1956, when the late President Jamal Abdel Nasser declared its nationalization—an assertive act of independence that challenged three dominant colonial powers of the era. In doing so, Egypt asserted that: national interests are not subject to foreign control, but are upheld through sovereign determination.

In today's fast-paced and increasingly complex global landscape, the Suez Canal must adapt to the demands of a rapidly evolving era. This requires the integration of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things to enhance the monitoring of maritime traffic and mitigate the risk of incidents akin to the "Ever Given" blockage. Furthermore, the Canal is embracing green energy initiatives and intelligent expansion strategies to keep pace with the growing scale and capacity of modern vessels.

In my perspective, the desired vision should extend beyond the physical expansion of the navigational channel to encompass the development of a comprehensive economic corridor. This would include modern logistics zones, advanced maintenance centers, blockchain-based warehousing systems, and ultra-high-speed data networks connecting the Canal to both the African and Asian interiors, and reduce transit times by at least 15% while offering competitive logistical incentives to attract new and emerging shipping enterprises.

The Suez Canal stands as a civilizational project that serves the interests of all humanity, constituting a strategic cornerstone for the entire Arab world. It functions as a vital link between East and West, promoting economic integration and cooperation among nations. In this context, Egypt's central

role in enhancing and sustaining this critical passageway is of great importance—particularly under the leadership of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. His administration has elevated the development of the Canal to a national priority, embedding it within a broader strategic vision aimed at building a modern state with a proactive and influential presence on both regional and international levels.

Through the 2015 expansion project, coupled with ongoing initiatives to modernize infrastructure and enhance the Canal’s logistical capacities, Egypt has demonstrated a resolute commitment to transforming the Suez Canal from a mere maritime passage into a global center for trade and maritime services. These commendable efforts should not be regarded solely within the framework of economic development, but also as a definitive statement that Egypt is dedicating its resources to support the global trade system, with a focus on strengthening both regional and international integration through this crucial waterway.

The development of the Suez Canal is a responsibility that transcends geography and history. Today, it stands as a trust in our hands—one that compels us to think beyond traditional frameworks. Establishing an international investment fund dedicated to the Canal’s modernization may represent one of the boldest and most pragmatic options to ensure that this vital artery continues to sustain the lifeblood of the global economy and remains resilient in the face of rapid geopolitical change and growing competition.

A New Era of Global Economic Uncertainty

The recent Trump administration's action to uproot global trade by imposing huge tariffs on nations across the world has sent shockwave in global financial markets. It is clear that free trade and the era of global multilateralism that the US spearheaded since the Second World War is now effectively over, treating both friend and foe as equal trading partners in an attempt to put America First.

I personally believe that this is an ill-founded strategy, which will put the US economy in a highly problematic position as it finds nations less willing to do business with it, as trading blocs rethink their trading strategy, and as business with the largest economy of the world stops making business sense. By alienating the world, the current strategy may well backfire as the US finds itself a pariah state. While the US is undoubtedly an important player in world trade, so are the rest of world nations.

This news has not been received well as it plunges the world economy into uncertain waters, pummeling it again once more. Since the 2000's the global economy has undergone major strain, with the bursting of the dot-com bubble, the 2008 world financial crisis, the European sovereign debt crisis and the COVID pandemic and now this. The world economy took a battering during this period, and while it showed resilience, its hasn't properly recovered from the huge scars that the 2008 financial crisis left such as financial institutions closing, stock market plummeting and a global recession the likes of which have not been seen since the Great Depression of the 1930's.

The dramatic nature of Trump's actions show that he wants to fundamentally change the balance of the US dollar on the world stage. Being the preferred currency of the world, businesses and nations sell more to the US rather than buy from it to accrue valuable US dollars. By potentially crashing the dollar, Trump wants to reverse this so that US goods become cheaper to buy to increase revenue flowing into the country. This is what he thinks may happen, but the consequences of such a dramatic move may well damage the reputation of his party and the country for years to come.

The most recent news is that the US has put tariffs of 125% on Chinese imports, with the Chinese retaliating with tariffs of 125% on US goods. Such measures do little to heal international wounds that already run deep. This will hit the US consumers hard, as even if the U.S. somehow manufactures in the quantities that China does to meet domestic demand, it simply will not be able to match it on price. China has developed economies of scale and specialized expertise that has taken it the last fifty years to build, not to mention an incredible workforce which the US simply cannot replicate so quickly.

No one is exempt and we must buckle up in this region for tougher times ahead. For nations in the Middle East, these new measures present significant challenges but also opportunities to adapt and strengthen economic resilience. Having advised on the World Trade Organization's advisory council and being a staunch advocate for economic resilience, I urge Middle Eastern nations and businesses to adopt proactive strategies to mitigate these challenges.

Strategic responses for our nations include: Diversifying export markets to provide alternative avenues for growth Strengthening regional trade agreements Investigating alternate supply chains and promoting local manufacturing Increasing the quality of production to reduce dependency on imports Optimizing customs clearance procedures to ease trade and better leveraging free trade zones Easing visa restrictions to boost trade and promoting a better trade culture between nations.

These are some humble suggestions on my part that I believe will help to alleviate some of the pain this new status quo will bring. As this is a dynamically unfolding scenario, we must keep our finger on the global pulse and be flexible enough to react to a changing environment where it seems that anything is possible.

The tariffs introduced by the US have certainly ushered in an era of uncertainty. With every challenge comes an opportunity, and for the Middle East this is a chance to innovate, diversify, and strengthen both regional cooperation and global partnerships. By adopting strategic reforms and leveraging technological advancements, I believe that the region can not only withstand this storm, but emerge stronger in its aftermath.

“Manus”: Beijing Unveils Its New Technological Face

Amid the constant stream of daily headlines, the name Manus may go largely unnoticed. However, the recent revelation from a research institute affiliated with Tsinghua University in China represents far more than a scientific achievement—it marks a critical moment in history. This advancement holds the potential to fundamentally redefine the relationship between humanity and technology, positioning the world at the brink of an unprecedented equation: the human intellect confronting a digital entity capable of independent thought, decision-making, and execution—entirely without human oversight.

This is not a case of interactive programming typically labeled as “artificial intelligence,” designed to respond to user input. Rather, it involves an autonomous system capable of independent reasoning—analyzing problems, anticipating developments, and making decisions across a broad spectrum of fields, including cybersecurity, healthcare, and industry.

In this context, Beijing has not simply created a digital assistant; it has unveiled a system that may well constitute the first “technological agent” in modern history—one that appears to possess a form of digital will.

In reality, Western concern stems not from the technological breakthrough itself, but from the entity behind it. It is therefore unsurprising that Washington was swift to issue warnings. In a world where global powers are locked in a race for superiority in intelligence, speed, and control, the emergence of Manus as a potentially ungovernable force, with capabilities that include breaching secure systems, analyzing satellite imagery, and even identifying military targets, Manus transcends the boundaries of conventional algorithms—entering the domain of strategic military sphere.

However, the implications extend beyond matters of security. One must imagine an economy governed by an algorithm that outperforms even the

most capable executives in both decision-making precision and execution speed. Significantly, leading Chinese technology corporations have already begun incorporating Manus into their internal management systems—an initiative that holds the potential to dramatically alter the dynamics of the global marketplace.

History is shaped not only by discoveries, but by how we choose to use them. Manus, in truth, may become a tool for improving the world—or the beginning of a frightening chapter in which machines assert dominance over humanity. The challenge today lies not merely in intelligence, but in governance, ethics, and the ability to establish boundaries before they are unilaterally redefined.

In conclusion, the most pressing question may not be what Manus is capable of doing, but rather: are we prepared for what it might do?

Gaza Will Not Be Broken, and the Entity Is Cracking Under the Weight of Steadfastness

Gaza: A Narrative That Does Not Die, Even If the Storytellers Go Hungry

Six hundred days of continuous war, with no ceiling to its brutality and no limits to its criminality—yet the heroic people remain steadfast like solid rock, clinging to their rights despite wounds and devastation, defending their dignity with whatever remains of stone, spirit, and faith. Six hundred days were not enough to break their will; rather, they were enough to expose the Zionist narrative before the eyes of the world.

The myths of the “invincible army” have today become a subject of mockery and derision. The occupation machine that long boasted of its “intelligence superiority” and “military deterrence” has found itself helpless before a new reality: a people that resists, defeats the enemy, and redefines the balance of power in the region.

The occupation has failed to achieve any of its declared objectives. Militarily, it has been unable to eliminate the resistance, despite the scale of its crimes, repression, and destruction. Politically, it has failed to break Gaza’s steadfastness or impose its conditions. Morally, it has become incapable of justifying its crimes—even to its most loyal allies. Meanwhile, the steadfastness of our proud people has become an image sweeping global media, exposing the fragility of the Zionist project at its very core.

On the internal front of the entity, the picture is no less bleak. Political divisions, economic deterioration, evasion of military service, and mutual accusations of treason among criminal leaders all point to a deep structural crisis that is impossible to ignore. In contrast, inside our beloved Gaza Strip, despite hunger and siege, determination remains firm, popular cohesion endures, and the chant is one: “Resistance is honor, and victory is a right.”

The world no longer receives the entity’s statements as unquestionable truths. The images, videos, and reports emerging from Gaza leave no room for doubt. The crimes of the occupation are no longer hidden: social media

bears witness, international courts are moving, peoples are rising up, and the Western street is no longer silent—it now chants the name of Palestine from the heart of its universities and capitals.

Perhaps we are not yet facing a military victory, but we are undoubtedly witnessing a historic transformation. The era of absolute immunity for the entity has ended, and the era of complete Palestinian isolation is receding. What we are seeing is not a metaphorical victory, but a reality in the making.

The entire region stands at a crossroads, for Palestine is not fighting solely for its land, but for the preservation of the balance of justice in this world. It proves that the occupation's arsenal cannot kill the story, and that peoples who transcend hunger and fear cannot be defeated.

Victory, then, is the logical outcome of an unyielding will and of a people who write their own history, without delegation, demanding their full rights as they are—without compromise or cosmetic adjustments. Accordingly, Palestine endures, because it is the truth that does not die.

When Global Debt Surpasses the Limits of Reason

According to the most recent report published by the Institute of International Finance, global debt has surpassed \$324 trillion, amounting to more than three times the total annual gross domestic product of the world.

Such a great figure not only reflects the inability of governments to effectively manage their economies, but also reveals more profound structural imbalances in the economic and political relationships between nations.

The origins of the crisis can be traced back to the mortgage crisis—the financial crisis of 2008—when leading nations turned to extensive borrowing to stave off economic collapse. This was later compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, which normalized unchecked monetary expansion and the broadening of support programs in the absence of long-term strategies. The subsequent outbreak of war in Ukraine further intensified global economic pressures, driving governments to increase spending on defense and energy. Consequently, debt evolved from a short-term solution into a persistent and entrenched practice.

The issue lies not only in the magnitude of the debt, but more critically in the manner in which it is employed. When public funds are directed toward temporarily managing crises rather than investing in productive ventures, debt ceases to be a means of recovery and it becomes a mechanism for sustaining failure. Consequently, nations that lack robust production capabilities grow more reliant on global markets, less able to protect their sovereignty, and increasingly susceptible to external economic shocks.

Amid the global race toward increased indebtedness, the Arab world offers a striking panorama of disparity: on one side, nations such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have channeled their surpluses into building diversified and resilient economies; on the other, some countries remain trapped in cycles of borrowing, with funds directed toward everyday consumption rather than long-term development—yielding neither

sustainable growth nor food and social security. These are the nations that continue to meet their debt obligations, yet fall short of investing in the path toward economic independence.

However, the fundamental question remains unanswered in the region: What are we doing with this debt? Are we using it to build bridges to the future, or simply to address the immediate challenges of the present? Is debt serving as an economic catalyst, or has it become a burdensome weight dragging us downward? What is the true value of growth if it is neither inclusive, productive, nor sustainable? And what occurs when markets lose faith and begin to price in risk instead of hope?

The opportunity remains, but it will not last forever. Three decisive steps are necessary: first, creating an economy that generates its own revenue, rather than depending on Western bonds; second, forming regional partnerships that dispel the illusion of individual survival; and finally, establishing institutions that comprehend the significance of transparency and the importance of efficiency. Governance is not simply a technocratic catchphrase, but a safeguard for survival in an era that is unforgiving to those who fail to prioritize spending effectively.

Escaping this cycle demands clear vision and institutions that possess both competence and transparency. The future is not shaped by debt alone, but by true production. Debt is not an unavoidable burden; it becomes so when we overlook the fact that nations are built through production, not through inflated figures, and through determination, not through reliance on the empty promises of donor rhetoric.

A new Cold War Driven by Economy and Technology

The issue is no longer a commercial dispute or an economic competition between two major powers; it has become too evident to obscure or downplay. The rivalry between the United States and China has entered a new phase—one that increasingly resembles a strategic contest over the future leadership of the global order in the coming decades. Both parties are fully aware of their objectives and possess a clear understanding of one another. In Washington, no one believes that Beijing’s rapid ascent is either coincidental or a natural progression. Instead, it is perceived as a deliberate reenactment of an earlier American model—when Washington reorganized its domestic landscape, emerged to assert a global order aligned with its own interests. Today, the U.S. is actively working to interrupt this unfolding scenario before it reaches its full realization.

For many years, the United States pursued a policy of engagement, integrating China into the international system and granting it room to expand economically and diplomatically. At the same time, it maintained a strategic military presence in Asia as a safeguard against potential surprises. This approach began to shift with the ascension of Xi Jinping, whose leadership introduced a more assertive, clearly defined, and confrontational vision. In response, the contours of a new U.S. strategy emerged—defined through what came to be known as the “Asia Pivot,” a policy primarily designed to contain China through a network of concentrated regional alliances.

The arrival of Donald Trump, altered the rules of the game. He escalated the confrontation and transformed the conflict into one defined by numbers and tariffs, categorizing China as a direct economic adversary. His administration targeted major Chinese companies such as Huawei and began dismantling the technological networks that linked the two countries. For the first time, Washington officially declared that China was no longer a partner, but a strategic rival seeking to reshape the international order to its own advantage.

China, however, refrained from engaging in direct confrontation, opting instead for a calculated and strategic response. It began by restructuring its supply chains, increasing domestic and regional investment, imposed

targeted sanctions on American companies, and initiated concrete measures to reduce its reliance on the U.S. market. These actions indicate a deliberate posture of long-term preparedness, suggesting that Beijing is positioning itself for a sustained geopolitical contest rather than a temporary standoff.

The Indo-Pacific region remains the most volatile arena of international competition, serving as the focal point of strategic rivalry across the Indian and Pacific Oceans. In this context, the United States has reinforced its military presence and expanded the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), comprising Japan, India, and Australia, with the aim of counterbalancing China's expanding influence. In turn, Beijing has pursued security agreements with smaller, yet geopolitically significant, maritime nations. At the heart of this escalating tension lies Taiwan—the most critical and perilous flashpoint—where strategic red lines converge, rhetoric intensifies, and both sides regularly engage in provocative military maneuvers.

In South Asia, the geopolitical landscape has entered a more intricate phase. China is extending political and security backing to India's adversaries, while the United States is working to elevate New Delhi as a central strategic partner in its broader efforts to contain Beijing. Within this evolving context, the outlines of a new Cold War are beginning to take shape, characterized not by fixed ideological camps, but by shifting alliances, economic leverage, and technological rivalry.

Your Steadfastness is a Victory Our Respect for the People who Spread Hope and Know no Defeat

Almost two years ago of wanton destruction, merciless bloodshed, endless massacres, and the stench of rivers of blood and gunpowder. Twenty months of desperate attempts to enforce the illusion of dominance through brutal force, only for the scene to turn completely upside down. An occupation stuck deeper than ever before, and a world that sees, records, and judges.

Today, after all the hatred, killing, and starvation – all of you people of misery and barbarism stand exposed, naked before the world. Neither your propaganda nor your false statements can conceal a simple truth: killing and oppression have not, and will not, achieve victory over a resistant people. You have been exposed and everyone is witness to what you have always tried to conceal.

And despite all the fuss and propaganda, you failed to eliminate the resistance; instead, it has gained more acceptance and trust among its people. The so-called “security” you promised has never come; instead, the land has become more inflamed. You also failed to impose so-called “complete dominance”; instead, you discovered that your weapons are powerless before the will of a nation that refuses to relent.

