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# 10 Global Developments and Trends to Monitor in 2025

Prepared By

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# 1.) Russia/Ukraine

Although this war was mired in stagnation for most of 2024, Russia developed momentum using a strategy of overwhelming force, which has yielded moderate territorial gains in eastern Ukraine in recent months. Russian forces gained 4,168 sq km (1,600 sq mi) in Ukraine and Kursk Oblast (Russia), which resulted in casualties to be as high as an estimated 420,000 military personnel in 2024.

Russia's apparent disregard for losses amongst its own soldiers, munitions advantage due to support from Iran and North Korea, and increased use of drones have fueled this shift. Delays in the delivery of military aid from the US, persistent Ukrainian troop shortages, and

eroding global support, as well as a drop in domestic morale, have degraded Ukraine's position on the battlefield.

In 2025, in anticipation of a re-start of negotiations during the tenure of President-elect Trump, both sides will jockey for the best negotiating position that could afford each a claim to the greatest amount of land at material and human cost. Furthermore, Russia is likely to continue its campaign of hybrid-warfare against European countries supporting Ukraine by targeting critical infrastructure.



## 2.) United States

President-elect Trump, employing his signature rhetorical style, stated his intent to end the intense regional conflicts involving Ukraine and Israel quickly upon taking office.

It remains unclear exactly how he intends to resolve either conflict, yet his determination to do so has already tangibly transformed the calculus for all relevant parties in anticipation of him taking office in 2025.

Trump may be able to leverage his existing relationships with various world leaders, in concert with his spontaneous nature, to disrupt pre-established patterns of diplomatic engagement and force stakeholders into

making uncomfortable choices. Various other signature campaign promises such as stricter immigration policies, equalizing NATO funding commitments, and an expanded use of sanctions on bad state actors have the potential to realign the status quo.

Trump will undoubtedly have a notable effect on the geopolitical issues persisting from 2024 and new issues which will inevitably emerge; his actions and rhetoric should be closely followed after he takes office on 20 January.



### 3.) Mexico

In 2025, cartel violence will remain a critical issue, with Michoacan, Zacatecas, Jalisco, Colima, Guerrero, Guanajuato, Sinaloa, and Tamaulipas states projected to experience the highest levels of violence. These regions are strategic hubs for cartel operations, including drug trafficking, extortion, and control over illicit economies.

Violence in 2024 was driven by turf wars between dominant groups like the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) and the Sinaloa Cartel. Emerging splinter factions from the power vacuums created by the arrest or killing of cartel leaders also sparked violent power struggles. Mexico's new President, Claudia Sheinbaum, has pledged to implement a 'mano dura' (iron fist) approach

to combat cartel violence, marking a stark departure from her predecessor's 'hugs not bullets' strategy and signaling a future aggressive crackdown on organized crime.

President-elect Trump has placed pressure on Mexico to curb fentanyl production and trafficking, encouraging a militarization of the government's approach. Although punitive responses often exacerbate violence without addressing the root causes of insecurity, such as corruption, weak judicial systems, and lack of socioeconomic opportunities in cartel-dominated regions, they are perpetually popular with civilians experiencing the brunt of the violence.



## 4.) Israel/Hamas

The chances of implementing a ceasefire for the conflict in Gaza is higher than it has ever been. Hamas and Israel expressed optimism over agreement to a deal on 19 December 2024. However, both sides have accused the other of delaying the ceasefire by pressing for certain demands, such as Israel demanding an occupied buffer zone between the Gaza-Israel border and control along the Philadelphi Corridor between Gaza and Egypt.

Renewed hope for a deal follows the partial disintegration of Iran's Axis of Resistance, a combination of the Assad regime in Syria, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and other Shia militant proxy groups in the region. Following the ouster of Assad in Syria and Hezbollah's dramatic

losses in its conflict with Israel, Iran has lost much of its leverage and capabilities in the region that could assist Hamas.

Conversely, fighting between Israel and Hamas has recently intensified in Northern Gaza, demonstrating Hamas maintains operational capabilities and the ability to reconstitute, remaining a threat to Israel. Netanyahu has stated he intends to resume the war in Gaza once a short-term cease fire ends, potentially delaying the possibility of any long-term agreement and prolonging the conflict in 2025.



## 5.) Syria

Hay 'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) is now in control of the majority of Syria and will face several challenges in 2025. Despite assurance from HTS that they have cut ties with Islamist extremist groups and intend to protect all minorities, there are concerns the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) could take advantage of the transition; sectarian violence is already occurring.

