



Geopolitical Journal

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Geopolitical Headlines

ISIL/Iraq/Syria

- President Obama announced the deployment of 475 military personnel to Iraq on Wednesday night to assist airstrikes that have the intent to destroy the terrorist organization known as ISIL or the Islamic State. The announcement comes after recent diplomatic energy spent by the President and Secretary of State Hagel to secure a coalition of nations to support combating ISIL, a group that is viewed with scorn by all nations and sects in the region. The President mentioned that involvement into Syria was possible, a sign of escalation.

[NBC's Richard Engel Takes Down President Obama's Strategy](#), Brett Logiurato, Business Insider
[Obama at War](#), Fred Kaplan, Slate

Scottish Referendum

- On September 18th the citizens of Scotland head to the polls to decide if they wish to separate from their union with Great Britain. An independent Scotland was viewed as a remote possibility months ago yet according to recent polls the odds of a break up are now even. The momentum is inspiring devolution efforts in other parts of the Continent, notably in Catalonia, Spain. An autonomous Scottish nation brings up major questions on matters such as currency and monetary policy, agreeing on national debt levels, allocating oil rights, EU membership and a potential inclusion into NATO.

[Scotland's Fateful Choice](#), Financial Times Editorial
[Ten Questions About That Scottish Independence Vote](#), John Cassidy, New Yorker
[Credit Suisse Warns Against Scottish Independence](#), Joe Weisenthal, Business Insider

Hong Kong

- China has stifled the hopes of full democratization in Hong Kong elections ruling that candidates for a 2017 poll will be thoroughly vetted and approved first by the mainland Communist Party. The details in the announcement by the Party tightened the odds that a liberal reformer will be on the ballot. Democracy protesters, known as Occupy Central, have threatened to shut down Hong Kong, including its financial center.

[Hong Kong: Voting With Their Feet](#), Financial Times

Russia/Ukraine

- Ukraine and Russia agreed to a ceasefire on September 5th. President Poroshenko stated that the majority of Russian troops have left the troubled areas. The Ukrainian President plans to submit legislation to allow more autonomy to eastern regions, such as Donetsk, within the next week. The EU and US have agreed to new sanctions against Russia and hope additional pressure will discipline Russia into ensuring that a peace agreement is reached.

Argentina

- The Congress in Argentina has passed a law to convert the jurisdiction of its outstanding debt instruments inside its borders. Creditors are not pleased with the move and do not possess a lot of interest in participating in such a swap. Argentina's foreign reserves are dwindling.

India

- PM Modi has engaged in direct diplomacy with leaders from Japan and Australia over the past two weeks. Deals with both nations have secured new trade agreements, access to nuclear fuel and warmer relations overall. The Indian leader will also host Xi Jinping of China to discuss border disputes and general diplomatic relations.

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