Today, all the images of destruction, the shattered remnants of life, the bodies of martyrs, and the UN reports detailing war crimes, have shown the world that you are an entity guilty of the most dreadful oppression and most vile racial discrimination. Your propaganda and myths about being “The Only Democracy” have collapsed into a bad joke, exposed by camera lenses and testimonies of independent organizations.

You are now consumed with political disputes, locked in fierce internal conflict, with mutual accusations among your criminal leaders. Even your army and security establishment are no longer unified. Disputes dominate the landscape, and the false foundations of your illegitimate project are collapsing from within.

Haven't two years of blood and destruction been enough for you to realize that occupation is a losing venture? Haven't thousands of lives been lost enough for you to be convinced that military solutions using iron and fire lead to nothing but more anger and hatred? Isn't it time for you to realize that the solution only comes through recognizing the rights of the Palestinian people of self-determination, and their right to freedom, sovereignty and national independence?

You have to realize that the continuation of this madness will only isolate you further on the global stage. It will only increase your political and moral losses.

As for our heroic people, they have proven in every inch of their land that they are a people who cannot be defeated. A people who rise from the rubble, who plant seeds of hope amidst destruction, who build their freedom anew every day. The occupation once wagered on time, claiming that the old Palestinians will die and the young will forget, but time is no longer on your side. With every day that passes, your failure multiplies, and the truth becomes even clearer.

Digital Transformation in Jordan: A Strategic Choice and an Investment in the Future That Cannot Afford Hesitation

Technology is not an option; it is a decisive bet on the ability of states and societies to keep pace with a world that waits for no one. In an era of rapid transformations, it has become almost the sole bridge between a reality constrained by limited job opportunities and development challenges, and a future that places its hopes on youth as latent energy in need of activation and empowerment at the heart of the scene.

From this perspective, any national effort that invests in technology acquires exceptional value, as it seizes a historic moment that demands courageous decision-making in a time that shows no mercy to the hesitant. Such a decision is not merely a response to market needs; it is an expression of a firm belief that the future of nations is built through bold choices that elevate knowledge and open horizons for generations to come.

Among the notable initiatives in this context stands out the “Tawasul 2025” Forum, hosted by the King Hussein Business Park. The forum appeared as a mirror reflecting Jordan when it chooses to involve youth in decision-making and places technology as a beating heart of its development project, rather than an idea confined to drawers.

What distinguishes this forum is that it did not limit itself to discussing technology as an attractive headline. Instead, it presented it within the framework of confronting real challenges—from unemployment to improving services, and from reforming public administration to education. The forum seemed to declare that technology is no longer a complementary option, but a strategic necessity that defines the contours of the future and reshapes the relationship between the state and the citizen.

Most importantly, the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, the Crown Prince, added a political and moral dimension

to the forum. It reflected the leadership's commitment to supporting youth and involving them in serious discussions about Jordan's future, making their presence in national dialogue a daily practice rather than a mere ceremonial tradition.

The forum's features went far beyond those of a conventional event. It was, in essence, a national workshop that provoked thought and opened the door to genuine questions: How do we confront unemployment? How do we reconcile public administration with the people? How do we transform education into a driving force rather than a burden—capable of generating new opportunities that redraw people's relationship with their homeland?

Jordan's bet on technology is, at its core, a bet on youth and success—on their ability to overcome difficulties and on their determination to be true partners in shaping a bright future. From this standpoint, the "Tawasul 2025" Forum represents an important step toward building trust between the state and society, through an honest national dialogue that bridges ambition and reality, and connects technology with development.

It is a bet on the future, and a hope that tomorrow will be less harsh on young people who are waiting for doors to be opened before them, not closed in their faces. They do not have the luxury of waiting; rather, they carry within their hearts an unquenchable longing to make a difference.

China's Path Toward Self-Sufficiency in Artificial Intelligence

During a recent session of the Political Bureau, President Xi Jinping reaffirmed his commitment to a “self-reliance and self-enhancement” approach in the development of artificial intelligence (AI) in China. This strategy aims to overcome the challenges hindering the advancement of sophisticated software systems and high-tech semiconductors, which are pivotal components of modern AI technologies. These strategic directions emerge against the backdrop of China's ongoing trade war, which has reduced its access to essential components due to U.S. tariffs and export restrictions, necessitating an accelerated focus on domestic research and development.

China's updated strategy revolves around building a fully independent technological framework, ending its previous reliance on American technology. In this context, President Xi emphasized the need to intensify scientific research in the technological field and strengthen legal frameworks to protect advanced industries, particularly those involved in producing high-tech semiconductors. He also called for fundamental reforms in public policies, including the development of intellectual property laws, amendments to the tax system, and the restructuring of government procurement mechanisms, all aimed at addressing any gaps in the national AI ecosystem. Clearly, China aspires to lead the global AI revolution by achieving comprehensive technological self-sufficiency.

The United States has historically imposed technological restrictions on China under the pretext of protecting national security, as part of its ongoing effort to maintain a competitive edge. These restrictions have

served as a catalyst for Chinese innovators to develop creative solutions that overcome such obstacles—not by resorting to black-market access to U.S. technology, but through the development of proprietary software and hardware components in the field of AI. It is evident that Beijing is pursuing a strategic path that is setting the stage for a forthcoming shift in the balance of technological power in its favor.

This Chinese approach embodies a proactive and innovative trajectory, which goes beyond merely reacting to U.S. trade policies and reflects a long-term strategic vision. The global IT sector is likely to experience significant disruptions in light of Beijing's insistence on pursuing self-reliance—a policy that could mark the end of decades of American dominance as the world's defining technological power and standard-setter.

This policy represents a transformative strategic direction that is rapidly reshaping the global technological competition map. As the race for AI self-sufficiency intensifies, a new technological era is emerging, in which Chinese innovations compete with traditional digital models, and Chinese technology companies rise to global prominence alongside their American counterparts, who currently dominate the digital landscape.

Gaza is Facing Famine and Abandonment

The Western narrative on human rights collapses at the very first military checkpoint manned by the occupying forces in Gaza Strip. The lofty slogans and refined principles championed by Western capitals are brought to ruin when confronted with the stark reality of bloodshed, devastation, blockade, and the unabashed, disgraceful support for an entity that persists in its campaign of violence.

As major powers proclaim their commitment to dignity, justice, and the rule of law, they persist in supplying weapons—one shipment after another—to the occupying power, showing disregard for detailed field reports that document, with precision, the deaths of children and their suffocation beneath the rubble of homes targeted by aircraft deploying internationally banned weaponry.

Gaza, wounded and devastated, has been transformed to a ghost town where death has become a daily reality. Its infrastructure lies in ruins—hospitals are no longer operational, schools stand in rubble, water pipelines have burst, and electricity is no longer available. All of this takes place under the watchful gaze of the international community, which not only remains silent but actively offers political and financial support to the perpetrators, even going so far as to shamelessly question the roots of Palestinian outrage.

Washington has used its veto power multiple times to block resolutions that simply call for a ceasefire. Is this an act of self-defense, or a clear participation in the massacre? Is there anything in ethics or politics that justifies such blatant bias in favor of an occupying power that continues to wreak havoc under the guise of legitimacy.

On the other hand, civil society organizations are subjected to intense pressures from Western donors who demand that they remain silent about the occupying entity, and even condemn any resistance to the occupation. Those who fail to comply find their funding frozen and their operations at risk. While voices of solidarity from the West with Gaza are suppressed

under the pretext of anti-Semitism, expressing opposition has become a crime, and showing support for a humanitarian post can lead to dismissal or persecution.

Gaza is currently plunging into an unimaginable humanitarian crisis, with ninety percent of its population facing food insecurity. Hundreds of thousands are teetering on the edge of famine, children are dying in silence, water is contaminated, medicine is barred, crossings are closed, and aid is being exploited as an additional weapon to oppress and starve the people. In the meantime, international organizations confine themselves to routine condemnations, seemingly focused only on preserving a facade of detached neutrality.

What is taking place is not a temporary crisis, but a profound moral failure—a comprehensive indictment of international justice systems that have persistently fallen short in Palestine. It marks a collective unraveling of a global order that professes to defend human rights, yet permits the aggressor to act with unabated impunity.

Those who choose silence today in the face of Gaza's suffering will, in time, confront the mirror of truth, bearing the indelible mark of disgrace—for no political compromise can cleanse the blood, and no strategic interest can justify the scale of this devastation.

Liquidity Management: The Backbone of Global Institutions and a Guarantee for Continuity

I write to you from the perspective of long experience, one in which I have lived through ups and downs moment by moment. I have learned that stability does not come by chance, that the sky does not rain gold or silver, and that one must strive, take necessary measures, and trust in the Source of all causes.

Each time I witnessed an institution rise or fall, I realized that the matter is not only about an idea or passion, but about the backbone of any organization: financial security. Financial security is neither luxury nor indulgence; it is the tool that allows you to continue when circumstances suddenly change, and it preserves professional dignity in the face of crises.

For this reason, our decision at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG-Global) was never to leave liquidity to chance. We designed a clear philosophy based on proactive preparation rather than reactive responses. We did not wait for crises to teach us lessons; we learned from every experience and built a system that protects both the institution and its employees.

This philosophy did not emerge from nothing—it was forged through difficult crises: the Kuwaiti invasion of 1990, the financial collapse in Lebanon in 2019, and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Each time, we emerged stronger because liquidity was available—not just stored, but managed wisely and efficiently.

Because liquidity is not merely numbers on paper but the lifeblood of operations, we centralized our global financial operations in one main hub in Amman, under direct supervision and without any room for improvisation. More than one hundred offices worldwide manage their liquidity through this central point via the Central Bank of Jordan, ensuring oversight, speed, and precision.

Through this system, over \$100 million is injected annually into the Jordanian economy from the private sector—an ongoing, tangible support stemming from confidence in our institution and our great country. Behind this system lies daily management of cash flows exceeding \$500,000, monthly payrolls of over \$5 million for global offices, and more than one million Jordanian dinars for our employees in Jordan.

Despite the scale of work, we ensure that not a single day goes unproductive, as the cost of a non-productive day reaches \$160,000. The matter is not only financial but also principled: we do not allow any branch to fall behind or any employee to lack support, for every delay is a loss of trust before it is a loss of money.

Since we live in reality and acknowledge the fate of humans, another reason for maintaining liquidity is to prepare for the inevitable: in the event of my absence or passing, the institution must continue smoothly during the inheritance process, which might otherwise hinder administrative or financial decisions. Pre-managed liquidity ensures uninterrupted operations: no employee misses their salary, no branch falls behind its commitments, and the institution continues because it was designed to endure.

Our liquidity management model is neither luxury nor an exception—it is a necessity for any institution aspiring to be global. It reflects the Jordan we aspire to: a private sector that takes responsibility and contributes honorably to national progress.

Finally, I say: do not wait for a fall to learn; observe and learn from the resilience of others. Liquidity, if unmanaged, becomes a burden—but when managed wisely, it becomes a guarantee of continuity and a reason for making history.

As a token of gratitude, I have decided to give a symbolic gift to my sons and daughters in the institution—1,500 employees in total—of 100 Jordanian dinars each, in recognition of their loyalty, commitment, and determination to the collective success of the group.

When the Language of Logic Triumphs Over Red Lines of Doubt

At a time when Israeli aggression against Gaza is escalating, and the moral masks of humanity are being torn apart, parasitic rumors continue to spread across social media like wildfire. Unfortunately, as reality itself has become fragile, irresponsible dissemination finds free passage to unjustly position itself in the view of the recipient, tracking every passerby on the airwaves. Among these rumors, the latest falsely claims that the brotherly United Arab Emirates “funded” and continues to fund the occupying entity through direct financial support at the request of its persistent Defense Minister.

In a matter of this gravity, denial is not merely a formal procedure but a national and purely Arab moral imperative. This is why the UAE’s response, articulated by its Diplomatic Advisor Dr. Anwar Gargash, was clear, explicit, and unambiguous, leaving no room for interpretation. He summarized the statement succinctly and elegantly: “It did not happen, and it will not happen,” proving that brevity can indeed carry the clearest meaning.

As a Palestinian, closely observing every movement under our feet, I find that publicly and diplomatically declaring such denial is commendable. This is in stark contrast to those who remain silent, thereby expanding the circles of ambiguity and eroding trust among the peoples of the region, who have suffered for seven decades up to this day.

I also wish, as a Palestinian, to commend the UAE’s developmental role in Palestine, which spans many years. Its consistent positions speak for themselves: no funding for aggression, no deals made at the expense of Palestinian blood, regardless of the scope of other interests.

Therefore, what we most need today as Palestinians is not merely financial support for reconstruction and stability, nor vague, concealed, and twisted political backing, as often occurs behind international decision-making and the thresholds of biased conferences. What we need is decisive and unequivocal clarity—something that places every dot on its letter—as the UAE did through the statement of its advisor, Dr. Gargash. I can only salute the dignified language he employed in his concise, precise declaration, reflecting the lofty halls of decision-making of our brotherly UAE.

Global Expansion of Renewable Energy and Future Challenges

CUTS International, one of the leading think tanks supporting equitable economic policies, recently published an important study issued by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) addressing the rapid growth in global renewable energy production. Global renewable energy capacity reached 4,448 gigawatts in 2024, primarily driven by notable growth in solar and wind energy systems.

Despite this positive development in renewable energy, experts remain concerned about the inability to achieve global climate goals due to the slow pace of progress in this sector. To meet the targets, global renewable energy capacity must reach 11 terawatts by 2030. However, current growth rates indicate that only 10.4 terawatts will be achieved, resulting in a gap of 0.8 terawatts.

The level of success in implementing renewable energy solutions varies among countries. In 2024, Asia led the global expansion in renewable energy capacity, largely due to China's contribution, which added 373.6 gigawatts. In Europe, renewable energy capacity increased by 70.1 gigawatts, with Germany being one of the primary contributors. In North America, the United States spearheaded regional expansion, adding 45.9 gigawatts through the development of renewable energy infrastructure. South America also saw significant growth, adding 22.4 gigawatts to its renewable capacity.

Although these figures reflect positive trends, some regions remain lagging in the transition to renewable energy. In Africa and the Middle East, additions to renewable energy capacity did not exceed 7 gigawatts, compared to higher growth rates in other parts of the world. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) contributed only 0.7 gigawatts, due to investment challenges faced by these small economies in financing clean energy projects. The existing gap between developed and developing countries is one of the main obstacles to achieving balanced global progress in reducing carbon emissions.

Therefore, governments must provide sufficient financial support to accelerate the implementation of clean energy projects worldwide. Despite the continuous decline in the costs of renewable energy technologies, many developing countries face severe financial challenges that hinder their ability to adopt these technologies. From this perspective, strengthening international cooperation becomes crucial, whether through financing, technology transfer, or policy and regulatory development, ensuring equitable and comprehensive access to sustainable energy sources.

The main challenges are no longer limited to renewable energy production alone; they also include the reliability and efficiency of storage and distribution systems. This requires the development and adoption of advanced technologies, including modern battery systems, smart grids, and interconnected electricity networks, enabling countries to maximize the benefits of clean energy sources. Achieving this goal requires increasing financial and technical support for developing countries, enabling them to keep pace with progress in developed nations and ensuring inclusive and equitable access to clean energy worldwide.

As President of the Sustainable Urbanization Alliance, I emphasize the importance of expanding renewable energy production, while noting that achieving global climate goals will remain challenging unless countries accelerate their transition to clean energy sources. Strengthening international cooperation, developing efficient energy storage technologies, and adopting fair and comprehensive policies are essential to closing the current gap. Coordinated efforts among all countries are the path to ensuring a sustainable future based on clean energy and climate justice.

Washington, Beijing, and the Future of Technological Dominance

Today, we find ourselves witnessing a new chapter in the international struggle for dominance over the battle of microchips. Washington, long seated on the throne of technology, aware that silicon chips today are the nuclear weapons of tomorrow, has consecutively imposed restrictions on the export of advanced chips to China, targeting products from companies such as NVIDIA and AMD.

