

USA OUTLOOK

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 16 TO NOVEMBER 20

www.amchamguate.com

/amchamguate @AmchamGT Amcham Guatemala Amcham Guatemala AmChamGT

NOVEMBER 16, 2026



Photo: NY TIMES

Trump Nominates Budget Deputy for Nonpartisan Federal Watchdog Role

President Trump has nominated Eric M. Ueland, a senior official at the White House Office of Management and Budget, to lead the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the federal watchdog responsible for monitoring government spending and ensuring compliance with congressional laws. If confirmed, Ueland would serve a 15-year term, placing an administration ally in charge of an agency that has repeatedly identified legal violations by the Trump administration.

The nomination has drawn strong criticism from Democrats, who question Ueland's independence given his close ties to Budget Director Russell Vought. The GAO has previously ruled that the administration illegally withheld congressionally approved funds, raising concerns that its oversight role could be weakened under new leadership.

Democrats have also questioned whether the nomination followed the traditional bipartisan selection process and accused Republicans of rushing confirmation. The appointment could affect congressional oversight and the balance of power between the legislative and executive branches as Democrats prepare to regain control of Congress.

Source:
https://www.nytimes.com/2026/11/16/business/trump-gao-watchdog-nominee-eric-ueland.html

NOVEMBER 17, 2026

As Trump and Xi Mingle, Their Governments Are Arming Up

Despite the friendly public relationship between Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping, the United States and China continue to strengthen economic and technological restrictions against each other. Washington has proposed limiting China's access to advanced AI chips, while Beijing is expanding controls on strategic technologies, critical materials and foreign investment, increasingly framing these measures as national security priorities.

China is using its dominance in manufacturing and critical supply chains to counter U.S. restrictions, tightening export controls on rare earths and technologies related to AI, biotechnology and solar energy. Meanwhile, Washington is considering broader limits on American investment in China's technology sectors.

Although both governments have extended a temporary trade truce, tensions remain over semiconductors, artificial intelligence and critical minerals. The growing restrictions are deepening economic separation and creating uncertainty for multinational companies and global supply chains.

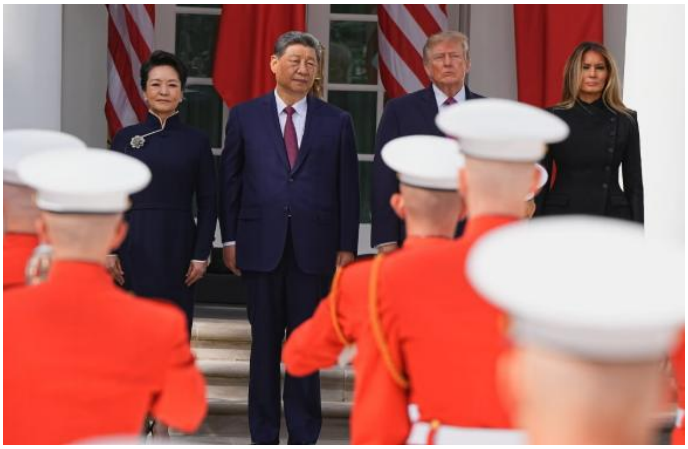


Photo: NYTIMES

Source:
https://www.nytimes.com/2026/11/17/business/trump-xi-meeting-tensions.html

NOVEMBER 18, 2026



Photo: NY TIMES

Economic and Political Uncertainty Will Be Focus of DealBook Summit

The 2026 DealBook Summit takes place amid growing economic and political uncertainty following the U.S. midterm elections, which shifted the balance of power in Washington. Discussions will focus on whether the Democratic victory will bring greater corporate oversight, particularly of Big Tech, and how policymakers will address concerns over the cost of living and the expansion of data centers.

Business leaders and investors are also questioning the sustainability of the artificial intelligence rally following recent market volatility and Nvidia's leadership changes. These developments have raised concerns about the future pace of investment and dealmaking in the technology sector.

The summit will bring together prominent business and political figures, including European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Vice President JD Vance, and New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani. AI will be a central topic in discussions with OpenAI executives Sam Altman and Greg Brockman, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, and Elon Musk.

Source:
https://www.nytimes.com/2026/11/18/business/dealbook/dealbook-summit-what-to-watch.html

NOVEMBER 19, 2026

Behind Trump Meeting, Xi and Putin Share a Vision of Usurping U.S. Power

Donald Trump, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin held their first formal trilateral summit in Shenzhen, highlighting efforts by China and Russia to challenge U.S. global influence. Xi and Putin share a historical grievance over American dominance since the Cold War and view current geopolitical changes as an opportunity to reshape the international order.

China and Russia have strengthened their strategic partnership, with Beijing providing Moscow economic and technological support throughout the war in Ukraine. This includes purchases of Russian oil and exports of critical components used by its defense industry, despite China's claims of neutrality. Their cooperation reflects a shared interest in reducing U.S. and Western influence.

However, some limits remain, particularly regarding military assistance and energy agreements. The summit also highlighted the different political horizons of the three leaders: while Trump has a limited time in office, Xi and Putin could remain in power for years, allowing their strategic partnership to continue beyond the current U.S. administration.



Photo: NYTIMES

Source:
https://www.nytimes.com/2026/11/19/world/asia/xi-putin-trump-meeting-china-russia.html



Photo: NYTIMES

Is There Room for Ron DeSantis in a Post-Trump World? He Seems to Think So.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has not ruled out running for president in 2028, although he insists it is too early to make a decision. He believes potential Republican candidates should wait for greater clarity on the political and economic landscape before launching their campaigns. As he prepares to leave office in January, he is also considering other options, including establishing a conservative think tank or pursuing opportunities on the public speaking circuit.

DeSantis argues that the Republican Party must build on Donald Trump's political movement, whom he continues to recognize as the party's dominant figure, while adapting its message to voters' changing priorities. He believes the next Republican presidential nominee must capitalize on Trump's achievements while addressing emerging concerns, rather than focusing primarily on cultural issues. He also anticipates that continued Democratic control of Congress could create challenges for the next administration.

However, a potential presidential comeback faces significant internal challenges. Despite his influence in Florida, recent elections exposed divisions within the state Republican Party, declining support among lawmakers, and strained relationships with key figures in Trump's political circle. DeSantis acknowledged that he did not actively support several Republican candidates during the latest election cycle. His ability to rebuild party alliances and position himself as a competitive candidate in a post-Trump political environment remains uncertain.

Source:

https://www.nytimes.com/2026/11/20/us/politics/ron-desantis-florida-2028.html