

China Unveils Latest Weapons in Military Parade as Xi Hosts More Than 20 World Leaders



The airborne unmanned warfare formation attends a military parade in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 3, 2025.

BEIJING (Dispatches) -- China held a massive military parade in central Beijing on Wednesday to mark the 80th anniversary of its victory in World War II, pledging the country's commitment to peaceful development in a world still fraught with turbulence and uncertainties.

Towering structures shaped like the Great Wall, crowned with giant numerals "1945" and "2025," stood in Tian'anmen Square, symbolizing the Chinese nation's courage and solidarity in resisting foreign aggression.

Standing beside Xi on Tian'anmen Rostrum were Russian President Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, along with more than 20 other foreign leaders, some of whom attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit held in the city of Tianjin earlier this week.

Representatives of people who had supported China's resistance endeavors, or their family members -- from countries such as Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Canada -- were invited to the event.

This was the second time since 2015 that China has held a military parade to mark the hard-won victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Xi delivered a speech before the parade. Highlighting the significance of the victory 80 years ago, Xi said it marks China's first complete victory against foreign ag-

gression in modern times.

Xi noted that the Chinese people made a major contribution to the salvation of human civilization and the defense of world peace with immense sacrifice in the war. He called on nations to "eliminate the root cause of war and prevent historical tragedies from recurring."

Japan officially surrendered on Sept. 2, 1945, by signing the Instrument of Surrender. China designated Sept. 3 as Victory Day.

In his speech, Xi demanded that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) provide strategic support for the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. He urged the PLA to build itself into world-class forces and resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

The 70-minute military parade demonstrated the transformation of the armed forces from a "millet-and-rifle" army to a modern military. It was attended by more than 10,000 soldiers, over 100 aircraft and hundreds of ground armaments, organized under a wartime command system.

The PLA's new structure of services and arms made its collective debut, showcasing the outcomes of a sweeping military reform under Xi's leadership.

The advanced armaments put on display included unmanned intelligence and counter-unmanned equipment, hypersonic missiles, directed-energy weapons, and electronic jamming systems.

In Wednesday's parade, China unveiled its land-, sea-, and air-based strategic

forces as the nuclear triad for the first time. The armaments, hailed as China's strategic "ace" power to safeguard the country's sovereignty and national dignity, included JingLei-1 air-based long-range missile, JuLang-3 submarine-launched intercontinental missile, DongFeng-61 land-based intercontinental missile, and new type DongFeng-31 land-based intercontinental missile.

Trump Accuses Xi, Kim, Putin of Conspiring Against U.S.

U.S. President Donald Trump has accused his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, of conspiring against the U.S. with the leaders of Russia and North Korea as the Chinese president hosted foreign leaders at a major military parade in Beijing.

"Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against the United States of America," Trump said on his Truth Social site, referring to the leaders of Russia and North Korea, without elaborating.

Trump also questioned whether Xi would credit the U.S. in a speech on Wednesday before the parade for the "massive amount of support" it allegedly provided to China during World War II.

"Many Americans died in China's quest for Victory and Glory," Trump claimed.

President Xi ultimately didn't directly mention the U.S., though he offered his gratitude toward unspecified nations that helped Beijing.

On Wednesday, Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov said he hoped U.S. President Donald Trump was joking when he suggested the leaders of Russia, China, and North Korea were "conspiring" against Washington.

Trump posted the claim on Truth Social during a military parade in Beijing marking the World War II victory over Japan. Russian President Vladimir Putin was in attendance alongside Chinese leader Xi Jinping and North Korea's Kim Jong-un.

In his post, Trump said many Americans had died in China's "quest for Victory and Glory" and should be honored. He congratulated Xi, before adding: "Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against the United States."

U.S. Federal Judge Rules Trump's Deployment of Troops to LA Illegal



Members of the California National Guard and US Marines guard a federal building in Los Angeles on June 17, 2025.

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - A U.S. federal judge ruled Tuesday that the Trump administration violated a 19th-century law when it deployed National Guard troops and Marines to Los Angeles (LA) in early June to quell protests against federal immigration raids.

Charles Breyer, senior judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, wrote in a ruling that the Trump administration violated the Posse Comitatus Act that prohibits the use of the U.S. military to execute domestic law without approval from Congress.

The ruling bars the Trump administration from "deploying, ordering, instructing, training, or using the National Guard currently deployed in California, and any military troops heretofore deployed in California, to execute the laws."

"There were indeed protests in Los Angeles, and some individuals engaged in violence. Yet there was no rebellion, nor was civilian law enforcement unable to respond to the protests and enforce the law," wrote the ruling.