However, as history has taught us, a siege imposed on a living nation does not break it; rather, it drives it to multiply its strength. Beijing, having learned from the experiences of other nations, did not wait long under the banner of “Made in China 2025”, embarking on the creation of an independent industrial base supported by massive financial resources and minds no less ambitious than those that powered the first industrial revolution.

We have all recently witnessed how Huawei succeeded in producing 7-nanometer chips despite all restrictions—a practical testament that the Asian dragon has moved from reaction to initiative.

On the other hand, American companies are experiencing mounting losses, with billions evaporating from the budgets of NVIDIA and AMD. Asian markets, long the lifeblood of these companies’ growth, are increasingly gravitating toward Chinese products, which are not only cheaper alternatives but will soon become superior ones.

Thus, American policy finds itself facing a clear contradiction: in its attempt to undermine China, it has inadvertently accelerated China’s liberation from dependence and reshaped the global technology landscape. Meanwhile, the Old Continent—Europe—watches the scene with hesitation, oscillating between alignment with Washington and pragmatic partnerships with China, wary of ultimately finding itself excluded from a ruthless game.

The reality is that Washington is confronting a nation that does not merely compete in markets, but seeks to rewrite the rules of the game. China is investing not only in the present but also sowing the seeds of future technological superiority in areas such as quantum computing and biotechnology, driven by a political will capable of mobilizing the entire nation behind a clear national project.

As the saying goes, “Time alone will determine the outcome of this confrontation.” Yet it seems evident so far that American dominance over the chip market can no longer be taken for granted. We are witnessing a historic shift, potentially as transformative as the first and second industrial revolutions. The essential question remains: does America realize that the world has changed, or will it continue fighting old battles with rules now suited only for the history books?

Big Promises... Massive Tariffs... and a Contracting Economy

Trump has returned to the White House pledging to lower prices, create better job opportunities, and deliver an economic transformation that would usher in a new golden age for the United States. However, the economic performance report for the first quarter reveals a markedly different—and highly volatile—economic assessment. Recently released U.S. GDP data showed the first economic contraction in three years, raising serious doubts about the economic path pursued by Trump, amid trade disruptions and declining consumer spending.

Trump quickly distanced himself from these negative economic indicators, stating on his social media platform Truth Social that the unfavorable figures were the result of problems inherited from the Biden administration. At the same time, the White House continues to assert that the U.S. economy is on the road to recovery, urging citizens to remain patient. The contradictory messages emanating from the Trump administration—boasting about positive employment data on one hand while evading responsibility for economic slowdown on the other—have contributed to a growing sense of uncertainty and instability among economists and the business community.

The aggressive tariff policies adopted by President Trump are among the most prominent factors contributing to widespread economic disruption. The imposition of a 10% tariff on most imports from around the world, along with a 145% tariff on Chinese products, has significantly destabilized the business environment. These measures were intended to weaken China and establish more “fair” trade arrangements, yet their outcomes have been counterproductive. China has shown little sign of distress, continuing to maintain its position as one of the world’s most integrated economies, while demonstrating its capacity to adapt and maneuver with the confidence of a state fully aware of the scale of its economic influence.

As pressure mounts from U.S. companies and voters alike, Trump is now seeking to renegotiate with China, hoping it will alter its stance. Beijing, however, appears to be pursuing a long-term strategy—carefully weighing

its options and demonstrating its ability to withstand U.S. policies without disruption. The deeply interconnected nature of the global economy suggests that isolating China could instead lead to increasing American isolation. Rising costs, supply chain disruptions, and declining investor confidence pose real threats to U.S. economic growth. Should Trump persist in his miscalculations, the “golden age” he promised may conclude not with economic victory, but with a frustrating strategic retreat.

The U.S. administration maintains that its trade measures are designed to revive domestic industry, yet many analysts warn of the potential repercussions of these policies—particularly higher prices and growing instability in the business environment—which could leave lasting long-term effects. In this context, the term “strategic ambiguity” has emerged within the Trump Treasury Department, suggesting that unpredictability and surprise are considered part of a calculated negotiating approach rather than mere planning failures. Nevertheless, signs of concern are beginning to surface among Trump’s electoral base, especially rural voters and lower-income groups who played a decisive role in his recent election victory. A recent opinion poll revealed that nearly half of rural voters, and 57% of those earning less than \$50,000 annually, express dissatisfaction with his handling of economic affairs.

In an effort to mitigate the potential negative consequences, Trump recently suggested that Americans may need to reassess their expectations. Despite the initial setbacks, Trump remains committed to his vision of revitalizing the U.S. economy. However, the question remains whether the tariffs he imposed will genuinely contribute to economic prosperity or inadvertently push the economy toward recession. For now, businesses, consumers, and policymakers alike are confronting an economic environment clouded by uncertainty and ambiguity.

Sharing Bruce Stokes' Analysis of the Ongoing U.S.–China Relationship

Official statistics indicate that the Chinese economy continues to experience steady growth, although a number of experts believe that the pace of this growth is slower than what is reported by official sources. As debate persists over whether countries should reduce their trade ties, China remains heavily reliant on exports, while imports have declined in recent months.

China lags behind the United States and several other countries in the production of advanced semiconductors, yet it is making determined efforts to close this gap by significantly increasing its investments. In the automotive sector, Chinese companies are leading the global shift toward electric vehicles, reinforcing China's position in this rapidly expanding industry. China has also emerged as a leader in agricultural innovation, as reflected in the high number of environmentally friendly agricultural patents it registers each year.

China maintains a dominant position in the production of rare earth minerals, with output nearly six times that of the United States. Its manufacturing capacity is also nearly double that of the U.S. Despite this industrial strength, however, China experienced a decline in manufacturing employment even before the Trump administration imposed tariffs on imports.

Although President Trump has rolled back some tariffs, trade duties between the United States and China remain elevated compared to previous years. Notably, the large trade deficit between the two countries had already begun to narrow prior to the implementation of these tariffs. Before the ninety-day temporary freeze under Trump's tariff policy, U.S. imports from China were already trending downward.

One of the primary concerns surrounding Trump's tariffs is their impact on consumer goods. More than two-thirds of the laptops, smartphones, and computer monitors purchased by American consumers are imported from China, along with a wide range of commonly used pharmaceuticals.

In addition, U.S. companies that rely heavily on revenues from the Chinese market remain vulnerable should trade tensions escalate further. (Read the full article on the website.)

While the U.S. market continues to be critically important for Chinese exports, Beijing has begun turning toward Brazil to meet its agricultural import needs—a move that is contributing to a reshaping of global trade patterns.

American views of China have improved slightly, yet they remain largely negative overall, with a clear partisan divide. Republicans continue to be more than twice as likely as Democrats to view China as an adversary.

A majority of Republicans and one-third of Democrats believe that China is the primary beneficiary of bilateral trade agreements. At the same time, many Americans expect that the tariffs imposed by Trump will have negative consequences for the U.S. economy and for their personal financial situation. The agricultural sector remains among the most affected, as China purchases 50% of U.S. soybean exports and 31% of its corn exports. As a result, 56% of American farmers express concern that a trade war could negatively impact their income.

As tensions between the United States and China persist, the future of global trade and technological competition remains uncertain. While China continues to advance in key industries and the United States reassesses its economic strategies, the long-term consequences of these trade disputes will shape the next phase of geopolitical relations.

Bruce Stokes is the Executive Director of the Transatlantic Task Force and a Senior Fellow at the German Marshall Fund. He previously served as Director of Global Economic Attitudes at the Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C., was a former international economics columnist for National Journal, a Washington-based general political magazine, and is also a former Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Abu-Ghazaleh Shares Bruce Stokes' Analysis of President Trump's First 100 Days in Office

As demonstrated in the following article by Bruce Stokes, the first one hundred days of any U.S. presidency have traditionally been regarded as a critical period for consolidating public support and establishing confidence in a new administration. However, the administration of President Donald Trump appears to have failed to achieve this objective. Opinion polls conducted in the United States reveal that Trump recorded the lowest approval ratings of any U.S. president in modern history during this stage of his term.

Approval ratings indicate a significant decline across various demographic groups, alongside the emergence of a sharp partisan divide. White evangelical Christians constitute the most loyal support base for the president, while his performance to date has faced broad rejection from Democratic and independent voters. Although Trump has managed to gain some approval on issues such as immigration and crime, his foreign policy positions and economic agenda have failed to garner widespread acceptance among the majority of Americans.

The economic policies adopted by the Trump administration have been met with extensive criticism, particularly with regard to its emphasis on protectionist measures and the imposition of tariffs. Opinion polls show that most Americans express concern over the potential harm of these policies, believing they could damage the national economy and increase the burden on household living costs. This is compounded by the depreciation of the U.S. dollar against the euro since the start of Trump's presidency, along with negative reactions from the international financial community. Market indicators point to a climate of economic uncertainty, reflected in rising bond yields and tangible losses incurred by major technology companies. In this context, troubling signs are emerging of a slowdown in the U.S. economy, amid rising living costs, continued economic volatility, and growing fears that the United States may be heading toward a recession.

The tariff policies pursued by President Trump have led to a noticeable deterioration in diplomatic relations between the United States and its key European trading partners. This tension has negatively affected the U.S. tourism sector, as European perceptions of the United States have declined, damaging the reputation of leading American brands as they lose appeal among consumers.

Public opinion indicators reveal growing dissatisfaction with President Trump's priorities and his approach to governance, which is often described as erratic and lacking strategic clarity. Poll results also point to worsening public perceptions of his performance, particularly with regard to his management of international relations and economic challenges. Even media outlets supportive of Trump, such as Fox News, have reported a noticeable decline in approval for his policies, as criticism has expanded beyond his political opponents to encompass broad segments of voters across the United States.

The first one hundred days of President Trump's term expose deep divisions within American public opinion. His leadership has failed to earn the trust of citizens, who have expressed dissatisfaction over several core issues. Economic instability, deteriorating international relations, and a prevailing image of disorder in governance emerge as key challenges requiring fundamental corrective action, given their implications that extend beyond the domestic sphere to the international level.

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Washington, Beijing, and the Future of Technological Hegemony

Today, we find ourselves facing a new chapter in the international struggle over the semiconductor battle. Washington, which long sat atop the throne of technological dominance and recognizes that silicon chips are the nuclear weapon of tomorrow, has issued successive decisions imposing restrictions on the export of advanced semiconductors to China—most notably products from companies such as NVIDIA and AMD.

Yet, as history has repeatedly taught us, when a blockade is imposed on a vibrant nation, it does not break it so much as it compels it to multiply its strength. Beijing, having learned well from the experiences of other nations, did not wait long. Under the banner of “Made in China 2025,” it began building an independent industrial base, supported by vast financial resources and minds no less ambitious than those that powered the first Industrial Revolution.

We have all recently witnessed how Huawei succeeded in producing 7-nanometer chips despite all imposed restrictions—a practical testament that the Asian dragon has moved beyond the phase of reaction and entered the phase of initiative.

On the other side, losses are mounting for American companies, as billions evaporate from the budgets of NVIDIA and AMD. Asian markets, long considered the breathing lungs for the growth of these firms, are increasingly tilting toward the Chinese product—one that is not merely a cheaper alternative, but one that may soon become the superior choice.

Thus, U.S. policy finds itself facing a stark contradiction: in its attempt to weaken China, it has inadvertently accelerated Beijing’s liberation from dependency and contributed to the redrawing of the global technology map. Meanwhile, the old continent—Europe—watches this unfolding scene with

hesitation, at times leaning toward Washington and at other times toward pragmatic partnerships with China, fearful of ultimately finding itself outside a ruthless game that spares no one.

The reality is that Washington is now confronting a nation that does not merely seek to compete in markets, but aims to rewrite the rules of the game altogether. China is not investing only in the present; it is sowing the seeds of future superiority in fields such as quantum computing and biotechnology, driven by a political will capable of mobilizing an entire nation behind a clearly defined national project.

As the saying goes, “time alone will determine the outcome of this confrontation.” Yet it already seems evident that American dominance over the semiconductor market is no longer a given. We are witnessing a historic transformation that may rival, in its impact, the first and second Industrial Revolutions. The fundamental question that remains is whether the United States recognizes that the world has changed—or whether it will continue to fight old battles using rules fit only for history books.

The Chip Battle: The Future of American Industry at Stake

A fierce battle is unfolding in Washington between two conflicting visions for the future of American industry. One view holds that government spending is the only viable means of keeping pace with China and breaking Asia's dominance in the technology sector, while the other places its bet on tariffs rather than grants and tax incentives.

At the heart of this battle lies the perennial million-dollar question: Can the United States revive its semiconductor industry without direct government support? And are tariffs alone sufficient to bring factories and technical expertise back to American soil?

The questions are many, while the answers remain suspended amid the complexities of the global economy, the pull of domestic political divisions, and the challenges of international competition—caught between lofty ambitions and deep-seated concerns.

In August 2022, the administration of former President Joe Biden launched the CHIPS and Science Act, the largest industrial support program in U.S. history. Its objective was to revive the semiconductor industry and reduce dependence on Asia—particularly Taiwan—at a time of escalating tensions with China.

The law allocated \$52 billion in direct assistance to companies, in addition to \$24 billion in tax credits. Major corporations benefited from the program, spurring investments exceeding \$400 billion within the United States. Critics, led by Trump, question why the federal government should pour money into companies that already generate substantial profits.

With Donald Trump's return to the White House for a second term, the landscape shifted dramatically. In March 2025, Trump declared before Congress that the law was "terrible," vowing to halt it and redirect its remaining funds toward reducing the national debt and financing other priorities.

Trump argues that these companies do not need government support and that the primary beneficiaries have been large capital holders. Instead, he proposes imposing tariffs that would compel companies to produce domestically while generating revenue for the public treasury.

In April of this year, Trump announced the imposition of new tariffs affecting most countries worldwide, ranging between 10% and 49%, along with a 25% tariff on imported vehicles and auto parts. He described these measures as a “medicine” intended to cure the ailments of the American economy, declaring that he was unconcerned about the losses that wiped trillions of dollars off stock markets around the world.

These measures, however, triggered a wave of widespread criticism within global economic circles. Many leading experts viewed them as an indication of failed economic policymaking, warning of their potentially catastrophic repercussions on global growth—particularly in emerging and less developed economies.

The tariffs led to a broad decline in U.S. stock market indices, with Wall Street markets losing approximately \$66 trillion over the course of two days. Meanwhile, the world’s 500 wealthiest individuals lost \$208 billion in a single day as a result of these tariffs.

Major technology companies were especially affected. Apple alone lost more than \$300 billion in market capitalization, while shares of companies such as Amazon, Meta, and NVIDIA fell sharply. Global banks also suffered combined losses exceeding \$700 billion in market value within a single week, amid growing fears of a potential economic recession and a slowdown in investment activity.

In truth, the CHIPS Act represented an ambitious American attempt to secure the future of technology, but today it faces the guillotine of a new political agenda. Under Trump, priorities have become clear: cutting spending, reinforcing industrial sovereignty, and abolishing what he views as disguised waste. Yet these new protectionist policies have sparked fears of a global economic downturn and placed American consumers face-to-face with rising prices and declining purchasing power.

The Chip Battle: Between Two Conflicting Visions

The battle in Washington is intensifying between two conflicting visions for the future of American industry. One believes that government spending is the only way to keep pace with China and break Asia's dominance in the technology sector, while the other bets on tariffs rather than grants and tax exemptions.

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A New Era of U.S. Diplomacy Based on “Strongman” Politics

U.S. foreign policy has undergone a fundamental shift since President Trump assumed office. This transformation has been driven by Trump’s “America First” agenda, under which everything has become negotiable and much is now at stake. This marks a decisive departure from the U.S.-led multilateralism and the rules-based international order that characterized the post–World War II era. Instead, Trump’s policies now reflect a global vision in which power dynamics are defined by strongman politics and bilateral deals with individual countries—reshaping America’s relationships with both allies and adversaries alike, while dismantling the diplomatic norms that once guided its foreign policy.

The Trump administration claims that the United States has borne a disproportionate burden in maintaining global stability compared to its allies, who, in its view, have failed to contribute their fair share. These sentiments have fueled efforts to renegotiate long-standing alliances, particularly with Europe. European leaders, long accustomed to decades of U.S. leadership within NATO and other institutions, now find themselves dealing with a more transactional and confrontational partner.

