

# China Ready for Long Trade War With U.S.: Journal



*A Chinese woman adjusts a Chinese national flag next to U.S. national flags before a Strategic Dialogue expanded meeting, part of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) held at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, July 10, 2014.*

SHANGHAI (Reuters) -- **The United States has underestimated the Chinese people's will to fight a trade war and Beijing is prepared for a long economic battle, an influential Chinese Communist Party journal said on Sunday.**

China would not give way on major principles in its negotiations with the United States on ending the dispute, the commentary in the ideological journal Qiushi, or Seeking Truth, said. The editorial represented "a further mobilization of Chinese society" in the struggle against U.S. trade pressure,

wrote Hu Xijin, editor-in-chief of the state-run Global Times newspaper, in a tweet.

"China will not be afraid of any threats or pressure the United States is making that may escalate economic and trade frictions. China has no choice, nor escape route, and will just have to fight it out till the end," the commentary said.

"No one, no force should underestimate and belittle the steel will of the Chinese people and its strength and tenacity to fight a war."

The United States kicked off a tar-

iff battle with China in 2018, seeking sweeping structural changes from Beijing and alleging that the Chinese have engaged in intellectual property theft over many years, which China denies.

But tensions rose sharply in May after the Trump administration accused China of reneging on promises it had made during months of talks.

The commentary also accused the United States of trying to hamper Chinese technological innovation.

"We must keep the initiative of innovation and development firmly in our hands, increase investment and research in key, core technology areas, pool together more high-value talents, enhance innovation and get rid of the core technology plight," it said.

U.S. President Donald Trump's top economic advisor, Larry Kudlow, said on Thursday the economic burden of a trade war would shift to China.

Qiushi said U.S. consumers and businesses had reaped huge benefits from trade with China and warned that trade frictions would inevitably have a serious negative impact on the U.S. economy.

"In an era of economic globalization, trade protectionism is poison, not panacea," the article said, adding that higher tariffs would increase manufacturing costs for U.S. businesses and push up U.S. consumer inflation.

"As a result of the trade frictions, only a very few Americans will benefit, but the majority of Americans will suffer."

## New Ukraine President's Visit Likely to Anger Russia



*Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky (C) inspects equipment and armaments in the port city of Mariupol during military exercises on June 15, 2019.*

KIEV (Dispatches) -- **Ukraine's new president, Volodymyr Zelensky who has defined his top priority as ending the conflict in the country's volatile east, made his first official visit to the Donetsk region on Saturday and called for the return of all pro-Russia areas to Kiev's control.**

Zelensky visited the major trading port city of Mariupol and watched officers of the Ukrainian National Guard, border guard, sappers and divers demonstrating their skills as part of joint military exercises in the Sea of Azov.

"We must now thoroughly redistribute the maximum of our attention to the Donbass," the Ukrainian president told journalists at the port, referring to the region

controlled by pro-Russia separatists. "This is our land, our territory and we want people from the other side, in the temporarily occupied territories, to see that Ukraine is flourishing here."

The visit to Mariupol, located about 20 kilometers from the frontline of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, came as the city was celebrating the fifth anniversary of its liberation from the separatists.

The comedian-turned-politician, whose landslide election victory in April shook the political establishment in Ukraine, said he had a plan for the "nearest future" to resolve the conflict in the east in less than five years, without providing further details.

Zelensky also said on Saturday

his main goal was to end the war in eastern Ukraine and return all areas under Kiev's control. "There are our people, we are all Ukrainians."

The 41-year-old former comedian was inaugurated on May 20 as Ukraine's 41st president, launching a fresh era for a country that has been wracked by economic difficulties and a four-year-old deadly war in two mainly Russian-speaking regions in its east.

The armed confrontation began when a wave of protests in Ukraine overthrew a democratically-elected pro-Russia government and replaced it with a pro-West administration.

The majority of the people in the east, mainly ethnic Russians, refused to endorse the new administration that took over at the time, and turned the two regions of Donetsk and Lugansk — collectively known as the Donbass — into self-proclaimed republics.

The war has so far claimed some 13,000 lives since 2014.

Kiev and its Western allies accuse Moscow of having a hand in the crisis, but Russia denies the allegations.

Relations between Moscow and the West have deteriorated since 2014, when Crimea, a peninsula on the northern coast of the Black Sea, joined Russia following a referendum, in which more than 90 percent of participants voted in favor of unification.

## PM Hopefuls in Britain Clash Over Brexit

LONDON (Reuters) -- **Several hopefuls vying to replace British Prime Minister Theresa May turned their fire on favorite Boris Johnson on Sunday, questioning his pledge to leave the European Union by the end of October no matter what.**

With former London mayor and foreign minister Johnson keeping a low profile, the other candidates have targeted the air waves to try to present their cases to lead the governing Conservative Party. But the question always returns to "Boris".

The free publicity has done little so far to hurt Johnson, who unlike many politicians is better known by his first name Boris. He secured a large lead in the first round of voting and his team hopes for an increased share this week in the second.

