

Events Driving Global Instability and Risk



US-China: Trade war continues to escalate in Aug-Sep 2019

- The US announced an increase in tariffs on almost all Chinese imports
- President Trump 'orders' US companies to 'look for alternatives' to operations in China
- Global trade contracting in the first seven months of the year



UK: Unlawfully suspends parliament, heading to 'No-Deal Brexit' in Jul-Sep 2019

- PM Boris Johnson suspends parliament for an unprecedented five weeks to block bill preventing a no-deal Brexit
- UK Supreme court rules suspension illegal

Italy: Ongoing government instability in Sep 2019

- New coalition government formed between the anti-establishment Five Star and centre-left Democratic party
- Stability of a coalition between parties that have historically been fierce political rivals remains doubtful



Saudi-Iran: Drone attack on Saudi oil facilities raises conflict prospects in Sep 2019

- Drone attacks struck two key oil installations inside Saudi Arabia,
- The attack caused a suspension of crude oil representing 5% of the world's daily production of crude oil, increasing global oil prices by 15%

US: House launches Trump impeachment inquiry in Sep 2019

- House of Representatives starts impeachment proceedings over claims that Mr. Trump solicited foreign interference in 2020 election
- Trump accused of blackmailing Ukrainian President to investigate the business activities of democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden



India: Kashmir's special status removed and lockdown imposed in Aug-Sep 2019

- Indian government has abolished constitutional special rights granted to Jammu and Kashmir
- Ongoing imposition of a military lockdown and communications blackout in the affected region
- Hundreds of local political leaders and activists arrested or confined to their homes



Colombia-Venezuela: Military manoeuvres on Colombian border in Sep 2019

- 150,000 Venezuelan troops deployed on the Colombian border amid renewed bilateral tensions
- Colombia and 10 other countries have invoked mutual assistance treaties, further increasing the risk of armed conflict



Hong Kong: Mass demonstrations continue in Jul-Sep 2019

- Four months of increasingly violent anti-government mass protests
- Protests have grown from opposing the extradition bill into a movement demand greater democracy
- Protests create risk of armed intervention by the PRC military massed at the HK-border

Source: Various Press Articles

Events Driving Global Development and Progress

Politics, Economics and Society



Environment:

Nestle launches 'World-first' Biodegradable paper wrappers in Jul 2019

- Packaged in paper using a high-speed flow wrap technology
- These paper wrappers are bound to biodegrade in 6 months



Environment:

Google commits US\$2bn to global renewable energy in Sep 2019

- Purchase includes a 1,600MW package of wind and solar agreements and 18 new energy deals



Politics: Coke and Pepsi cut ties with plastics lobby in Aug 2019

- Coke and Pepsi cut ties with Plastics Industry Association, a pro plastics lobbying group
- Both companies are trying to increase use of recycled plastics



Environment: Canada passes world's most progressive fishery act in Jul 2019

- The legislation will prevent Canada from trading shark fins and legally require fish populations to be rebuilt



Environment: Banks worth US\$47tn adopt new U.N. backed climate principles in Sep 2019

- Banks agreed to "responsible banking" principles to shift their loan books away from fossil fuels



Environment: Germany unveils sweeping measures for climate change in Sep 2019

- The government agreed to a US\$60bn spending package to help companies and households reduce emissions

Science & Technology



Technology: Elon Musk unveils new Mars rocket prototype in Sep 2019

- Company unveiled the latest iteration of newly assembled Starship
- First orbital flight could come in the next six months

Foodtech: Finnish Company makes food out of 'thin air' in Jul 2019

- Company to launch a new protein powder, Solein, made out of CO₂, water and electricity by 2021
- The powder has potential to feed billions globally

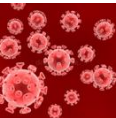


Politics: EU, Japan sign infrastructure agreement in Sep 2019

- EU and Japan signed an infrastructure agreement to link Europe and Asia
- Deal part of the bloc's "Asia connectivity" strategy over concerns over China's BRI strategy

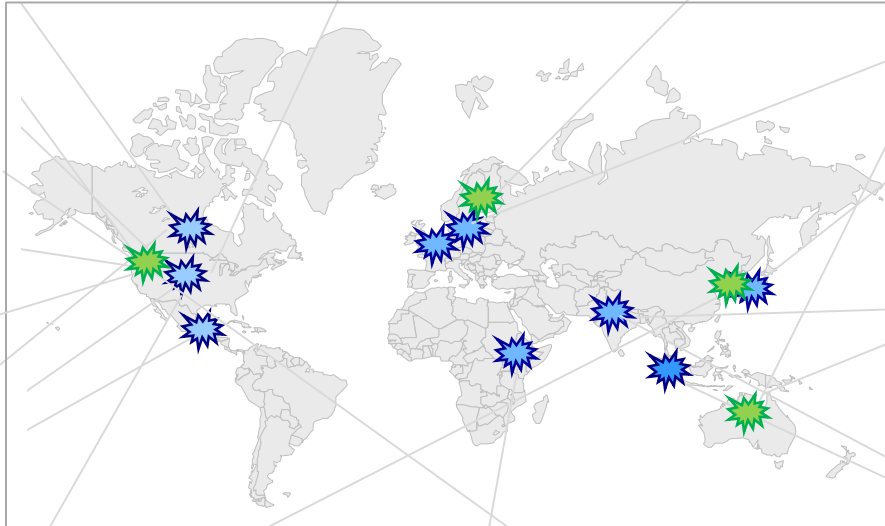
Healthcare: Researchers eliminate HIV from genomes of living animals in Jul 2018

- Combination of a modified ARV treatment and a powerful gene-editing technique snip out HIV genes from infected cells



Healthcare: Vaccine for Alzheimer's on verge of reality in Jul 2019

- Vaccine clears tangled proteins away without causing inflammation
- Company announced successful first results from a phase IIA clinical trial in 42 human patients



Cleantech: Hyundai launches car with a roof-based solar charging system in Aug 2019

- The solar roof will support the car's electric power source, boost fuel efficiency and lower carbon dioxide emissions



Healthcare: Cancer Vaccine Now Being Tested on Patients in Sep 2019

- The vaccine forces cancer cells to present a specific easily identifiable bacterial antigen to the immune system
- It can treat multiple forms of cancer without any side effects



Environment: Zara to make all clothing sustainable in July 2019

- All clothing to be organic or recycled by 2025
- Bans plastic bags across all shops



Health: India collaborates with Southeast Asia and WHO to fight emerging diseases in Sep 2019

- 10 countries have collaborated to defeat the threat of emerging diseases
- India will lead the research platform and the WHO will provide technical support

Environment: Amazon sets carbon neutral goal in Sep 2019

- Amazon will reduce its carbon emissions with the ultimate goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2040
- Bezos' goal is for 80% of Amazon's energy use to be renewable by 2024



Environment: Ethiopia plants c.353m trees in 12 hours in Jul 2019

- Ethiopia planted more than 353 million trees in 12 hours, a new world record
- The tree planting was part of a wider reforestation campaign named "Green Legacy," by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed