

Methodology

What the Trump Global Weakness Watch tracks

This tracker systematically documents how the Trump administration's second-term decisions are shaping U.S. power on the global stage. It provides a structured, evidence-based record of actions that affect America's security, economic power, and global influence. The tracker is designed to support analysis, accountability, and public understanding by compiling concrete examples of policy decisions and their consequences over time.

Purpose and use

The Trump Global Weakness Watch is designed for policymakers, researchers, advocates, and the public. It serves as:

- A research tool for understanding policy impacts
- A resource for strategic communications and advocacy
- A documented record of how U.S. global standing is changing

By making these patterns visible, the tracker aims to support more informed debate about U.S. leadership—and what alternatives could strengthen it.

How entries are selected

Each entry captures a specific, verifiable action taken by the Trump administration—such as an executive order, policy decision, or official statement—on a clearly defined date.

Entries must:

- Focus on a single event tied to a specific date
- Be grounded in credible, publicly available sources
- Highlight how and why the action affects U.S. power
- Reflect a global dimension, including impacts on allies, adversaries, or international systems

How the tracker is organized

1. Weak points (core framework)

Every entry is categorized under one of four overarching themes:

- Weakening America's military and security
- Weakening economic power
- Weakening diplomatic power and global influence
- Losing ground to adversaries

These categories provide a consistent framework for understanding how different actions contribute to broader trends.

2. Policy domains (tagging system)

Entries are also tagged across multiple policy areas (e.g., defense, trade, China, Europe, climate, and development) to enable crosscutting analysis and issue-specific filtering.

How entries are written

Entries include:

- What happened (policy action)
- Who initiated it
- Why it matters—specifically how it weakens U.S. power or strengthens competitors

The emphasis is on specific, concrete effects, rather than generic claims.

Analytical approach

The tracker is not simply a list of events; it is designed to reveal patterns over time. By organizing individual actions within a shared framework, the tracker enables users to:

- Identify recurring trends across policy areas
- Understand how discrete decisions accumulate into broader shifts
- Compare impacts across security, economic, and diplomatic domains

This structure allows the tracker to function as both a real-time monitoring tool and a longitudinal record of policy and effects.

Update process

The tracker is updated approximately every two weeks to incorporate new developments and refine existing entries.

This regular update cycle ensures that the tracker remains:

- Current in capturing ongoing actions
- Consistent in format and analysis
- Responsive to evolving global dynamics