The implications of this shift extend well beyond Europe. The Trump administration’s foreign policy increasingly relies on tactics reminiscent of imperial strategies, exerting pressure on allies, threatening economic sanctions, and disregarding established norms. Countries are now viewed as opportunities for leverage and deal-making, with the aim of extracting maximum advantage for the United States. This approach challenges the traditional notion of the West as a unified entity, undermining the cohesion that once defined transatlantic relations.

One of the most striking aspects of Trump's strategy is his attempt to reposition the United States on the global stage. Central to this effort is the attempt to redefine the relationship between the United States and Russia, with the goal of driving a wedge between Moscow and Beijing. In an unprecedented move, Trump publicly criticized President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office before a global audience. He also appeared to tilt toward Russia by voting in its favor at the United Nations against a resolution condemning Russian aggression against Ukraine. It is evident that Trump views Russia as a potentially useful strategic partner in curbing the perceived threat from China. However, I believe this effort is unlikely to succeed, given the depth of cooperation between Russia and China in countering Western influence in recent years and the close ties binding the two countries.

China's rise as a global superpower, along with its growing parity with the United States in economic, technological, and military domains, has added further complexity to this equation. For Trump, addressing what he perceives as an unfavorable global balance requires bold and controversial actions. His administration's willingness to bypass international norms highlights a broader rejection of international liberalism, which has long served as a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy.

As the world collectively confronts this new status quo, the long-term consequences of Trump's approach remain unclear. What is evident, however, is that the traditional pillars of U.S. foreign policy are being dismantled and replaced with a unilateral framework centered on power. Whether this will ultimately strengthen or weaken America's global standing remains uncertain, as the world watches anxiously to see what this administration's next move will be.

With Quality and Commitment, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global Maintains its Leading Accounting Position within the Forum of the Top Twenty Global Firms.

SHENYANG - Shenyang Normal University (SNU) recalls the memory of planting the ‘Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Tree’ on its campus in 2008; a symbolic gesture representing the deep-rooted strategic partnership between Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global Digital (TAG.GD) and the University. The Tree symbolizes an academic and cultural collaboration aimed at enhancing knowledge exchange between China and the Arab world. This partnership led to the establishment of Jordan’s first institute dedicated to teaching the Chinese language and promoting Chinese culture, which is the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh–Confucius Institute (TAG-Confucius).

The establishment of the TAG–Confucius Institute is considered one of the most notable achievements in this partnership. It serves as a cultural and linguistic bridge, enabling Arab and Chinese students alike to learn each other’s language and culture. Through its joint educational programs, the Institute promotes cultural dialogue between the two nations and has become a respected and prominent destination for those seeking to learn about Chinese culture and study the language of business, trade, and the future.

The planting of the Tree took place during an official visit that included the signing of a cooperation agreement between the two parties. This agreement laid the foundation for joint training and educational programs in digital knowledge, human resource development, and strengthening students’ skills in the domains of the knowledge economy and languages. Since then, the Tree has stood as a symbol of lasting friendship and a shared vision rooted in investing in people and education.

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, TAG.GD founder and chairman, is recognized as one of the most prominent Arab figures who has contributed to strengthening the Arab–Chinese relations through extensive initiatives in education, digital transformation, and innovation. He has significantly played a pivotal role in promoting mutual understanding by establishing joint centers and institutions, offering training programs for students and academic staff, not to mention, taking part in various Chinese forums dedicated to knowledge and economic development.

Within the context of China’s Belt and Road Initiative, which seeks to advance global development and international connectivity, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh has played an active role in fostering economic and knowledge cooperation between the Arab region and China. He has consistently emphasized the shared opportunities in technology, education, and entrepreneurship. Through its firms and offices across major Chinese cities, TAG.GD has effectively contributed to supporting the initiative’s goals by implementing projects that focus on building digital capacity, promoting innovation, and facilitating collaboration between Sino-Arab institutions.

Today, the ‘Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Tree’ at Shenyang Normal University is an immortal symbol of a partnership that continues to flourish, reflecting a shared vision aimed at building bridges of cooperation between Chinese and Arab cultures, and advancing toward a knowledge and sustainable development-based future.

China's Quantum Advantage

I recently wrote an article on the technologies to watch in 2025, among which was quantum computing. Quantum technology is one of the most advanced fields in today's digital era and is expected to become a key driver in determining future dominance. Many countries are racing to gain a first-mover advantage in order to secure a larger share of the market, while China is accelerating its efforts to emerge as a leading power in the development and application of this technology.

While traditional computers rely on "bits" to represent information in only two states (0 and 1), quantum computers use qubits, which can exist in more than one state at the same time due to the principles of quantum physics. This enables them to perform calculations at extraordinary speeds that current classical computers cannot achieve.

This dramatically increases the power of quantum computers, making it possible to break existing encryption technologies with relative ease and elevating their strategic importance for governments and intelligence agencies. When applied to communications, this technology enables quantum communication, which allows for the secure transmission of sensitive information—an essential capability for military and financial institutions.

Whoever succeeds in harnessing this technology most rapidly and integrating it into the mainstream will gain significant military and economic advantages. Quantum technology is one of the key factors that will shape the future of computing, and it is not an exaggeration to say that it will bring about a profound revolution across many future sciences and technologies, particularly artificial intelligence.

China has recognized the importance of this factor and has devoted substantial effort and investment to the field. It has increased its spending on science and industry, with a particular focus on quantum research. Since 2022, China has been producing more quantum-related research papers annually than any other country, including the United States.

China's approach is based on a state-directed model in which the government acts as an intermediary between public research institutions and state-owned purchasers.

China possesses the world's largest quantum communication network, spanning 12,000 kilometers and utilizing two quantum satellites. Chinese quantum researchers have succeeded in highlighting the strategic applications of their work, ensuring that it remains at the top of the government's priority agenda.

I commend Chinese President Xi Jinping for his forward-looking vision and his ability to implement such a comprehensive strategy that will bring substantial benefits to China. I am also proud of the close relationship between TAG.Global and China, and I continue to admire the rapid progress the country is making in technology across all fields. It is clear that China is striving to become the world's number one, and superiority in quantum computing may well be the decisive factor that tips the balance in its favor.

The Slowdown of the German Economy Due to the Escalating Trade Conflict with the United States

As of mid-2025, the German economy is experiencing a noticeable slowdown, largely due to the escalating trade conflict with the United States, accompanied by tariffs that have burdened German exports, which are the backbone of Europe's largest economy.

According to recent reports, the economy shrank by 0.3% in the second quarter of this year, a decline that surpassed expectations and highlighted the depth of the crisis affecting both industry and investment.

The tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump are expected to cost Germany up to €290 billion by 2028, according to estimates from the German Institute for Economic Research. These burdens are not only affecting large industrial companies but are also putting pressure on thousands of small and craft businesses, threatening broad sectors of the local economy.

Investor confidence fell in August, reflecting the level of concern within economic circles, especially after the failure of the trade agreement between Washington and the European Union to ease fears.

The automotive sector, the icon of the German economy, is also having a difficult year. Car manufacturers are facing a contraction in demand and a decrease in employment, with grim forecasts suggesting that the number of workers in the sector may decline by up to 186,000 jobs by 2035 compared to 2019.

The overall picture in the labor market is not much brighter, as a survey revealed that nearly a third of companies expect to cut jobs this year. Despite this bleak outlook, there are positive pockets offering some hope to the Germans. The solar energy sector started 2025 with strong growth, keeping Germany as the largest market in Europe and positioning itself to double its capacity in the coming years.

Furthermore, electric car sales saw a remarkable jump in July, increasing by 58% from the previous year, with one in five new licensed cars now running on electricity. This reflects structural shifts in the economy toward green technology.

Looking ahead to 2026, the outlook is more optimistic, with the Ifo Institute for Economic Research predicting a growth rate of 1.5% if trade tensions ease and protectionist policies, which hinder exports, subside.

The German government, for its part, has approved a budget for this year that includes record investments in infrastructure and climate, which could provide a foundation for future growth.

Ultimately, Germany's ability to overcome this challenging phase will depend on its resilience in adapting to a volatile global economic environment, as well as its ability to strengthen its position in innovation and green technology sectors, which could become the new growth engines for the German economy.

From Consumption to Innovation

When I follow the trajectory of advanced cities in countries that have adopted human development programs, contributed to fostering conscious youth, and embraced creative thinkers, opening wide doors for new innovators, without hesitation in implementing important projects, no matter how “simple” they may seem, I am completely confident that simple ideas have presented the greatest surprises that serve humanity. Unfortunately, humanity is divided into two teams: one team that thinks, tries, experiments, innovates, strives, and succeeds, and another that consumes and consumes, with no relation to any effort in learning, thinking, or striving.

I have always been in the habit of analyzing the available data in its finest details, noting the simplest observations which, when accumulated, led me to wonderful and pioneering conclusions, guiding me to new ideas that amazed me at first. Once I discuss these ideas with the team I carefully selected, our open discussions are based on respect first, trust second, and always on kindness, so that we can complete the proposed ideas by examining them from all angles. I accept all suggestions with open arms, love, and appreciation for any effort made by any member of the team with me, which was able to reach a global status not in a boastful or deceptive way, but in a documented, influential, and dedicated manner, recorded in global documentation lists and international honor registers. I am not here to talk about the Abu-Ghazaleh Group, but the context requires me to refer to a deep experience, witnessed by history, with a long track record across continents, and achievements resulting from faith and certainty in work, and dedication to the hope of a better tomorrow.

I say all of this, and it saddens me that the Levant land of energy, fertility, goodness, and beauty has been busy in “wasting” its energies rather than providing them for years. The energies here are not the gas embedded in the soil layers, nor the oil stored deep under the earth and water, nor the silicon, phosphate, and other raw materials that could power factories worldwide. Rather, I am talking about “youth energies.” Our countries are fertile, our women are pioneering and wonderful mothers, and our men are honorable and strong. They give birth to generation after

generation, presenting society with the best individuals, who still carry the values of goodness, human principles, the beliefs of the true religion and logic, and they hold on to ethics which is the most important. As the poet Ahmad Shawqi says: “Nations are nothing but their ethics; once their ethics are gone, they are gone.”

Our nation has not disappeared; rather, it evolves, renews itself with each generation, and ethics remain an essential element in protecting these societies. What is missing is simply a sense of revival, a sense of responsibility, the need for development, determination to advance, and the will to try. Who would believe that a small country like Singapore could become the city of the future by transforming itself from a consuming state into a smart state? It faced, alone, with its thinkers and officials, the limitation of space and scarcity of resources, with technological innovations that turned its waste into a source of energy, lighting up the entire city. Using hard plastic materials extracted from the same waste, it was able to pave the best roads in the world and build the strongest and best bridges, all thanks to the enhancement of intellectual energy, the investment in minds, and loyalty to the homeland.

This does not happen through thinking alone, but through wise planning and genuine intent to manage, which is possessed by the responsible individuals. The models we can talk about for development and modernization to approach the future, which in our countries is only seen in terms of consumption, require a rethinking of the abundant competencies in the country and the curricula that stifle most of the creative youth. Creativity is not limited to males; a woman like the Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid was able to conquer America, Europe, and even Japan, as they say, with her creative architectural ideas and shining fingerprints. These achievements will remain for generations to come, not only because she was so competent, but because the environments in which she worked were healthy, appreciative of potential, supportive, and created space for her creative spirit to flourish without hesitation or obstacles. This is exactly what we need in our countries.

The United Nations, Once Again

In mid-2025, I published my latest work “From the United Nations to the United Peoples”, a collection of nearly twenty articles, most of which focused on the urgent need to reform the organization known as the United Nations. This organization has strayed far from its founding principles established in 1945. Rather than upholding the rights of peoples, it has deviated to serve political interests, often favoring policies that infringe upon the rights of sovereign nations and independent states.

I do not intend here to rehash the main points emphasized in those articles, which were based on thorough research, verification, and well-documented facts and realities.

What prompted me to write again about the United Nations is, in fact, the United Nations itself. Just days ago, the organization released a special report marking its 80th anniversary. While I had previously pointed out the UN’s diminishing effectiveness in today’s biased international political environment, I still spared the organization some face. However, the shocking truth revealed in its own official reports—compiled by its own staff lays bare the deliberate marginalization of the organization’s role and relevance.

One particularly alarming figure: the UN publishes over 1,100 reports annually, yet its own administration admits that no one actually reads them. Furthermore, the UN organizes around 27,000 international meetings a year, attended by at least 240 active global entities, yet these costly gatherings produce no significant echo nor any meaningful impact on international decision-making. This self-confession stands as proof of the institutional deterioration I’ve long addressed in my previous articles and again in my latest publication “From the United Nations to the United Peoples”. While some have seen my writings as overly critical, or even unfair, today the UN itself echoes my views validating the accuracy of my vision, my intuition, and my in-depth perspectives rooted not in surface observations, but in deep analysis, accumulated experience, constant learning, and objective understanding based on solid, tangible frameworks and principles.

I had previously warned of the excessive bureaucracy entrenched within the UN system and repeatedly called for a comprehensive structural reform a liberation from internal crises, allowing the organization to fully focus on the global political challenges, both real and manufactured. This is one of the UN's core duties: to serve as an impartial mediator between conflicting states, becoming more dynamic and responsive to the intensifying challenges of our era.

The essence of my criticism, both in past and current writings, is not intended to undermine the organization. In fact, the UN itself is starting to acknowledge its own dysfunctions and its latest report is a clear testament to that. My goals, whether in previous or current writing, are clear, honest, and objective. I am merely calling for a redefinition of the UN's role, a reassessment of its tools and mechanisms so it does not become a faded, outdated global archive. What matters to me most is effective coordination between nations and peoples a coordination that truly reflects a shared global will to rehabilitate the shattered state of the world, which has been devastated by conflicting roles, divisive positions, wars, overreach, and reckless policies.

When I wrote "From the United Nations to the United Peoples", it was not an intellectual luxury, but a forward-looking and an in-depth analysis of the deeply concerning global conditions we now face.

I sincerely hope that the United Nations takes the urgency of institutional revival seriously, before today's paralysis evolves into a permanent and an irreversible dysfunction.

Two Powers, One Order - The Negotiated Future of Global Leadership

Every era of peace and stability has its architect who establishes its foundation. The Pax Romana existed because of Roman military power and their extensive network of roads. The Pax Britannica existed because of British control of steam power, steel production and their dominance of the seas. The Pax Americana emerged through the Marshall Plan, the Bretton Woods system and extensive alliances which stretched across multiple continents. Every Pax eventually reaches its end.

Political division, tariffs and strong arming nations is beginning to alienate the US from the rest of the world. The field is open for a new kind of Pax; one jointly built that blends digital strength, climate resilience, energy independence, defense security and cultural confidence into a global system the world depends on.

The goal for the new Pax will be to become indispensable to the world, functioning as the leader for nations seeking security, knowledge and solutions. A core here will be the establishment of enduring institutions that transcend political changes, creating a long-term foundation that grows stronger through time rather than following election cycles and populist narratives.

The first requirement for achieving this leadership involves taking the lead in food security, biosecurity and climate sustainability. Developing urban agriculture, drought resistant crops, diversified food supply chains and advanced irrigation is essential for a new global leader. This includes establishing sophisticated transport systems, seed banks, as well as early warning and monitoring systems for ongoing biological and ecological threats. Identifying climate risks is essential to building infrastructure that can withstand floods, heat, and storms.

The second is energy security which should support a combination of nuclear and renewable energy sources with ample storage facilities. Securing supplies of critical minerals and building domestic manufacturing

for batteries, turbines and reactors, as well as integrated hubs for heavy industry and shipping must be a priority.

The third is defense security. Maintaining a strong and modern defense force which can help stabilize worldwide security is essential. This requires funding advanced defense systems, cyber defense platforms, AI capabilities and forming alliances through mutual trust and shared security objectives that serve the nations of the world, not just a select few.

The fourth essential element focuses on digital sovereignty and cybersecurity protection. Modern society depends on technology as it supports all aspects of our contemporary way of life. A cyber defense network requires expert leadership and advanced technology to safeguard government systems and all technical infrastructures. This includes developing a highly literate cyber-literate workforce, while using AI and cloud technology to manage data as a vital strategic asset under national control, with robust standards in place regarding data protection.