Conflicts between the US backed, Kurdish-led Syrian Defense Force (SDF) and the Turkish backed Syrian National Army (SNA) in Northern Syria show no sign of abating. HTS is currently in negotiations with the SDF, but if diplomatic efforts should fail, HTS could be prompted to join Turkey and the SNA in attacking

the SDF – complicating relations with the US. After the collapse of the Assad regime, Israel began striking much of Syria's military infrastructure and invaded parts of Southeastern Syria, creating a new buffer zone.

HTS has called for the international community to condemn this occupation and promised not to allow attacks on Israel from Syrian soil but has not moved to counter the invasion.



## 6.) Afghanistan/Pakistan

In 2025, the diplomatic relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan is likely to experience a realignment due to the actions of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). While Pakistan has traditionally been an ally of the Taliban in Afghanistan, this relationship has become increasingly strained due to the Taliban tacitly allowing the TTP – which targets the Pakistani state – to operate and launch attacks from within Afghanistan.

In response, Pakistan has intensified airstrikes on suspected TTP hideouts in Afghanistan, and the Taliban have responded by initiating border skirmishes with the Pakistani military. This exchange of hostilities could escalate and further destabilize both countries to both

their detriments. It remains unlikely either side wants to expend significant resources on this conflict.

However, Pakistan has an incentive now to back groups within Afghanistan, which can confront the Taliban, thereby indirectly putting pressure on the Taliban to clamp down on TTP activity in Afghanistan. Such a decision could produce an entirely new normative paradigm. In the meantime, Pakistan is liable to carry out more airstrikes and ground operations along the border with Afghanistan to combat the TTP.



## 7.) Georgia

The October 2024 national election has been one of the most closely watched European elections due to reported electoral irregularities, persistent civil unrest in the aftermath, and recent allegations of the arbitrary arrest of opposition politicians.

The stance of the ruling Georgia Dream Party is emblematic of other pro-Russian political parties in Eastern Europe, displaying increasingly authoritarian behavior.

The enduring citizen protest movement, in opposition to closer relations with Russia at the expense of European Union (EU) membership, has remained consistent in the capital, Tbilisi, since October 2024 and has drawn comparisons to the color revolution.

The situation in Georgia should be monitored as a bellwether for the broader shifts of democratic backsliding and Russian influence in the Central-Eastern European theater in 2025.





## 8.) Bolivia

Political turmoil plagued Bolivia during 2024 due to a split in the ruling Movement for Socialism (MAS) party that occurred between President Luis Arce and ex-President Evo Morales. Arce was Morales' handpicked successor. However, their relationship has soured to the detriment of the overall security landscape. Morales cites the economic downturn as his motivation to return and run against Arce in the 2025 election.

Violence erupted in September 2024 after a protest march by Morales's supporters clashed with Arce supporters near the capital La Paz. A subsequent alleged assassination attempt against Morales on the road while traveling has increased polarization. Facing legal

troubles and citing a fear of government persecution, Morales retreated and has sought refuge among the Indigenous communities that form his strong base of support.

Considering the failing economy, and the tension between Morales' and Arce's supporters, street protests and violent clashes are likely to escalate in the lead up to, during and after the election set to take place on 10 August 2025.



## 9.) Myanmar

The ongoing civil war will continue to be a focal point of geopolitical concern for Asia. Myanmar's resistance forces, including the People's Defense Force (PDF) and ethnic armed groups, have reportedly gained control over 60% of the country's territory, posing a significant challenge to the military junta.

This has shifted the balance of power; with many analysts predicting the resistance forces may eventually succeed in overpowering the junta. China's economic and strategic interests in Myanmar are at stake as the resistance movement's control over key territory threatens the stability of projects and investments under the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) and

Chinese access to the Indian Ocean. Reports indicate China is exploring means to support the military junta indirectly, including the establishment of a "joint security company" between Chinese private security contractors and Myanmar's military.

While direct intervention by China remains unlikely, it could escalate its involvement through private military companies (PMCs) or logistical support, mirroring strategies China has employed in other regions to protect its overseas interests.



## 10.) Corporate Risk Environment

In 2025, the corporate risk environment will be heightened, despite a decrease in nationwide violent crime rates for the US during 2024.

After the public assassination of the United Healthcare CEO in New York City, existentialist anti-capitalist and anti-establishment sentiment exploded in the online sphere. This is especially concerning because the Internet is where most domestic violent extremists are radicalized now.

Additionally, the danger posed to employees and executives abroad by hostile governments, who utilize arbitrary detention to pressure their corporate partners

into fulfilling regime demands, was highlighted this year globally by multiple authoritarian administrations. Executives of industries tied to the Western military industrial complex are also likely to remain the target of hybrid warfare from foreign adversaries through assassination plots.

Businesses should reexamine their security protocols to ensure there are no gaps and exercise caution when in unfamiliar environments or at high profile public events.

### About Prosegur

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