It said that almost three months after the National Guard was deployed to Los Angeles, 300 National Guard members remain stationed there, adding that U.S. President Donald Trump and Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth stated their intention to

call the troops into federal service in other cities across the country, thus creating a national police force with the president as its chief.

California Governor Gavin Newsom, one of the plaintiffs, said in a statement: "Today, the court sided with democracy and the Constitution. No president is a king -- not even Trump -- and no president can trample a state's power to protect its people."

"Trump's attempt to use federal troops as his personal police force is illegal, authoritarian, and must be stopped in every courtroom across this country," the statement added.

In response to the ruling, White House Deputy Press Secretary Anna Kelly said in a statement: "Once again, a rogue judge is trying to usurp the authority of the Commander-in-Chief to protect American cities from violence and destruction."

The U.S. Department of Justice filed a notice of appeal to a federal appeals court regarding Breyer's ruling and sought a stay of the ruling while the appeal was being decided.

Brenner Fissell, vice-president of the National Institute for Military Justice, was quoted as saying by CNN that while Breyer's ruling has no immediate impact outside of California, it's certain to be the first thing other judges who may preside over similar cases will turn to.

Suicide Bombing at Political Rally Kills 15 in Pakistan



Medical personnel and volunteers push a stretcher with a victim injured by a suicide bombing at a hospital in Quetta on September 2, 2025.

QUETTA (AFP) - A suicide bombing ripped through a political rally in Pakistan's restive southwestern province of Balochistan on Tuesday night, killing at least 15 people and injuring 32, a senior administration official said on Wednesday, in one of the deadliest attacks in recent months.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing, but Balochistan, Pakistan's largest yet most impoverished province, has been grappling for decades with a separatist insurgency that has escalated in recent years. Militants frequently target security forces, officials and non-local residents they accuse of exploiting the province's resources. The province is also of strategic importance for Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative, with China investing heavily in ports, roads and energy projects.

Police said the blast was caused by a suicide bomber who detonated about 10 kilograms of explosives as supporters and senior leaders of the Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) left a stadium after a rally to mark the fourth anniversary of party founder Attaullah Mengal.

"The suicide attack occurred at 9:40 p.m. outside the Shahwani Stadium when people were coming out," Hamza Shafqaat, Additional Chief Secretary Home, said

during a news conference wherein he confirmed the latest toll.

"A total of 112 policemen were deployed to protect the venue of Balochistan National Party Mengal's rally," he continued. "The body of the suicide bomber was recovered from the crime scene. His age was less than 30, but his ethnicity is yet to be confirmed as investigations continue."

Shafqaat added the provincial government had already imposed Section 144 in the province following the high-level threat alert until September 15.

"Despite the threat alert, the government allowed BNP-Mengal to hold a public rally and issued a no-objection certificate with 17 to 18 clauses, including maintaining time restrictions," he continued.

Shafqaat said law enforcement agencies had shared 22 threat alerts with the Balochistan administration related to processions marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), which will be observed on Saturday.

BNP-M, an ethnic Baloch nationalist party that campaigns for greater provincial autonomy and control over natural resources, is headed by former parliamentarian Sardar Akhtar Mengal and remains a key political force in Balochistan's majority-Baloch districts.

News in Brief

LONDON (The Independent) - America is split on whether Donald Trump's health and age are impacting his ability to serve as president, a new poll has found. Speculation over Trump's physical fitness during his second term has grown ever since photos of his swollen ankles and bruised hands, which are sometimes covered by makeup, began circulating online. Online rumors reached a fever pitch when Trump, 79, did not make a public appearance over the Labor Day weekend, aside from a brief sighting at his Virginia golf course Saturday.

In a YouGov survey conducted Tuesday, 38 percent of Americans said Trump's health and age "severely limit his ability to do the job" as president, while 21 percent said it had "little effect." On Monday, a former Biden administration aide, Meghan Hays, accused the Trump administration of not being transparent about the president's empty Labor Day weekend schedule.

BANGKOK (Reuters) - Thai politics were in chaos on Wednesday as the ruling Pheu Thai party said it had sought royal approval to dissolve the parliament for a new election, moments after the biggest group in the house said it would back another party to form a government. The chief whip of the Pheu Thai party, which last week suffered the loss of its prime minister, Paetongtarn Shinawatra. Paetongtarn's dismissal last Friday for an ethics violation triggered a scramble for power, with her Pheu Thai party racing to shore up a fragile coalition with a slender majority as its former alliance partner Bhumjaithai mounted a bold challenge to form its own government.