The fifth priority focuses on knowledge development and innovation. The fast pace of technological progress requires quick conversion of patents into marketable products. This should support technology startups and teach STEM subjects and entrepreneurship to students at an early age, while making universities and research facilities drive national economic expansion.

The sixth priority focuses on financial management and governance systems. A sovereign transformation fund should be established to support long-term development initiatives while maintaining transparent governance through open data access and established standards and robust anti-corruption systems.

These serve as primary areas that the new world order must focus on.

Let me be clear. I foresee that this new world order will not be managed by one nation, but it will be negotiated between the US and China. This will be a shared Pax between two superpowers that will share the global leadership, as two equal partners.

History Does Not Spare Those Who Bet on Symbolism Without Action

Since the occupation first set foot on our land more than seven decades ago, the Palestinian cause has faced a systematic erasure—not only on the ground, but also in the language of politics, within official corridors, and in the memory of international institutions. Yet what we witnessed yesterday, with countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Portugal, and Australia officially recognizing the State of Palestine, signals a fracture in the long-standing narrative that has consistently presented the occupation as a fait accompli.

Some may argue that recognition, on its surface, appears to be merely a diplomatic gesture. But at its political and symbolic core, it is an act that rebalances the scales. When historically allied states declare, “We recognize Palestine as a state,” it constitutes an implicit statement that what is happening on the ground is not a balanced conflict but a blatant occupation long shielded by silence.

Let us be realistic: the number of countries recognizing Palestine has exceeded 147, approximately 78% of United Nations members. Yet this recognition has never been able to alter the realities on the ground. Why? Because the international community has never activated this recognition—never tied it to sanctions against the occupier, never criminalized it legally, never converted it into a binding political stance. Recognition, therefore, has often remained little more than ink on paper.

The context, however, changed after 7 October. Crimes are no longer veiled by bias, protestors fill the streets of Europe, Freedom Flotilla ships sail the seas, images of casualties are broadcast in real time, and the cries of children under rubble reach people’s phones before intelligence filters can intercept them.

The paradox, ladies and gentlemen, is that the countries that recently recognized Palestine did not do so out of pure ethical conviction, but because public opinion applied pressure and exposure became politically embarrassing. Yet applause alone is insufficient. The painful question remains: What comes next? Will these countries withdraw their investments from projects associated with the occupier who violates international law? Will they support investigations at the International Criminal Court against war criminals? Will they freeze trade or military agreements with a state practicing apartheid?

I assert that recognition must be the beginning of dismantling the occupation's system—not a new cover for it. A strategic opportunity exists here, but it is conditional upon Palestinian and Arab awareness that does not rest on celebration, but rather demands, organizes, and invests. The Palestinian Authority must seize this moment—not with ceremonial courtesies, but by activating legal pathways, expanding alliances, and redefining relationships with international institutions.

We are weary of empty promises of a “two-state solution,” uttered while new settlements are constructed daily. What Palestinians need is not pity, but justice; and what the world must prove is that the international system is not governed solely by balances of power, but by values that are presumed foundational: dignity, sovereignty, and the right to self-determination. This is a historic moment, yes—but history does not spare those who bet on symbolism without action.

Gustavo Petro... A Voice That Resonates with Dignity

In a time when cold voices abound and hesitant positions have become the prevailing norm, Gustavo Petro reminds us that there are always those who choose to stand on the side of justice, even if the cost is high. In a world where interests intertwine and voices overlap, sometimes a distinct voice emerges from a place seemingly distant from the center of events, yet carries a profoundly human resonance. This is the case with Petro, who ascended to Colombia's highest office from a background akin to legend, redefining the meaning of leadership and commitment to justice. He was not merely another politician on the global stage; he came from the Amazon, where stories are told of men and women who never surrender to challenges, and whose courage is measured by their resilience.

These deep roots in a culture of resistance and perseverance shaped his character and granted him a unique vision of the world—one that transcends narrow geographic and political boundaries. Colombia, like many Latin American countries, has long been a theater for complex political and social struggles. Yet Petro, through his pathbreaking rise that broke the dominance of the traditional right, effected a transformation few anticipated. This change was not merely a shift in power but a reflection of a people yearning for social justice and human dignity. He demonstrated that change is possible and that the united voice of the people can tip the balance.

What was particularly striking was his stance on a cause seemingly distant geographically, yet intimately connected to the human conscience: the Palestinian cause. At a time when the world was accustomed to muted condemnations, Petro spoke clearly about the necessity of concrete action. He did not stop at words but called for the creation of a global force to liberate Palestine, placing himself and his team at the forefront of this initiative.

He sees the Palestinian issue as a struggle for human dignity and the right of peoples to self-determination. Through his bold proposals on international platforms, Petro revived a golden era in the Arab collective memory—a time when Palestine was the central issue, around which hearts and efforts converged. He rekindled a dream nearly lost to oblivion: a dream of

liberation and restored dignity. His words are a sincere call to Arabs to move from rhetoric to action, to rethink the meaning of a dignified life.

Yet, the painful paradox is that this voice, coming from afar yet bearing our concerns, has not received sufficient resonance in our media or among our elites. While Petro raised the Palestinian flag on his social media and named a street after Palestine in the capital of his country, many Arab media outlets either ignored his initiatives or mentioned them in passing, as if they did not matter. Petro sees Palestine as a universal humanitarian cause, transcending geographic distance, while we, for whom it is closer than a vein, remain preoccupied with daily concerns, treating scarce light or water as the utmost ambition.

Petro did not confine himself to official speeches or diplomatic measures. He led a demonstration for Palestine in the streets of New York himself—a rare and unprecedented move for a head of state. He broke protocol and transcended conventions to affirm that the Palestinian cause is not merely a political dossier discussed in UN corridors, but a living issue that resonates in the hearts of the free everywhere. This exceptional stance, rarely dared by others, makes him a unique model in the world of politics, where interests often overshadow principles. Even when the United States revoked his visa, Petro responded with words reflecting the essence of his character. These words were not merely a reply to a political decision, but a declaration of an identity that transcends borders and upholds freedom and dignity as universal values that do not bow to pressure or compromise principles.

He is not merely a head of state; he is a symbol of resistance to humiliation, a voice that resonates with dignity, and a revival of faith that justice is possible and humanity can prevail. Let us remember this man with admiration, celebrate his positions, and draw inspiration from his courage. In his world, there is still space for heroes who dare to dream and fight to realize it.

Historically, Gustavo Petro is not alone in this domain. Modern history is full of global figures who raised their voices loudly for Palestine, transcending political interests and international pressures. We recall Nelson Mandela, the icon of the struggle against apartheid, who famously said, “We know very well that our freedom will be incomplete without the freedom of

the Palestinians.” His words reflected a profound understanding of the interconnection between struggles for liberation and justice worldwide. Mandela saw the Palestinian struggle as an extension of his own people’s struggle, a rejection of all forms of injustice and oppression. We also remember global artistic and literary voices, such as Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who wrote about Palestine with a bleeding heart, and British musician Roger Waters, who used his art and international platform to defend Palestinian rights, defying campaigns of vilification and pressure.

These and many others—thinkers, activists, and politicians—recognized that the Palestinian cause is a moral compass for the world, and that silence in the face of injustice constitutes complicity. They represent the living human conscience that refuses to see a people deprived of their land and fundamental rights, forced to live under occupation. These examples, from Petro to Mandela and beyond, confirm that the struggle for Palestine is not a regional or religious issue, but a global struggle for justice and human dignity.

It is a call to every free person in the world to stand for justice, break the barrier of silence, and remind us that hope does not die as long as there are those who dare to dream and fight to achieve it, no matter how formidable the challenges.

“The World After Gaza... Reform or Free Fall.. Gaza, and after it, everything changed

O Free World... While the criminals' fire rains down upon innocent people, leaving nothing in its path but ruin and reducing all it touches to ashes, the halls of the United Nations have chosen to remain silent.

The world has been counting the martyrs, the destroyed buildings, the targeting of life's very foundations, and the use of hunger and displacement as weapons of war, yet it has responded with empty statements, as reporting weather forecasts.

The brutal war waged by the occupying entity for the past 23 months has not only exposed the depth of hatred, cruelty, and crime, but has also laid bare the international order itself, which now appears to have lost its moral balance. Multilateralism is no longer just a troubled concept; it has become a burden, an empty slogan stripped of meaning in the face of the martyrs' blood.

I have repeatedly warned that the system established after World War II today seems to be unraveling, not because of an external enemy, but because it has abandoned its original purpose. The humanitarian tragedy in Gaza is not the result of institutional weakness, but rather of a complete moral collapse.

The picture is clear: massive destruction, entire neighborhoods leveled to the ground, infrastructure reduced to more than 45 million tons of rubble, and entire families and communities erased from the map. And yet, a permanent representative repeats the so called right of a state to “defend itself.” What deeper disgrace could that be?

It is true that multilateralism has been in crisis for decades, and that the shift from unipolarity to bipolar rivalry has paralyzed institutions. But paralysis is one thing while complicity through silence is another.

In this system, calculations of profit and loss prevail, and cooperation becomes a risk even when the goal is saving human lives. At the heart of this scene, the United Nations appears as a weary institution: its Security Council paralyzed by the veto, and its General Assembly stripped of effective tools.

Reform can no longer wait as it is an absolute necessity. Reforming the Security Council must be a priority: expanding its membership, and limiting the use of the veto, especially in humanitarian crises. The very least that can be done is to stop killing in the name of law.

Gaza was not merely a humanitarian tragedy; it was a moment of reckoning for the international order, exposing its impotence, hypocrisy, fear, and complicity.

O Free World, when life is exterminated before the cameras, neutrality is no longer a virtue it becomes a form of betrayal, paving the way for an international system collapsing under the rubble of devastated cities.

A Call for Greater US-India Dialogue

At the start of this year, Washington and New Delhi appeared ready to reach a landmark agreement. Both sides pledged to double bilateral trade from \$100 billion to \$500 billion by 2030, and identified 33 sectors for closer cooperation. Negotiators had nearly finalized a deal until a series of misunderstandings took place, leading the US to raise tariffs on Indian exports from 25% to a whopping 50%.

The impact is already clear as Indian companies now pay higher duties to sell in the US. American technology, defense and nuclear firms risk losing credibility in New Delhi. Without political space to compromise, negotiators seem to have reached a deadlock. India is now accelerating its outreach to other partners, including the EU, UK, and Canada, to reduce its reliance on the US market. Despite their rivalry, even China and India are signaling closer engagement to counterbalance US pressure.

Beyond the immediate fallout of tariffs and stalled negotiations, the US - India rift carries broader global consequences. It weakens the multilateral trading system by sidelining the WTO and replacing cooperative norms with transactional politics. This shift risks fragmenting global governance and undermining decades of progress in building shared rules for trade and diplomacy.

Critical supply chains are also at risk, with US firms that depend on Indian manufacturing now facing uncertainty. Plans for joint production and “friend-shoring” could stall, while trust in long-term cooperation erodes. Defense ties may hold for now, but future expansion is in doubt.

This rift arrives at a precarious moment for the Quad alliance. The US, India, Japan and Australia depend on economic confidence to sustain security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. A breakdown in trade relations weakens that foundation and risks splintering the global trading system.

Ultimately, this dispute is more than a bilateral disagreement. It is a test of whether global partnerships can withstand personal politics and whether strategic autonomy can coexist with economic interdependence.

My message to both leaders is not to let personal disagreements eclipse the shared interests of the two great democracies. It is only through renewed dialogue we can restore confidence, protect vital industries and strengthen the rules-based order that benefits billions around the world.

Space Race: When Competition between China and the US Becomes a Test of Global Leadership

In four years, millions across the globe will witness the historic moment when the first Chinese crew lands on the moon. While some may consider this scene simply as a replay of the old US-Soviet space race, the reality is that what is unfolding today is far more than a historical replay; it's a new chapter where technology intersects with politics, and dreams clash with fears of global domination.

The irony is that we approach this space race with a narrow, earthbound perspective, dealing with it as an extension of the rivalry between the two superpowers over resources and power, as if we are relocating our familiar conflicts to another world. However, the moon is far from being a neutral ground; it is a dark mirror that reflects our deepest fears and boundless aspirations.

As China is advancing with steady steps and a meticulously designed scheme, America struggles to revive the glory of its past. This, in itself, is not a traditional race. It marks a profound shift in the very concept of power; whoever controls the gateway to space will shape the future of the coming Century.

I believe that this competition, despite its risks, could be the final driver humanity needs to break free from the stagnation we are currently experiencing. Instead of fearing the potential of conflict between the superpowers, we should be inspired to fuel creativity. The real question is not who will arrive first, but what we will do once we all get there. Will we divide the moon into spheres of power, or will we step back and see the Earth as our one and only homeland?

As these preparations unfold around us, I wonder when the Arabs will have a presence in this equation; not driven by narrow nationalism, but from the perspective of a civilization that once pursued knowledge across the globe. I hope that someday we will see Arab missions contribute to the shaping of this future, not as competitors, but as partners in humanity's journey that transcends borders.

In the end, perhaps the most pressing question is: Can the coldness of space temper the heat of competition on Earth, or will it add more fuel to it? The answer lies in our hands. This may be our final opportunity to sit at the table of humanity before it becomes too late.

Jordan: An Education that Shapes the Future with a Digital and Humane Vision

I applaud all the efforts and congratulate my country, Jordan, on updated digital transformation strategy developed by the Ministry of Education which is a national and mature vision by the government. It honors me that Jordan has chosen to be proactive in building the future and not just a passive observer.

The government realizes that education is no longer a classroom, a book, or an exam, rather, it is a dynamic knowledge ecosystem driven by intellects, statistics and technology. This belief of the government affirms its commitment to achieve comprehensive transformation in the educational sector that aligns with global changes and lays the foundation for a future that ensures integration between knowledge and technical skills for students.

The strategy incorporates a sincere national spirit that stems from the vision of His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein in empowering Jordanian people and expanding their horizons in learning, work and innovation. This is in addition to promoting the culture of digital transformation as a means for development and not as a goal. Digital transformation in education is not just an administrative or technical upgrade, it is a declaration of a new era of national awareness, an era in which Jordan embraces the concept that the school is a way of life and that the student must be an active partner in shaping the future.

This is a forward-looking vision that places Jordan at the heart of global transformations, based on the belief that competition in material resources is no longer applicable, as competition now is in the ability to produce knowledge and to invest in human and technical intelligence at the same time.

This is indeed a very confident leap toward building a modern Jordanian schooling system that believes creativity is the new capital, and technology is a national necessity. The strategy does not only modernize tools, it reestablishes the definition of education itself.

To this end, the Ministry of Education is heading toward creating an integrated digital environment that incorporates developing digital infrastructure at schools and directorates. This includes providing smart educational and administrative services, enhancing communication and access to information for all segments of academic community, maintaining cybersecurity to protect and secure data and systems. It also involves leveraging educational information systems to support decision-making, developing a robust learning management ecosystem with electronic content, adopting initiatives and educational innovations, and conducting digital exams and assessments that align with international practices.

We thank God that thousands of schools today are connected with high-speed internet networks, and hundreds of classrooms have smart boards, and that Jordanian teachers have started training through advanced digital platforms that empower them with the necessary tools for this new age.

As a result, schools will evolve to become adaptable and aligned with modern trends where learning will be accessible by everyone, everywhere. What really distinguishes this strategy is the fact that it deals with digital transformation not only as a technical matter, but also as a human and ethical project in its essence; based on the values of justice, fairness, equal opportunities and transparency, and the ethical use of technology. Such values are important to instill in our students and raise them as leaders, not followers.

This strategy admirably positions the teacher and student at the core of the educational process, where technology is not a replacement to human, but a partner in creativity and development. The teacher will not be a conveyer or source of information, but rather a leader, a facilitator and an innovator. The student on the other hand will not just be a passive and rigid recipient of information, but an active researcher in building himself and society, becoming a partner in producing knowledge and not just a consumer.

This advanced vision reflects Jordan's deep belief that education is the gateway for renaissance and that building the human is the core of real development. What the Ministry of Education is implementing will make our nation a global leader, offering a national model for modern renewed education that believes the future begins with an idea from the classroom, to the student who learns to create and innovates to build his country with wisdom, awareness and competence.

