



US FOREIGN POLICY SHIFTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON BANGLADESH AND SOUTH ASIA'S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

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Overview : Shift from Globalist approach to Economic Protectionism

- On January 20, 2025, Donald J. Trump inaugurated as the 47th President of the United States, marking the beginning of his non-consecutive second term.
- Trump's policy of economic protectionism, trade restrictions, and alliance reassessment signals a major shift in U.S. global strategy, emphasizing nationalism and transactional relations.
- Since taking office, Trump has issued executive orders reversing Biden-era policies, signaling a sharp shift from the previous administration's globalist approach.

Stricter border security and immigration policies with national emergency declaration.



Withdrawal from Paris Climate Agreement and WHO affecting global collaboration.

Reinstatement of protectionist tariffs impacting global trade.



Though the rollback of DEI seems domestic, it will impact global human rights development.

Assessing The Power of the US President

- The U.S. political system balances power to prevent authoritarianism, with the Constitution dividing authority among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
- President's role in foreign policy: Treaty negotiations, military command, trade regulations, and diplomacy.
- Limits to power: Senate approval for treaties, Congressional checks, judicial review.
- Republican majority in both houses gives Trump leverage for policy shifts.
- Nevertheless, not all republicans are strong supporters of Donald Trump.
- Unlike South Asian political systems, they can vote against party leadership.
- However, Trump got popular support from Tech and Business Giants.



Trump's Tariff Decision: Impact on Economy and Geopolitics

Trump's Tariff Decision (Effective February 1, 2025) :

- 25% tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico.
- 10% tariffs on goods from China.
- Has broader economic and geopolitical consequences.

- Canada:
 - Rarely a challenge to US interests; tariffs seem politically motivated.
 - PM Justin Trudeau announces “forceful but reasonable” countermeasures.
 - Limited alternative markets for key exports like maple syrup.

- Mexico:
 - Plans to retaliate, escalating tensions across North America.
 - Justified as measures against illegal immigration and drug trafficking.
 - Also plans to retaliate by imposing counter tariffs.

- China:
 - Targeted for its dominance in technology and automotive sectors.
 - Tariffs aim to curb Chinese influence in the US market.
 - Strengthening trade ties with India and Indonesia to counter tariffs.



Trump's Tariff Decision: Impact on Economy and Geopolitics

- Broader Global Impact:

- European Union and global trading partners fear similar tariffs.
- Potential disruptions in supply chains and inflation risks.
- The liberal international world order is shifting towards a more fragmented, multipolar system, marked by declining unilateralism, economic fragmentation, and the increasing influence of emerging economies.

- Economic Consequences:

- Financial market destabilization due to economic uncertainty.
- Higher costs for American businesses and consumers.
- Tesla may benefit short-term, but buyers of Chinese cars like BYD will pay more.
- Possible Trump strategy to mitigate domestic economic impact.

- Geopolitical Consequences:

- Affected countries may seek new alliances.
- US influence in global markets could decline.
- Policies may accelerate the shift in global economic power away from the US.

Trump's NATO Strategy: Reshaping Alliances and Redefining Defense Burdens

NATO and European Security

- Trump insists NATO members must spend at least 2% of GDP on defense.
- Threatens to withdraw U.S. military protection for non-compliant allies.
- European nations reconsidering increased military spending and strategic autonomy.

NATO Restructuring

- No plans to dismantle NATO but aims for more balanced financial burden-sharing.
- Criticizes NATO's expansion, linking it to the Ukraine-Russia conflict.
- Uses defense spending as a bargaining tool, but expulsion of nations is unlikely.

Comparing Trump & Biden

- Trump's first term (2016-2020) saw **fewer direct military interventions** than Biden's.
- Labeling Trump as **less war-prone** than Biden oversimplifies foreign policy complexity.
- Both leaders pursued **different approaches to global diplomacy and security**.
- **Strategic influence and arms trade** continued under both administrations.
- Despite fewer conflicts, **arms trade and military partnerships remained active**.
- Trump prioritizes **business and strategic interests over diplomacy**.

Trump's Ukraine peace plan:

- Halts military aid if Ukraine refuses negotiations.
- Increases aid if Russia declines.



How will Trump's policies impact South Asia?