MONTREAL (AFP) -- More than 1,000 residents of Canada's vast and remote far north are under evacuation orders as forest fires rage in the drought-struck region. Canada is undergoing its second worst fire season in recent memory, with 8.3 million hectares (20.5 million acres) of forest — an area the size of Austria — scorched thus far. Fires are now threatening the towns of Fort Providence and Whiti in the Northwest Territories, prompting the first evacuations this year in the enormous area, where some land and large islands straddle the Arctic Circle.

MARSEILLE (AFP) -- French police on Tuesday killed a man suspected of stabbing five people in the southern port city of Marseille, one of whom is in critical condition, a public prosecutor said. The assailant, a Tunisian national with legal status in France, stabbed several people at a hotel that had just evicted him for non-payment, then attacked several others on a busy shopping street, prosecutor Nicolas Bessone told reporters. "It would appear that he blindly and gratuitously attempted to strike people," Bessone said. The man first stabbed his roommate, leaving the victim in critical condition, the prosecutor said. He then attacked the hotel's manager, who fled into the street along with his son, who was stabbed "in the back."

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- In a recent escalation in the southern Caribbean, the U.S. military killed 11 people during a strike on a Venezuelan vessel accused of carrying illegal narcotics, according to President Donald Trump. It marked the first known operation since the Trump administration deployed warships to the region, raising concerns over aggressive U.S. intervention near Venezuela's territorial waters. President Trump described the incident as a successful crackdown on drug trafficking, claiming the targeted boat was part of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, labeled a terrorist organization by the U.S. earlier this year. Trump further alleged that the gang is controlled by Venezuela's government under President Nicolás Maduro—a claim consistently denied by Caracas, which views such accusations as unfounded and politically motivated. Critics argue that this use of force reflects a pattern of U.S. military aggression aimed at destabilizing Venezuela under the guise of combating narcotics trafficking. The Venezuelan government maintains its sovereignty and condemns what it calls unlawful U.S. interference, calling for respect of international law and dialogue rather than militarized actions that risk escalating tensions in the region.

Drone, Missile Strikes Leave Thousands Without Power in Ukraine



Firefighters work at a site of an infrastructure object damaged by a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

KYIV (AFP) - Russian forces launched more than 500 drones and missiles at Ukraine in a large-scale attack that mainly targeted the west of the country and caused power outages, Ukrainian officials said Wednesday.

AFP journalists in Kyiv heard

explosions ringing out over the capital and air defense systems targeting Russian drones during the attack, which coincided with Vladimir Putin's visit to China.

The barrage also came as UK Defense Secretary John Healey arrived in Ukraine for talks on security co-

operation, according to his Ukrainian counterpart.

The head of the northern Cherniv region, Vyacheslav Chaus, said 30,000 people were left without electricity after drone strikes on "civilian infrastructure".

Ukraine's air force said Moscow had fired 502 drones and 24 missiles, while regional officials in the west of the country said several people were wounded and residential homes and civilian infrastructure were damaged.

"Three missiles and 69 strike drones hit in 14 locations, and the debris of downed projectiles fell in 14 locations," the air force added.

Officials in the Kirovograd region said four railway workers were wounded in the attack and that more than a dozen residential building were damaged.

Russia has fired almost nightly aerial drone and missile attacks on Ukraine since it launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, sparking the deadliest conflict in Europe since World War II.

force at EDF was on strike, a company spokesperson said.

In the gas sector, the industrial action at the Dunkirk LNG terminal has remained limited to a small impact on some work in progress, a spokesperson for Belgian gas terminal operator Fluxys said.

"There is no impact on the output flow rate, neither on ship unloading operations nor on the truck loading operations," the spokesperson said.

The Dunkirk LNG terminal is the second largest in continental Europe and the only terminal directly connected to two separate markets - Belgium and France - accounting for about 20% of both countries' annual gas consumption.

French Strike Cuts Electricity Production

PARIS (Reuters) - French utility EDF's electricity production was reduced by 2.7 gigawatts on Wednesday, data from the company showed, as workers lowered power output as part of industrial action in the power and gas sector focused on pensions and wages.

The action has so far been limited in scope, but demonstrations are expected to broaden in the coming weeks, reflecting the low approval ratings of the government, which faces a confidence vote on Monday.

Nuclear power production was reduced by 2.1 GW with four reactors affected and hydropower production was down 630 megawatts, the data showed.

The reductions at the Flamanville 1 and 2 reactors and the Dampierre 2 reactor are expected to last until late on Wednesday, while the Saint Alban 1 reactor is expected back online at 1300 GMT, EDF data showed.

France has 57 GW of total nuclear capacity, which produces about 70% of the country's annual electricity.

France is expected to remain a net power exporter throughout the day as electricity production from wind and solar made up nearly a third of total production while the disruptions were just 4.4% of overall supply, data from grid operator RTE showed.

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At midday, 3.7% of the total work-