Intellectual Property... An Investment in the Future of Our Nation

Within every Arab lies the seed of an idea capable of bringing about positive change. Yet, these ideas remain mere ink on paper if they are not protected and given voice and value. This is the essence of intellectual property: safeguarding our most precious asset—our creativity. In today's world, wealth is no longer measured solely by land or natural resources, but by the power of ideas we carry. The annual statistics released by the World Intellectual Property Organization are not just numbers—they are a testament to this profound transformation.

Ladies and gentlemen, in a single year, the world registers millions of patents, tens of millions of trademarks, and hundreds of thousands of industrial designs. These figures form a new language, indicating that the engine of the global economy has changed. It is now powered by human imagination, and its law is the protection of this imagination.

We are in a new world where empires are built on innovation, and strength is forged from flashes of inspiration. At the heart of this changing world, our Arab region stands at a crossroads. We possess the real wealth: talented youth, bright minds illuminating our universities and creative communities. As Chairman of the world's largest intellectual property company, I can say that in every Arab city, there is an engineer dreaming of developing an app to make life easier, an artist seeking to protect their work, and a designer striving to see their product compete globally. Yet we face a major challenge: much of this creative energy lacks the nurturing environment needed to transform ideas into valuable assets.

Intellectual property protection is not a branch; it is a foundation that bridges dreams to tangible reality. When an inventor receives a patent, it is the key to transforming an idea into a factory that produces, a program that serves, and exports that strengthen our economy. When a company registers its trademark, it builds identity and trust, enabling access to global markets.

Copyrights are likewise a lifeline, nourishing our culture and ensuring that creators receive a dignified income, empowering them to continue enriching our lives with art and literature.

I always say that building a knowledge-based future requires a shared vision and a clear action plan: making the protection of ideas a priority, simplifying procedures for young creators, and providing them with legal support. Our universities should act as knowledge factories, transforming research into patents and forging real partnerships with the private sector—not just transferring information. Our financial institutions must also rethink intellectual property as credible collateral capable of attracting investment and financing innovation.

Behind this global picture, there are those translating these concepts into practical steps that integrate into a knowledge economy. Here, I cannot help but express my admiration for Qatar's serious efforts to cultivate an environment of innovation and attract quality investment. I followed, earlier last month (September), the international conference hosted in Doha on the role of alternative dispute resolution, intellectual property protection, and innovation in promoting foreign direct investment for sustainable development. This was a clear message: investing in knowledge and innovation is no longer an optional complement, but a strategic necessity for countries seeking to build a diverse, sustainable economy.

Holding this conference in Doha is not merely a diplomatic event; it is a practical implementation of Qatar's vision to build a competitive knowledge economy that enhances its position as an attractive investment hub. It reflects the belief that protecting intellectual property rights and developing creative capabilities are not mere slogans, but real tools for shaping the future. When a country like Qatar adopts this approach, it is not just building its own future—it is presenting an inspiring model for the entire region. Cooperation among Arab states in this field is not only an option but a strategic necessity, enabling us to compete globally. By investing

in advanced databases, training specialized judges, and establishing fast-track courts for intellectual property disputes, we build the trust that both investors and creators need.

Inspiring examples are already emerging in our Arab capitals, where startups have successfully protected their ideas and launched onto the global stage. These successes are not merely individual stories; they are proof that the path is possible when there is will and belief. It is a call to all of us—governments, institutions, and individuals—to build together the infrastructure of the future economy: an economy in which ideas are our most valuable assets, and protecting them is our greatest investment.

Ladies and gentlemen, intellectual property is not secondary—it is an economic infrastructure as vital as roads, ports, and energy. Those who invest in protecting their ideas today are building the future of jobs, exports, and solutions to problems facing humanity as a whole. Are we up to this challenge? Will we write a new chapter in our region’s story, entitled: “Made in the Arab World... with Pride and Innovation”?

A Reading into the Interactive Programming Economy

We are witnessing a profound transformation in the structure of the global economy, where interactive programming, Artificial Intelligence (AI), has emerged as the primary driver of growth across both production and service sectors. From industrial companies to banks and biotechnology firms, the adoption of intelligent algorithms for decision-making, market analysis, and product innovation is accelerating at an unprecedented pace.

What is happening is not only a technological upgrade; it is the emergence of a new economy where efficiency is defined by the ability to harness and leverage data. Interactive programming is capable of generating trillions of dollars to be added to into the global economy over the next decade.

In reality, this flow in productivity represents a historic opportunity to boost growth rates and expand high-skill labor markets. Yet, behind this promising outlook lies significant challenges. While interactive programming generates new value, it simultaneously threatens to rewrite the rules that have governed markets for decades. The risks extend beyond the displacement of traditional labor to what can be described as an emerging imbalance of returns.

By this, I mean that large corporations, which control vast data reserves and platform infrastructure, owns the lion's share of the benefits, while smaller enterprises and developing countries are marginalized in this revolution. This concentration of wealth and knowledge may reproduce a new global gap, one that is determined not by natural resources, as in the past, but by computational power and programming expertise.

Furthermore, in the absence of clear regulatory frameworks, markets become vulnerable to sharp swings between excessive enthusiasm and sudden downturn. Interactive programming is not just a technological revolution; it represents a structural transformation of the global economy. If governments and institutions fail to implement proactive policies that balance innovation with sustainability, the resulting growth could turn into risks that threaten market stability itself. While interactive programming promises of a new era of prosperity, it also obliges policymakers to learn how to control speed before it controls them.

International Justice Exposes the Face of Genocide in Gaza and Unmasks the Occupation

There is no ambiguity in the matter: the decision of the International Court of Justice delivered a slap to the face of the Zionist entity, which has historically built its narratives on lies and covered its crimes under the banners of security and self-defense.

The ICJ stated what many tried to evade: the occupation that deprives civilians in Gaza of water, food, and medicine is committing cold-blooded acts of genocide. The ethical question is now stark: how can the world remain silent as a people are starved, while the occupier laments its own “right to exist”?

Justice alone does not save lives unless it is followed by the will to act. Arabs and the free world must understand that starving the Palestinians is not a war on Gaza—it is a war on the very idea of humanity.

Gaza has never merely been a battlefield; it is a test of global humanity. More than two million people live in complete darkness, under siege, bombardment, and deprivation. Every aspect of life is targeted: the body, memory, bread, water, and medicine. Yet, the brutal occupier spins a web of lies about UNRWA, the last UN institution trying to save the remnants of life, as if feeding the hungry and treating the wounded is a greater threat than weapons.

The ICJ ruling thoroughly refuted these falsehoods. When the world’s highest judicial authority demands that the occupier allow the bare minimum for survival, it is not asking for mercy; it is pointing to the violation of the most basic principles of humanitarian law. A “state” that requires a court order to prevent the killing of civilians by starvation can only be described for what it truly is: a colonial, racist entity that believes only in force and destruction.

The international community now faces a moment of truth: either it enforces the court's ruling and ensures the immediate delivery of aid to Gaza without the occupier's consent, or it becomes complicit in the crime through its silence. In such a case, any talk of human values and rights loses all meaning, while the children of Gaza search for water among the rubble.

Despite all this, the Palestinian people remain upright in the heart of hunger and darkness. They bake hope over a faint fire, plant trees, and teach their children the first letters of words like homeland, freedom, and resistance to occupation. This resilience is a lesson to the entire world in dignity.

The court has spoken, but real action must begin now. Justice alone does not save lives unless it is coupled with will, and Arabs and the free world must understand that starving Palestinians is not a war on Gaza—it is a war on the very concept of humanity. Gaza, as always, reminds us that those who hold the right cannot be defeated, no matter how long the occupier's night lasts.

Gaza Workers Will Rebuild What the Zionist Occupation Has Demolished With their Own Hands

Each time the Zionist occupation presumes it has destroyed the Palestinian people, they rise once again from the ruins and ashes, and soar like a phoenix. Gaza, exhausted by siege and devastated by the aggression of the occupier, continues to endure by the determination and perseverance of Gaza sons and daughters, as is the case for all Palestinians.

Despite all the immense pain, bloodshed, and suffering, the Palestinians carry in their hearts and minds the power to resist, to endure, and never to yield. The Gazan is the worker, the doctor, the engineer, the scholar; rebuilds with his own hands what the military machinery of the occupation has destroyed, and rebuilds hope in a land where every attempt has been made to uproot.

The Palestinian expects nothing from the world, as he has learned that self-reliance is the true path to liberation. From Gaza, where homes are rebuilt from rubble when cement is banned, to Ramallah and Al Khaleel, where generations of doctors, engineers, and researchers are nurtured, the essence of dignity is manifested: the dignity that can neither be bought nor sold.

Time and again, the people of Gaza have proven that reconstruction requires no guardianship, no foreign labor, and no supervisors; they only need hands that know and cherish the value of the land, and minds and hearts that believe building is an act of resistance.

Meanwhile, the occupation continues its familiar patterns of deceit and evasion: promises proclaimed by day and broken by night, diplomatic smiles concealing unrelenting greed and ambition.

The Zionist entity, having consistently failed to honor agreements it has drafted and signed, continues to prove to the world that it is founded on deception rather than trust, and that it responds only to the language of

power when confronted with a will as steadfast as that of the Palestinian people. Yet what the occupier fails to understand is that demolishing homes never extinguishes determination, nor can breaking stones erase the national memory.

To the world, I say this: Despite the harshest siege, the Palestinian people continue to see a glimmer of hope for tomorrow. They believe that homeland is built by hard work and is safeguarded by sacrifices, and those nations rebuilt by 'free' hands are far more powerful than countries founded with cement purchased with 'conditional funds'.

Gaza will rise again, through the determination of its workers, engineers, and doctors, driven by the will of its people. Palestine will continue to stand as a living example that dignity is never bestowed, only claimed, and that those who strongly believe in their homeland can never be defeated, no matter how long the wars lasts or how much rubble piles up.

Recent Developments in the UN

UN calendar this summer was notably busier as the Gaza war and its catastrophic humanitarian fallout kept the UN deeply engaged, while crises in South Sudan, Myanmar and Ukraine demanded sustained attention and resources. Millions of refugees returning from Iran and Pakistan to Afghanistan added further urgency to relief and protection work.

On 24 June 2025, the General Assembly Working Group on Security Council reform completed its fourth and final meeting for the year where the two co-chairs from Kuwait and Albania circulated a fourteen-page revised informal paper. The document maps the positions of different groups of member states and outlines areas of partial agreement and continuing disagreement on expansion of the Council, a more balanced regional representation, working methods, the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly, and the contentious issue of veto power. The paper records some progress on the size of a new council and on stronger representation for Africa and for small island developing states. However, member states remain far apart on core issues such as which countries should gain permanent seats and how veto power should be adjusted.

In July 2025, the Secretary General published a new report on United Nations reform as part of the UN80 initiative launched earlier this year to strengthen how the Organization works. The initiative seeks to make the UN more aligned, efficient and results-oriented, by reviewing how mandates are created, delivered and reviewed. The report asks member states to simplify mandates and to adopt clearer standards and models that help turn political decisions into concrete outcomes. The overall aim is to reduce duplication, speed up delivery and make better use of limited resources across the UN system.

The report highlights a striking problem, with roughly 40,000 mandates across the UN system and many of these difficult to implement because of complex procedures' overlaps and a persistent gap between ambition and available resources. Since 2020, the length of resolutions from the General Assembly, the Security Council and ECOSOC has increased substantially which the report links to reduced clarity and weaker chances of effective

delivery. To address this, the report recommends shorter, clearer and more focused mandates, and the development of templates and standards to guide member states and UN officials in drafting operationally meaningful mandates.

On 19 August 2025, the world observed World Humanitarian Day, with the Secretary General reminding everyone that humanitarian workers are the lifeline for over 300 million people caught in conflicts or disasters. He warned that funding for relief is shrinking at the same time that attacks on aid workers are rising, urging action to honor those who have fallen. Last year alone, hundreds of aid workers and UNRWA staff were killed across conflicts from Gaza to Sudan and beyond. The Secretary General framed attacks on aid workers as attacks on humanity and called for concrete measures to protect them and to restore predictable funding for life saving assistance.

The World Food Programme has issued an urgent warning that starvation in Gaza is at its highest level since the war began in October 2023. Health authorities in Gaza report growing numbers of deaths from hunger and malnutrition among children and women, with humanitarian agencies declaring famine like conditions in parts of the territory. The scale of civilian suffering and the collapse of basic services have placed urgent pressure on the UN system and on member states to enable safe and reliable delivery of food medicine and clean water.

Member states now face the twin challenge of meeting urgent lifesaving needs now and of reforming systems, so that the UN remains globally relevant to deliver results more fairly and more reliably in the years ahead.

A Global Mandate for Justice in Palestine

South Africa and Malaysia have spoken in clear terms at the UN and they delivered a message that cannot be ignored. The time for silence has passed and the time for action is now upon us.

South Africa's voice was firm and unapologetic. As a close friend of the Palestinian people, with their Ambassador to Jordan a personal friend, it condemned the ongoing killings in Gaza calling them genocide without any hesitation. South Africa accused the Zionist occupier of acting without accountability and violating international law, describing the attack on Qatar as a breach of sovereignty and a threat to global peace. These are not isolated incidents. They are part of a systemic pattern that undermines the principles of the United Nations Charter and the rules that protect civilians globally.

The motion by the occupier to apply its sovereignty over the West Bank and the Jordan Valley signals a clear intention to annex the occupied territory. This combined with statements from the occupiers' leadership rejecting the possibility of a Palestinian state, has buried the two-state solution. It defies international law and the rulings of the International Court of Justice and it denies the Palestinian peoples' right to self-determination.

Malaysia echoed this call. It praised the efforts of Saudi Arabia and France and supported the New York Declaration, making it clear that Palestinian statehood is a right and not a gift. Any solution must not be shaped by narrow security concerns and must reflect the will of the Palestinian people, respecting their rights under international law.

Malaysia demanded concrete action calling for the withdrawal of occupying forces from occupied territory, urging the recognition of Palestine's sovereignty and support for its development. It emphasized the role of UNRWA and the need for justice, including reparations for the victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

This is a global test of our commitment to peace, law and human dignity that must be followed by real progress. People are dying constantly at the hands of the aggressor who must be stopped at all costs. The world must demand change and the illegal occupation must end.

At Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global, we believe that peace is built on justice. We call on all nations to uphold their legal obligations and stand for what is right. The credibility of international law depends on it, as does global security.

Washington and Beijing, on the Brink of Endless Conflict

The trade war between the United States and China has never been a dispute over tariffs or trade imbalances only, rather it has always reflected a deeper conflict over who owns the keys to the future.

After a short-lived truce, mistaken by some as the beginning of a reconciliation, economic conflict has once again resurfaced, carrying serious political and strategic messages no less dangerous than the sounds of cannons.

Following the current escalation between the two superpowers, it became clear that the issue is no longer limited to export statistics or growth rates; it has transformed into a symbolic confrontation between two models; Washington sees Beijing as a rival which conspires to reshaping the map of global influence, while Beijing perceives Washington's policies as a barrier that restrains its ambitions in dominating the spheres of technology and international trade.

Naturally, each side interprets the world through its own perspective. Consequently, the economic discourse has become a new battleground for dominance, and negotiation tables have turned into arenas of rivalry, intensified by a persistent lack of trust. Every move one side takes is seen by the other as a potential trap, and every cooperative initiative is met with skepticism.

It is well known that the US worries about China's advance as an uncontrollable giant, while China interprets Washington's rhetoric as a continuous effort to maintain a declining Western supremacy. Meanwhile, the rest of the world bears the consequences, as market volatility knows no borders, and supply chains unravel like a spider's web caught in a storm.

On the other hand, the developing nations find themselves trapped between the hammer of the yuan and the anvil of the dollar, searching for an impossible balance in a world torn apart by the ambitions and interests of the superpowers.

In conclusion, the renewed escalation of the trade war serves as a warning that we may be on the brink of a long-term conflict, one that is disguised as an economic dispute although driven by political interests. When great powers deal with each other through tariffs and sanctions, they are ultimately negotiating over the shape of the next World Order. Unless Washington and Beijing recognize that competition without mutual understanding leads to nothing but losses for all, the future may see not only a trade war, but also a war over global stability.

Open Technology and Smart Policies: The Path Toward Productive and Innovative Societies

Technology is more than just the tools or the applications we use on a daily basis; it plays a central role in driving economic growth and transforming societies, including the way they engage with knowledge. However, access to the benefits of this technological revolution is uneven, as it largely depends on the policies that countries implement and that can promote scientific research, education, and open trade, or adopting protectionist measures that restrict opportunities and suppress creativity and innovation.

Modern world history is full of lessons. Countries that have invested in education and scientific research, and connected these efforts to open markets for trade and technology, have successfully turned their ideas into products and services that boost economy and develop society.

From Japan to South Korea, and from Europe to the United States, it is clear that openness to knowledge and international markets has never been a luxury, but an essential foundation for long-term and sustainable growth. Conversely, protectionist policies, despite their appeal for safeguarding domestic industries or controlling competition, often weaken innovation, limit the flow of knowledge and expertise, and create a closed environment where societies remain consumers of technology rather than creators and producers.

It is well-known that the future favors those who actively invest in it today with awareness and freedom, rather than those who passively watch from the sidelines. In the Arab region we stand at a crossroad: we can either close ourselves behind artificial boundaries or embrace knowledge and global markets with open arms and minds, giving our next generations the opportunity to be part of the global digital revolution.

Investing in scientific research and education is a strategic necessity. Studies have shown that countries that adopt innovative educational policies and dedicate resources to scientific inquiry are better equipped to adopt, absorb and advance technology in ways that serve its societies and economies alike.

Equally important is trade openness, which allows the flow of ideas, skills, and innovations across borders and creates a competitive environment that drives local companies to continually innovate. Without such openness, technology remains an imported product, keeping us as passive observers of others' progress rather than creators.

I am not saying the journey is without challenges and the road ahead is easy, but it becomes more manageable with a clear vision, strategic long-term planning, and readiness to forego short-term benefits for lasting prosperity. Innovative policies, inclusive education, advanced scientific research, and openness to global markets are the essential components that enable a society to transform the digital revolution into a genuine opportunity for its people.

Finally, the crucial question is whether the Arab region will remain a consumer of technology or become an active participant in shaping its own future. The choice between isolation and innovation is more than an economic issue; it is a strategic matter essential for the survival and advancement of societies. To secure a meaningful role in the knowledge-driven era, we must invest in scientific research, education, and openness, while safeguarding innovation from the restrictive effects of protectionism that can stifle ideas before they stifle the economy.

A Thaw in Tensions

For some time, US policy has mainly focused on discrediting China as a “thief” of US technology, which in some miraculous manner has only allowed China to progress, while denying the US the same opportunities. This elaborate campaign of undermining Chinese innovation and development has in fact hurt the US and it stifled its own development.

However, it is clear that recently the US has started to change its tune, accepting that it simply cannot bully Beijing, as it has become an irreplaceable part of the global supply network. China has spent decades building superiority and acquired its advantage through sustained investment in industry, engineering and manufacturing, while the US has experienced long term deindustrialization and lost many aspects of its traditional industrial capacity. China’s progress reflects decades of deliberate industrial policy, large-scale investment in education, and a focus on scaling manufacturing, that the US has allowed to hollow out.

A number of agreements stemming from the recent ASEAN summit held in Kuala Lumpur has revealed this change in US’s attitude towards China. The meeting of President Trump with President Xi Jinping set the basis for Washington to secure deals in Southeast Asia on critical minerals and rare earths that are central to modern technology. The US has secured a much needed pause in Chinese tariffs for one year on rare earth minerals, with China very much in a leading position.

We are in a world where two superpowers are effectively shaping global economics and technological standards. The US is no longer the sole leader and must continue a mature policy mix that blends competition with negotiation, while engaging Beijing on specific points of US weakness.

A thaw in US-China relations is welcome and it reduces the immediate risk of conflict and creates room for dialogue on arms control, export rules and shared technologies. Constructive channels do lower the chance of miscalculation, allow coordinated management of supply chains and make it possible to press for clearer rules of engagement rather than escalate with blunt economic instruments that hurt allies and industry alike.

A balanced US policy should focus on safeguarding national security technologies through precise export controls and clear legal frameworks, establishing cooperative supply agreements for essential materials and revitalizing domestic industrial capabilities, while working with international partners to broaden and secure supply chains. These steps allow for competition while reducing the possibilities of confrontation, allowing both sides to transform a tense relationship to a managed rivalry.

A more sober approach on both sides that mixes protection with negotiation reduces the risk of crisis, recognizes a bipolar reality that is already taking shape and opens the door to peaceful coexistence and pragmatic progress which is a good thing for all nations.

Pope's Visit to Lebanon...

A Message of Love in Unfinished Lines

I have followed with deep interest and appreciation the visit of His Holiness Pope Lawoon to Lebanon. From the general atmosphere, one can sense how much Lebanon and the Lebanese people feel comforted, accompanied, and supported by this gracious visit. It is an immensely important gesture that uplifts spirits, repairs fractures, and tends to the wounds Lebanon has suffered through one disaster after another—may God be its aid.

This visit is not merely a passing courtesy; it is a visit of reassurance amidst the political storms that shake Lebanon and threaten its security and stability.

In his inaugural address, delivered in the presence of the highest official representation including Lebanese President Joseph Aoun, who welcomed His Holiness with a ceremonial speech, grace, and radiant presence, the Pope offered hope and optimism to the exhausted Lebanese people, who deserve safety, stability, and love.

The Pope's voice was confident as he called for tolerance and the preservation of coexistence in a country where pain intersects with hope. His call was not directed solely at Christians; it resonated with all followers of the divine scriptures, regardless of their beliefs or practices. Faith resides in the heart, worship is for God alone, and above all, respect for freedom of belief is paramount. Lebanon, as the Pope noted—and as all preceding dignitaries have consistently affirmed—remains a unique humanitarian oasis in the Middle East, rich in spiritual diversity, and a symbolic, unifying, and moving station for humanity.

While I share every word expressed by His Holiness Pope Lawoon, a pressing question arises: should the visit not have extended to Palestine, the birthplace of Jesus Christ (peace be upon him), and then continued to

beloved Jordan, where the Jordan River was sanctified by the baptism of Christ? This is the Levant, not merely a land of ancient civilizations, but the cradle of divine message and prophets, where they walked and left traces of holiness, embodied in the blood of Christ and the tears of the Virgin Mary.

To complete the story fully, the Pope could have stood on the stage of the event, witnessing firsthand the entire narrative—from beginning to end—as if it happened just yesterday. Holiness endures as long as faith flows through generations like the waters of the Jordan River, and as long as the light is ignited in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Palestinian soil.

Would it satisfy His Holiness to witness only a portion of this story, or should the visit be urgently extended to see the suffering of children, the wounds of humanity, and the fragmentation of nations? To contribute a candle of light against political darkness and the great injustice planned by decision-making states, without a flinch, as the heart of the Beatitudes, the Savior, Jesus Christ (peace be upon him), once knew?

Perhaps it is the Pope's responsibility to call for the visit's extension in line with its sacred geographical strategy. Perhaps the arrangements were made by the relevant states to help enhance the Pope's presence by widening the circle of the visit. In any case, the call must be renewed very soon by the concerned authorities, to strengthen bonds of trust and build bridges and shared values among the faithful—centered on God, homeland, land, and humanity. This is to reject violence, end hatred, stop the bleeding of blood, restore human dignity, and reaffirm the notions of safety, independence, and stability in countries that have endured all forms of oppression—countries whose sorrows are mourned by Jesus Christ far more than His own sufferings.

Dragon's Dominance Over Rare Earth Metals... A War to Take Over the World

In the complex geopolitical chess game, the most painful strike is the one that targets an opponent's weak points. In recent years, Washington has pursued a strategy aimed at suffocating the Chinese dragon by cutting off its technological lifeline, focusing particularly on semiconductors and electronic chips. The latest Chinese countermeasure, however, came like a lightning strike, announcing the start of a new and perilous chapter in this conflict; one in which Beijing seizes control of key resources that are no less vital than the chips themselves: the rare metals.

China's recent announcement to enforce strict export restrictions on rare metals starting next December is far more than a routine trade measure. It marks a clear strategic declaration, confirming that Beijing is standing on equal footing with Washington and the West, as a whole.

The goal has evolved beyond protecting interests or negotiating from a position of power; it has become more like a war for dominance, conducted this time from deep underground, where the treasures of the future are extracted. The danger of China's decision, especially its clauses, goes beyond merely restricting supply. It has not only banned the export of these metals, which are essential to the aerospace, defense, space, and renewable energy industries in the US and Europe, but has also imposed far-reaching global constraint on the final products globally.

The most alarming clause in this decision is the fact that it gives the Chinese government the right to prevent any product from being sold in any market worldwide, if it contains even a tiny fraction of Chinese rare metals without Beijing's prior approval.

Indeed, this is a striking blow, turning China's sovereignty over these metals into a global control tool. Just imagine that the fate of a Japanese or European company using Chinese lithium or neodymium in manufacturing an electric vehicle battery or a missile guidance system, while obtaining such rare metals would be entirely subject to an approval from Beijing - the capital of the Red Dragon.

With this decision, the rare metals would transform from being essential raw materials into a strategic Trojan horse that quietly infiltrates into the backbone of American and European military and technological industries. This could ultimately undermine the Western technological supremacy, freeze innovation and delay green transformation goals that heavily rely on these metals in wind turbines and solar panels.

Thus, it is a mutual deterrence equation. In this scenario, Beijing has adopted a reciprocal strategy to that of Washington. Just as the US banned companies and countries from selling electronic chips containing American technology to China, Beijing has responded by blocking the sale of any product that includes its vital raw materials.

It could be said that the world has effectively entered a phase of mutual economic deterrence, where each side holds a sharp blade over the other's neck. The repercussions extend far beyond finance and business; reaching deep into the political sphere. The US President Donald Trump, in his characteristic style, accusing Beijing of being "very hostile" by holding the world hostage, has threatened to impose an additional 100% tariff on Chinese goods. Yet this threat, which could have caused a major shock years ago, was received with little concern from the Chinese side.

China knows well that their newfound power grants them a form of immunity against traditional threats, and they have vowed to retaliate against any US action, indicating the possibility of further escalation.

On the brink of the unknown, what we are witnessing today is a profound shift in the global balance of power. China has masterfully leveraged its dominance in the global supply chain, controlling more than 80% of the production and processing of these metals. In doing so, Beijing has unveiled its new economic “nuclear” weapon, transforming rare metals from a strategic commodity into a powerful geopolitical tool.

Today, the world is at the threshold of an unprecedented phase of economic and technological conflict. This development will compel Western countries to reconsider their supply chains and undertake extraordinary measures to secure alternative sources for these metals; a process that could take years of exceptional effort.

This step represents a pivotal turning point, prompting us to remember that global control is no longer measured by the number of aircraft carriers or nuclear warheads, but rather by who controls the metals that fuel this arsenal. Those who own and dominate critical underground resources have the potential to reshape the map of power above the ground. In the wake of this unprecedented escalation, only time will reveal what comes next.

Climate Change as a Player in Shaping National Policies

It is clear that climate shifts are occurring today at a pace that challenges even the most optimistic among us. What we once thought of as potential future problems has arrived unannounced, confronting the world with a mirror reflecting our readiness and the risks long warned about by experts. These are no longer tales of a “maybe tomorrow”; they are a vivid reality affecting everyone. Europe, a continent that has long prided itself on its ability to predict and manage, now finds itself navigating uncertainties on its own soil and among its populations. Droughts impacting its rivers and fields today are not temporary crises—they signal that the climate system itself has become a primary actor in shaping national policies, budgets, and decisions.

To be clear, when the Rhine, Po, and Danube rivers shrink, it is not only Europe that is affected—the entire global landscape shifts, from grain prices to energy, transport, and trade flows. The picture darkens further when we examine crops such as corn, wheat, olives, and vineyards, which are rapidly declining, even as temperatures exceed historical averages. Naturally, global markets monitor every drop in production, and while European nations scramble to mitigate losses, my focus extends to the Arab world, where vulnerabilities are deeper, dependence on external sources is heavier, and tolerance for delays is far narrower.

If Europe, equipped with advanced technology and abundant resources, struggles during a single drought season, imagine the challenges in regions that already face difficulties securing drinking and irrigation water, relying more on global markets than local land. Dependence on imports makes any external disruption a direct threat to Arab citizens’ food security, while scarce water infrastructure complicates adaptation to changing resources. Here lies the core issue: the problem is not European drought per se, but

what it reveals about a future that waits for no one—a world where policies will revolve around water and food above all else. Looming on the horizon are mass migrations and potential conflicts over water and harvests.

In this near future, Arab nations cannot rely solely on reactive or temporary measures. Food and water security are existential battles, to be fought with modern tools, foremost among them artificial intelligence (AI). AI can transform agriculture and water management from a game of probabilities into precise science—predicting crop yields, managing irrigation, monitoring groundwater, and compensating for years of waste and external dependence.

Modern technologies offer unprecedented capabilities: analyzing weather and soil data to determine optimal planting times and precise water requirements per crop, reducing waste while increasing productivity; monitoring pests and diseases before they spread; and providing proactive solutions that prevent losses. At a broader scale, smart systems can help decision-makers allocate financial resources effectively and link agricultural development plans to long-term sustainability goals.

However, the transformation is not purely technological. It requires a strategic vision encompassing investment in water infrastructure, empowering farmers, and fostering public-private partnerships. Modern irrigation projects, water treatment and reuse initiatives, and sustainable financing for small farmers are essential steps to secure the future. Leveraging global expertise in adopting interactive agricultural technologies is equally critical. Perhaps the greatest challenge is securing long-term financing, as developing water and agricultural infrastructure demands substantial resources that governments alone cannot provide. Consequently, public-private partnerships become a strategic necessity, with the private sector providing capital and operational expertise while the public sector ensures policy stability and incentives. Training programs for

farmers and access to modern technologies must also be integral, enabling them to become active partners in building a sustainable system capable of weathering future shocks.

I assert that this integrated approach—finance, partnerships, and infrastructure—can transform AI from a technical tool into a practical force that enhances food self-sufficiency and establishes the foundation for a sustainable and promising future. Europe’s lesson is clear: even the wealthiest and most capable countries can be caught off guard when climate shapes their policies. For the Arab world, our calculations are less flexible and more interdependent. Early action is not optional—it is imperative. Water comes first, and those who control and manage it ensure the ability to provide food, prevent disasters, and achieve sustainable development.

Therefore, Arab food security, if it is to succeed, must become a pioneering project that integrates technology, resources, and strategy, turning climate threats into an opportunity to rebuild agricultural and water systems on smarter, more efficient foundations. European drought is not a distant warning but a mirror reflecting what could happen if we are unprepared—an opportunity to transform Arab food security from dependency to self-sufficiency, and perhaps even abundance, through tools whose absence is no longer acceptable: AI, technology, and strategic management of water and food.

The future will not wait for the hesitant, and nature will grant no second chance to the complacent, while the world writes its new policies in the ink of rainfall and wind patterns.

A Fragile and Interconnected World Economy

The global economy has shown remarkable resilience despite the troubling times the world has been going through, as a result of US isolation, protectionism and tariffs; ongoing wars across the globe; rising debts and the ongoing devastating climate change effects.

In his recent article in the Financial Times, economic commentator Martin Wolf shares an excellent analysis of how well the world has adapted despite all this turmoil. Companies have adjusted supply chains and stockpiled goods with consumers absorbing some of the pressure, while financial markets remain buoyant despite a dip earlier this year when Trump announced US tariffs. Governments have shown better financial control than in previous crises by managing budgets' policies with wisdom and care.

However, Wolf mentions that almost all is well. US debt continues to rise, Trump's spending knows no limit and trade tensions with China remain unresolved. Many countries are struggling with this new economic reality and fighting to keep their heads above water. The poorest are at greatest risk while facing massive cuts to global health and development programs under USAID, and with The World Bank warning of an impending crisis if funding gaps are not filled.

He goes on to mention that beyond these immediate concerns lie deeper structural questions. AI is driving investment and optimism but also raises challenges for jobs and regulation. Although climate change is already disrupting supply chains and food production, its costs are not fully reflected in forecasts. Governments and companies are spending more to service debt which inevitably leaves less room for new investment.

I believe that it is vital to understand that resilience does not equal strength. The global economy has absorbed shock after shock but it remains vulnerable, with the IMF and World Bank stressing that no country can stand alone. During these times, I see that multilateralism and cooperation are a necessity if we are going to stand any chance of survival.

The world economy is juggling many balls and walking a dangerous tightrope between adaptation and fragility. It has shown the capacity to endure, but endurance is not the same as stability. Without careful management and renewed cooperation, today's resilience could give way to deeper problems that we may not be able to recover from tomorrow. I do not know how many more shocks our global economy can endure before it breaks for good. We must find ways to avoid this and to cement global stability to build a prosperous and safe world for everyone.

A ceasefire, a peace agreement, or something else!

As global attention remains fixed on the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine, political leaders continue to speak of peace without defining what peace really requires. Ceasefires may offer temporary relief, but they do not resolve the deeper causes of war. In order to move beyond violence, we must move from ceasefires to long-term political solutions that address actual grievances.

An article by Jeffrey Sachs and Sybil Fares, published in Al Jazeera on October 23, 2025, supports this viewpoint by analyzing the insufficient US peace efforts in Gaza and Ukraine. The authors criticize President Trump's peace proposals as they concentrate on short-term ceasefires instead of delivering essential elements for lasting peace.

The United States has introduced a Gaza peace plan that focuses on stopping the ongoing Israeli attack, which seems to be beneficial at first glance, but fails to resolve the basic issue of a future Palestine. Without a clear and inclusive settlement, any agreement will remain fragile and temporary.

The US plan fails to address the core matters that are driving the ongoing conflict. The plan maintains the current situation where military operations proceed under security pretenses while Palestinian statehood remains indefinitely postponed. The authors propose that the plan functions to diminish Palestinian statehood support as it enables the Zionist occupier to continue their annexation of the West Bank under false security pretenses.

In Ukraine, a similar pattern can be observed, with Trump claiming that he can stop the war immediately, yet his proposed solutions have not included any concrete political solutions that would actually end it. The roots of the conflict go back to NATO's expansion which created a huge security

dilemma that has not been resolved. The United States together with its allies need to formulate a peace agreement that provides mutual security guarantees for all parties involved.

Leadership in these situations requires more than declarations, with an honesty and willingness to confront powerful interests that benefit from continued conflict. The military sector that profits from arms sales and prolonged instability, as well as powerful lobbies, play a significant role in shaping policy.

To move forward, the United States must engage with regional actors who understand the realities on the ground. In the Middle East, many leaders can offer valuable perspectives on what is needed for peace in Gaza. In Europe, dialogue with Russia and NATO members must be based on mutual respect and recognition of legitimate concerns.

The focus should shift from managing conflict to actually resolving it, which means embracing political solutions, listening to regional voices, blocking the influence of partisan lobbies and aligning US policy with the principles of international law. Only then can we hope to see any real resolution to these conflicts.

Abu-Ghazaleh Shares Stokes' Analysis on the US Global Disconnect

The United States is facing a crisis of confidence at home, with a significant portion of the public now favoring less attention to overseas problems, including a strong majority of Republicans.

Support for the occupying force in Gaza is now sharply divided. The Gaza war has dramatically undermined Democrats' support, driven by disapproval of the Zionists military actions. Most Democrats and independents disapprove of President Trump's handling of the Gaza war, while a clear majority of Republicans continue to support it.

Views on Russia and China are similarly polarized. Americans' opinions of Russia are at their lowest point in decades, yet only a small share of Republicans express concern about Russia's military threats to Ukraine or Europe. Public support for additional military aid to Ukraine remains solid and for the first time in years, even a notable portion of Republicans are on board.

On Iran, public opinion leans toward supporting a nuclear deal, though partisan divisions are wide, with Democrats being broadly in favor, while Republican support being far more limited. Meanwhile, negative sentiment toward China is widespread across the board.

US leadership in global trade is now viewed with skepticism. While many Americans acknowledge trade has boosted consumer choice and innovation, there is widespread concern that it has also destroyed jobs and lowered wages. Those with higher incomes and education levels are more likely to see trade as beneficial, while most Republicans remain unconvinced.

A recent Goldman Sachs reports shows that US. businesses have absorbed the bulk of tariff costs, resulting in less investment, lower pay for workers and diminished returns for investors. Public opinion on tariffs is deeply divided with most Democrats believing tariffs hurt families, while many Republicans still viewing them as helpful to the country.

Confidence in US leadership is waning globally with only a small share of Canadians now hold a favorable view of the United States. A strong majority of Canadians want their leadership to stand firm against Trump's policies, while across Europe trust in American foreign policy is volatile and weak. Most Canadians lack confidence in President Trump's ability to handle world affairs, with Europeans showing similar skepticism.

Stokes' analysis reveals a sobering truth that America's foreign policy is no longer grounded in strategic clarity, but in domestic fragmentation and economic self-harm. I agree that the solution is not more militarization or isolationism, it is a return to diplomacy, economic pragmatism and strategic leadership.

Bruce Stokes is the executive director of the Transatlantic Task Force and senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund. He was the director of Global Economic Attitudes at the Pew Research Center in Washington, DC, and is a former international economics columnist for the National Journal, a Washington-based public policy magazine. He is also a former senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Computing: The Language of Children, the Future, and a Strategic Investment to Break Dependency

If nations inherently understand that mastering the language of the era guarantees their future, then teaching programming to children from their earliest years represents a strategic investment that determines a nation's position on the map of tomorrow. The laws of the universe, set by God and impartial, do not grant opportunities to the latecomers, and digital skills are the price that must be paid to participate effectively.

Programming opens doors that were previously unknown within our institutions and educational systems. It serves as a high-level mental exercise to develop critical and logical thinking skills, and problem-solving abilities. Through immersing themselves in code, the youth learn that life resembles a methodical maze, understanding how to read patterns and analyze variables systematically, leaving no room for chance or randomness.

This deep engagement with logic silently strengthens mathematical abilities beyond the monotony of traditional curricula. More importantly, it grants children space for creativity, enabling them to become creators of games and applications rather than mere consumers. Here, the spirit of production is planted, laying a solid foundation for understanding the fundamentals of modern technology in a world that changes daily.

At this historical juncture, as technological rhythms accelerate and interactive programming tools like artificial intelligence emerge, equal opportunities and global competition cannot be divorced from this strategic pursuit. Programming provides everyone the chance to participate in the global digital society, regardless of social or geographical backgrounds. It also fosters a culture of collaboration and teamwork in facing digital challenges, instilling self-confidence and collective problem-solving skills.

From an educational perspective, programming teaches patience and perseverance, particularly when confronting coding errors, which serve as live learning experiments integrating hands-on practice with critical thinking. This approach represents a silent revolution against rote memorization, which has lost effectiveness in the knowledge era. In light of global competition, we must acknowledge that learning programming is a gateway that equips Arab students to keep pace with the digital revolution, allowing them to excel in international competitions at an early age.

The significance extends to digital entrepreneurship. Early programming education ignites children's potential to develop their own projects, nurturing innovative thinking and increasing the productivity of local industries in the long term.

As the new economies rely on breaking chains of dependency, it is essential to prepare a generation of specialized programmers as a pillar for reducing reliance on foreign expertise, which costs national budgets heavily. When this is achieved, the Arab economy will shift from a consumer of solutions to a source of technology and innovation, enhancing Arab capacity to meet the demands of a rapidly growing global technology market.

Moving Beyond American AI Models

There is a growing concern that the US developed AI systems are focused on delivering benefits to Western societies and English speaking audiences. Other nations are now speeding up the development of AI systems through their own AI models using local data and technology to achieve what has been called AI sovereignty. This means achieving self-reliance throughout the entire AI lifecycle.

India has established its “India Stack” as a response to this, demonstrating the necessity of developing national AI solutions that meet, reflect and fulfill local requirements. India is working to maintain technological independence through domestic innovation across the AI lifecycle, minimizing external technology dependence to better control its digital journey, building and hosting its own AI models for national consumption.

The shift toward AI sovereignty is further influenced by the current US administrations policies, that are reshaping traditional alliances and emphasizing domestic interests over global collaboration. As a result, it seems that non-US communities with smaller user bases or non English speaking populations, may face neglect in terms of content moderation and AI development. This encourages countries to explore homegrown solutions and question their reliance on the US, which is disenfranchising many across the world.

The current dominance of Anglo-American data sets in training AI is leading to disparities in performance, particularly with non-Western languages. Multilingual models often struggle with foreign languages like Chinese and Hindi, highlighting the need for diverse and representative data sets, with localized language models offering promising solutions to bridge these gaps.

I would sincerely urge nations across the Middle East which are capable, to build and develop their own AI models with datasets specific to this region, protecting its language, history and culture that must be preserved in the annals of technology and become an integral part of this new tech revolution. We have looked at the past, admiring the great advances Arabs made during their history, and must move onto developing societies that actively contribute to the betterment of the world today.

I believe that we need to be developing alternatives to US based AI models and can shape a future where technology serves as a facilitator of global progress, and not just for the progress of one culture or people.

Is the World Prepared for an Economic Downturn?

Anyone keeping a close eye on global economic indicators today may not need to rely on speculation to grasp the gravity of what lies ahead. The International Monetary Fund's projection of a slowdown in global growth to 2.3% in 2025 is far more than a statistical update — it is a stark warning of an impending economic storm. This is not a distant or hypothetical crisis, but a tangible and accelerating reality. Alarming, however, the world appears to be turning a blind eye.

The dynamics of this new economic reality are not limited to fiscal forecasts and GDP charts. A modern-day Cold War is unfolding—not with missiles, though that remains a possibility, but through economic weapons such as tariffs. The United States, propelled by concerns over maintaining global dominance, is increasingly erecting trade barriers against China. The architecture of globalization is slowly but steadily disintegrating, dismantled piece by piece in a struggle for power and influence.

The 145% increase in tariffs is not merely a figure in trade reports; it represents deep wounds bleeding through the global supply chain. Companies are scrambling to reposition their operations, often at the cost of billions of dollars in losses. Meanwhile, consumers—the weakest link in this chain—are left to absorb the impact, facing unrelenting inflation.

It appears that political leaderships are choosing the path of populism at the expense of prudence. No international conferences are yielding results, nor are any joint initiatives being launched. It is as if the multilateral trading system that flourished after World War II has become a burden to be cast aside. The consequence is a rising fear index across markets—along with an increasing likelihood of collapse.

Away from the struggle between major powers, more than 35 low-income countries now stand on the brink of collapse. These nations, which were only beginning to recover from the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, are now

grappling with a suffocating debt crisis and a flight of investment. The issue is not merely one of weakened economies, but of entire societies at risk of slipping back into poverty — and potentially, into chaos.










Even some countries attempting to swim against the tide—India, for example—are maintaining a relatively robust growth rate of 6.6%. However, even this figure does not constitute an impenetrable shield against global shocks. China, despite its economic strength, is reeling under the weight of a real estate crisis and a deepening loss of consumer confidence. Meanwhile, the United States and Europe remain preoccupied with internal divisions and are adopting contractionary policies that may further exacerbate the situation.

The solutions are not as simple as taking a pill, but they are within reach. It begins with a structural reform of the international financial system—akin to what the Marshall Plan offered in the aftermath of World War II—followed by trade reconciliation among major powers that could breathe new life into the World Trade Organization. Ultimately, the global spending agenda must be redirected away from militarization toward education, clean energy, and digital infrastructure.






In the end, history will not judge us for the crisis itself, but for our failure to confront it—despite all the warnings.





List of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global Digital Publications






Books by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh:

No	Title	Links	
1	Success is a Moral Quest... Talal Abu-Ghazaleh's Vision		
		Arabic	English
			
		Spanish	China
2	From the United Nations to the United People		
		Arabic	English
3	PRO-ACTIVE Programming (PROPRO), Known as "Artificial Intelligence" (AI)		
		Arabic 1	Arabic 2
			English





No	Title	Links	
4	<p style="text-align: center;">Talal Abu-Ghazaleh... Because I Love the Truth</p>		
		<p style="text-align: center;">Arabic 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Arabic 2</p>
			
		<p style="text-align: center;">English 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">English 2</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;">The inevitable digital future</p>		
		<p style="text-align: center;">Arabic</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">English</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">The Brave Knowledge World</p>		
		<p style="text-align: center;">Arabic</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">English</p>
			
		<p style="text-align: center;">الفرنسية</p>	
7	<p style="text-align: center;">Blankets Become Jackets</p>		
		<p style="text-align: center;">Arabic</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">English</p>













No	Title	Links	
7	Blankets Become Jackets		
		Chinese	Turkish
			
		Montenegrin	French
			
		Russian	




No	Title	Link	No	Title	Link
8	From Talal Abu-Ghazaleh to His Sons		10	Talal Abu-Ghazaleh... Where is the world heading?	
		Arabic			Arabic
9	What is Most Woeful is What Makes You Laugh		11	Talal Abu-Ghazaleh – the Right to Return	
		Arabic			Arabic







No	Title	Link	No	Title	Link
12	The Dreaded Echo		15	China through the Eyes of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh	
		Arabic			Arabic
13	Egypt through the Eyes of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh		16	Iraq through the Eyes of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh	
		Arabic			Arabic
14	Gaza through the Eyes of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh		17	From Talal Abu-Ghazaleh to the Youth: Inspirational Sayings and Quotes	
		Arabic			Arabic

Books about TAG:

No	Title	Links	
1	Talal Abu-Ghazaleh... The Mind behind the Machine		
		Arabic	English
			
		Spanish	Chinese

No	Title	Links	
2	Talal, Son of Adibeh		
		<p data-bbox="731 438 812 462">Arabic</p> 	<p data-bbox="984 438 1065 462">English</p> 
		<p data-bbox="726 675 817 698">Chinese</p> 	<p data-bbox="978 675 1070 698">Spanish</p> 
		<p data-bbox="726 893 817 917">Russian</p> 	<p data-bbox="984 893 1075 917">Turkish</p> 
		<p data-bbox="731 1130 812 1153">French</p> 	<p data-bbox="984 1130 1065 1153">Persian</p> 
		<p data-bbox="726 1366 817 1390">Kurdish</p> 	<p data-bbox="953 1366 1096 1390">Montenegrin</p> 
		<p data-bbox="726 1603 817 1627">Arabic 1</p>	<p data-bbox="984 1603 1075 1627">Arabic 2</p>
		3	<p data-bbox="271 1412 627 1557">Talal Abu-Ghazaleh... Secret of Glory-Man from My Country</p>

No	Title	Links	
4	From Suffering to Global Spotlight		
		Arabic	English
5	TAG at The UN in Bruno Lanvin eyes		
		English	

No	Title	Link	No	Title	Link
6	Selected Writings about Talal Abu-Ghazaleh		9	The Success Journey	
		Arabic			Arabic
7	Talal Abu-Ghazaleh: Words and Deeds		10	The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Humanitarian Keys Chain	
		Arabic			Arabic
8	Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, A World Leader in Business Serving Humanity through the United Nations		11	Talal Abu-Ghazaleh in This Changing World	
		English			Arabic

No	Title	Link	No	Title	Link
12	Truth in a Minute		17	Did life passes you by?	
		Arabic			Arabic
13	Talal Abu-Ghazaleh: Global Knowledge Worker in Serving International Organizations		18	Talal-Abu-Ghazaleh... A Man from the Future	
		Arabic			Arabic
14	The Global Knowledge Leader... 50 Years of Innovation		19	Talal-Abu-Ghazaleh... A Man of Knowledge	
		Arabic			Arabic
15	Shining Lights from the Gulf		20	Talal Abu-Ghazaleh... Rising to the top	
		Arabic			Arabic
16	A Reading of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh		21	Talal Abu-Ghazaleh... The Voyage of Life	
		Arabic			Arabic

Every one of us has a touch in life. Make
sure you provide it in the right place.

Knowledge also has a touch that shines
like a sparkling star.

It guides knowledge seekers, generation
after generation, to revive the minds,
restore humanity, and elevate it.

It is contrary to ignorance, which
seeks to wipe knowledge or propagate
violence using a knife, a reckless
weapon, or a hidden mine, to destroy
the communities, disturb humanity,
contribute to its demise, and accelerate
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