But now the gloves are off. Candidate after candidate on Sunday questioned his ability to navigate Britain's departure from the EU, saying his pledge to leave on Oct. 31 was nigh on impossible and would set Britain on track for a no deal Brexit.

"The difference between me and Boris is that I would try for a deal," said foreign minister Jeremy Hunt, who is running in second place in the leadership contest.

"I am not going to create a set of circumstances that makes it all but impossible to get a deal because I think we should be offering the country some better choices," he told the BBC Andrew Marr Show, adding that he was the only "alternative".

One of Hunt's supporters, work and pensions minister Amber Rudd, went further, making a thinly veiled criticism of what she described as some candidates "do or die approach" to Brexit without "considering the consequences to people's jobs".

Almost three years since Britain voted to leave the EU, the country, the parliament and both of the main parties are still deeply divided over how, when and even whether Brexit should happen.

Brexit has claimed two prime ministers. David Cameron resigned shortly after the referendum and now May is making way for a successor because of her failure to get a deal she agreed with the EU through parliament.

The question over Britain's membership of the bloc is dominating the Conservative leadership race, with many of the candidates, albeit some of them reluctantly, saying they would lead the country out without a Brexit deal.

## Fresh Unrest in Hong Kong Amid Meddling Claims



*Protesters attend a demonstration demanding Hong Kong's leaders to step down and withdraw the extradition bill, in Hong Kong, China, June 16, 2019.*

HONG KONG (Dispatches) -- **Thousands of people rallied again in central Hong Kong on Sunday to demand the city's leader step down, a day after she suspended an extradition bill following the most violent protests in decades.**

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam on Saturday indefinitely delayed the extradition bill that could send people to mainland China to face trial.

The central government in Beijing has expressed its support, respect and understanding for Hong Kong's decision, but condemned violent acts by protesters.

On Wednesday, just hours before the bill was due to be debated in the city's legislature, protests turned violent when tens of thousands of people moved to occupy key roads around government headquarters.

Clashes erupted between police and demonstrators, injuring at least 22 police officers and dozens of protesters.

On Sunday, the protesters again occupied roads, walkways and train stations across Hong Kong's financial center to call on Lam to step down.

The protests have plunged Hong Kong into political crisis, just as months of "Occupy" demonstrations did in 2014.

China's foreign ministry said Saturday Hong Kong matters were a Chinese internal affair and no country, organization or individual has a right to inter-

fere.

Beijing summoned U.S. deputy chief of mission in Beijing Robert Ford to protest against Washington's interference in Hong Kong affairs.

"China called on the United States ... to immediately stop all interference in Hong Kong's affairs and stop taking action that would affect the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong," the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement.

The summit came after Republican Senator Marco Rubio and Democratic Senator Ben Cardin proposed legislation that would require Washington to issue an annual certification of Hong Kong's autonomy to justify the continuation of special treatment for the territory.

The turmoil comes at a difficult time for Beijing, which is already grappling with an escalating U.S. trade war and tensions in the South China Sea.

China's top newspaper on Sunday condemned "anti-China lackeys" of foreign forces in Hong Kong.

"Certain people in Hong Kong have been relying on foreigners or relying on young people to build themselves up, serving as the pawns and lackeys of foreign anti-China forces," the People's Daily said in a commentary.

"This is resolutely opposed by the whole of the Chinese people including the vast majority of Hong Kong compatriots."

## Italy Sets Hefty Fine for Refugee Rescue Operations



*This photo taken on June 23, 2018 in the Mediterranean Sea between Lampedusa and Tunisia shows Aquarius rescue vessel, chartered by French NGO SOS-Mediterranean and Doctors Without Borders (MSF), during a rescue drill at open sea.*

ROME (Dispatches) -- **Italy has adapted a new bill that will fine groups and people who save refugees shipwrecked and stranded in the sea.**

The controversial bill, signed by the president, sets fines of up to €50,000 for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that bring refugees to Italy without obtaining permission from Rome.

Humanitarian groups described the new bill as a "declaration of war against the NGOs who are saving lives at sea."

"The new decree is threatening legal principles and the duty of saving lives. It is like fining ambulances for carrying patients to the hospital," said Claudia Lodesani, president of the NGO Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Italy.

The debilitating bill had been drafted by Italy's hardliner Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Matteo Salvini.

Salvini, a notorious far-right politician, is a firm advocate of stiff anti-refugee measures not only in Italy, but also across the whole European

continent.

Since taking office a year ago, Salvini has taken a tough stance on refugees and humanitarian groups that rescue and aid refugees shipwrecked and stranded in the Mediterranean Sea.

Rights groups have criticized Salvini's anti-refugee efforts, warning that his attempts pose a potential threat to the lives and rights of refugees fleeing from war and persecution and seeking asylum elsewhere.