- Trump's early foreign policy doesn't prioritize South Asia.
- But the region holds major geopolitical importance due to its strategic location, economy, and security concerns.
- Increased tariffs disrupt global supply chains, reducing exports for South Asian economies dependent on U.S. markets.
- Stricter U.S. immigration policies may reduce South Asian workforce participation and remittances, while tighter visa restrictions could push students toward more welcoming countries for education.
- Potential security shifts with reduced US aid and defense cooperation.

U.S. aid freeze raises concerns across South Asia.

- Economic fragility increases vulnerability to funding cuts, worsening political and socio-economic challenges.
- Critical sectors impacted: Refugee management, public health, sanitation, and clean water access.
- Bangladesh's ICDDR,B heavily relies on foreign aid for health crisis management.
- Negative effects on women's empowerment, human rights, and overall development.
- Despite criticisms, the UN remains a key aid provider, supporting Bangladesh's stability and refugee assistance.



Navigating Challenges: The Future of U.S.-India Ties in a Trump Presidency



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

The idea that the BRICS Countries are trying to move away from the Dollar while we stand by and watch is OVER. We require a commitment from these Countries that they will neither create a new BRICS Currency, nor back any other Currency to replace the mighty U.S. Dollar or, they will face 100% Tariffs, and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful U.S. Economy. They can go find another "sucker!" There is no chance that the BRICS will replace the U.S. Dollar in International Trade, and any Country that tries should wave goodbye to America.

- **Strategic Partnership:** The U.S.-India alliance remains key to countering China's growing influence in Asia.
- **Realpolitik Over Personal Ties:** Despite media portrayals, Modi-Trump relations are driven by national interests, not personal rapport.
- **Evolving U.S. Stance on India:** The U.S. may adopt a more stringent stance on India's ambitions, complicating relations.
- **Immigration Friction:**
 - Strict U.S. immigration policies affecting Indian workers and students.
 - Deportation of Indian nationals has sparked political outrage in India.
- **Defense Tensions:**
 - U.S. pressure on India to reduce Russian arms imports and shift to American suppliers.
 - India's financial constraints make this transition uncertain.
- **Economic & Trade Concerns:**
 - Trump labeled India a "big abuser" of trade and raised concerns over the \$32 billion U.S. trade deficit.
 - Potential 100% tariffs on BRICS nations, including India, threaten bilateral trade.
- **Quad Partnership Stability:** The U.S.-India-Japan-Australia alliance remains strong despite economic tensions.
- **Future Challenges:** Despite strategic collaboration, India remains concerned about Trump's strict immigration policies and potential 100% tariffs on the BRICS bloc, including India.

Bangladesh at the Crossroads: Navigating Geopolitical Shifts and Strategic Challenges

- Bangladesh's strategic location in the Bay of Bengal signifies its importance amid US-China rivalry
- Post-Sheikh Hasina political shift impacting diplomatic relations.
- Bangladesh's economic reliance on exports to the US facing potential tariff barriers.
 - Declining US foreign investment and need for diversification.
- Balancing diplomatic relations with China, India, and the US.

- Strong history of US-Bangladesh security cooperation in maritime security and counterterrorism.
- US provided \$78.45 million in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) since 2014.
- Potential military modernization opportunities with US collaboration.
- Bangladesh's limited defense budget may constrain large-scale purchases.
- US interest in maintaining regional stability influencing security engagement.

Dr. Yunus, traditionally linked to Democrats, recently spoke with Elon Musk to explore collaboration and advance Starlink satellite internet in Bangladesh, highlighting the growing ties between Yunus and Republicans.



Will India's Media Campaign Against Bangladesh Impact US-BD relations?

- Indian media portraying Bangladesh's political transition as extremist-driven, some even claim the involvement of US.
- Misinformation aimed at protecting India's strategic influence in Bangladesh.
- US unlikely to endorse India's narrative due to focus on economic policies.
- Trump's focus on economic priorities reduces emphasis on anti-terrorism narratives.
- Economic and political stability remain top priorities for US-Bangladesh relations.

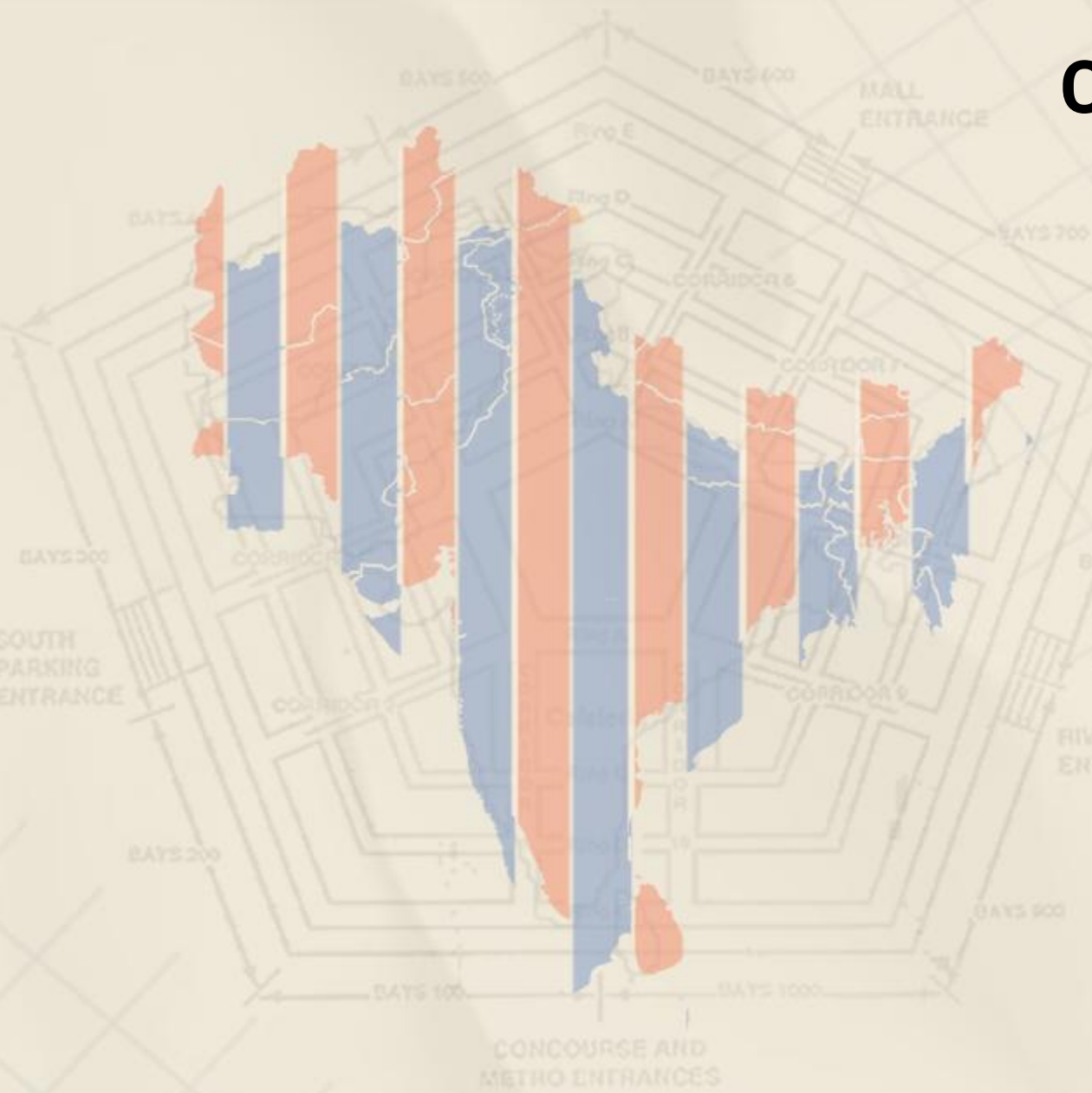
Fact-checks have consistently debunked most of these claims as baseless propaganda.