Salvini, who is the leader of Italy's far-right Northern League party, had previously called on other far-right parties across Europe to form an alliance of like-minded groups to "defend their borders" against an influx of refugees into the continent.

United Nations figures show that at least 500 people have died in 2018 as they were trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. Some 2,853 also lost their lives in 2017.

More than 600,000 refugees in the past five years have reached Italy by risking their lives in the sea. Some 500,000 of them are still staying in the country.

## News in Brief

**KHARTOUM (Reuters) -- Sudan's ex-president Omar al-Bashir appeared in public on Sunday for the first time since he was overthrown, as he was taken out of prison to the office of the anti-corruption prosecutor. Bashir, wearing traditional white robes and turban, was driven in a Toyota Land Cruiser to the prosecutor's office in Khartoum, a Reuters witness said. The military overthrew and detained Bashir on April 11 after 16 weeks of street protests against his 30-year rule. He was being held in prison in Khartoum North, across the Blue Nile from the capital's center.**

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**BAUCHI, Nigeria (Reuters) - An armed gang killed at least 34 people in attacks on villages in northwest Nigeria, police said on Sunday, part of a wave of violence the government has blamed on bandits. Hundreds of people have died in the northwest region this year, adding to security problems in a country already struggling with Takfiri insurgencies in the northeast and a brutal conflict between farmers and herders in central states. The armed gang came to unprotected villages in the northwestern state of Zamfara on Friday night, killing 34 people, said Muhammed Shehu, police spokesman for the state. People from the village told Reuters the attackers escaped. "We heard gunshots and saw people running for shelter, chased by men on motorbikes," said Shehu Shinkafi. "We immediately took cover in a house nearby, and after the bandits were done with their killing spree they moved to a nearby village," he said, adding he counted 12 bodies in his village alone. The gang left without any resistance as there were no security agents in the area, and it was only after the massacre that police arrived hours later, Shinkafi and two other witnesses said.**

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**Buenos Aires (Reuters) -- Argentina and Uruguay were scrambling to restore power to millions of people after a massive power failure hit the Argentine grid early on Sunday, Argentina's Energy Secretariat said. Energy company Edesur Argentina said it had restored power for 75,000 clients in the greater Buenos Aires area by 10:52 a.m. local time (1352 GMT). Total recovery was estimated to take a few hours, according to the Energy Secretariat and Edesur. The massive outage left Buenos Aires dark early this morning, hobbling public transportation, cutting off water supply and crippling phone and internet communications across the city. Several Argentine provinces were forced to temporarily delay local elections. The cause of the outage was still unclear as of late morning, but Argentina's energy agency said in a statement it had begun an investigation. A spokesman for Brazil's power system operator (ONS) said the outage had not impacted the regional neighbor to the north.**

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**ERLIN (AP) — Authorities say a tourist was drowned in Switzerland's Lake Geneva after her boat capsized in a driving storm, and another was killed in nearby France after high winds brought down a tree on her campsite. The Swiss news site 20 Minuten reported Sunday the previous day's storm brought heavy rain, hail and wind gusts as high as 122 kph (75 mph). Police say a tourist couple's boat capsized in Lake Geneva around 5 p.m. Local media reported the man swam to another boat and fired off two flares, but by the time rescuers arrived they were unable to find the woman. Her body was recovered later by divers. About 50 kilometers (30 miles) to the south in France, a 51-year-old German woman was killed when a tree fell on her camper.**

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**ALGIERS (Reuters) -- Two former powerful Algerian officials and a prominent businessman were questioned in courts on Sunday, state TV said, over accusations of corruption in the ruling elite under ex-president Abdelaziz Bouteflika. Protesters and the army drove Bouteflika to resign on April 2 after two decades in power, but pressure has continued for the departure and prosecution of senior figures around him. Among a plethora of ongoing cases, former finance minister Karim Djoudi appeared before the Supreme Court on Sunday, while former prime minister Ahmed Ouyahia was in another Algiers court, both over corruption accusations, state TV said. Mourad Eulmi, head of the Algerian family-owned firm SOVAC which runs an assembly plant with Germany's Volkswagen AG, was also questioned in the same court as Ouyahia. The army is now the main player in Algerian politics and its chief of staff Ahmed Gaed Salah has urged the judiciary to speed up the prosecution of people suspected of corruption.**

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**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — A magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck an arc of islands off New Zealand on Sunday, and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said it may cause only minor sea level changes in some coastal areas. The U.S. Geological Survey said the earthquake hit a spot about 873 kilometers (541 miles) northeast of Ngunguru, New Zealand, a town of about 1,400 people. It occurred at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles). The area the quake struck is called the Kermadec Islands, about 800 kilometers (497 miles) northeast of New Zealand's North Island. New Zealand's Ministry of Civil Defense and Emergency Management cleared New Zealand of a tsunami threat moments after issuing a beach warning. The Kermadec Islands, a volcanic archipelago, are prone to earthquakes. The islands are a dependency of New Zealand and lie at the western edge of the Kermadec Trench.**