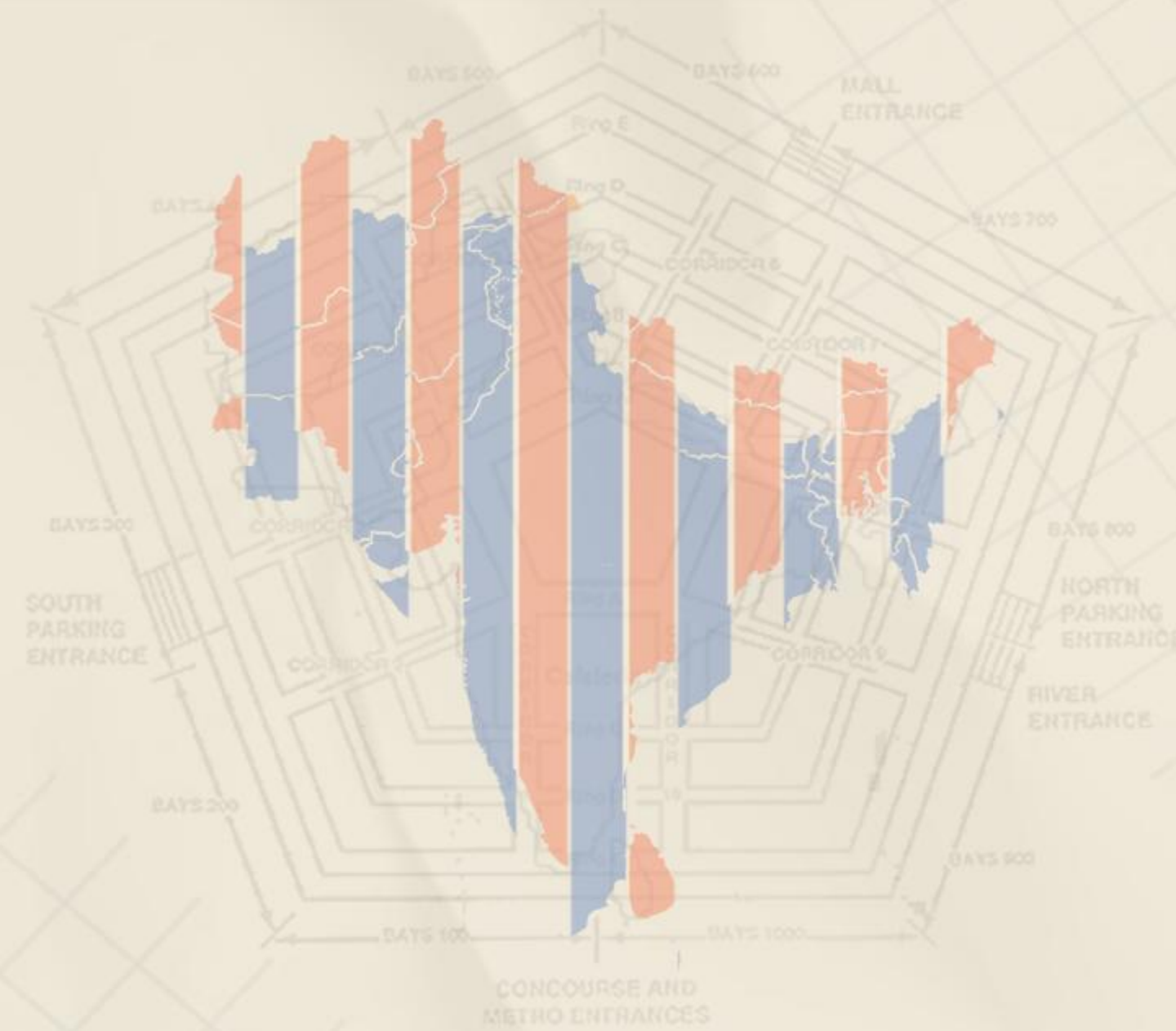


PM Modi expressed concern over recent developments in Bangladesh, while Trump denied any U.S. deep state involvement in the crisis.

Conclusion:

- The relationship between the U.S. and India will depend on how well India aligns with the pragmatic interests of the U.S.
- Pakistan's reliance on China diminishes U.S. influence in the region, while U.S.-Pakistan relations will be shaped by how Pakistan handles the Tehrik-e-Taliban.
- Bangladesh faces economic and political challenges but remains strategically significant for India, China, and the U.S.
- It will need to balance superpower influences to ensure economic stability.
- Stability in Bangladesh remains crucial for sustaining positive U.S. relations and investment in the region.
- The U.S. under Trump will prioritize economic engagement over ideological conflicts, emphasizing transactional diplomacy over long-term developmental commitments.





Thank You!

**You're cordially welcome for
your opinion.**