



**MONTHLY
GEOPOLITICAL
POLICY BRIEF**

EDITION: JULY 2025

**INFRASTRUCTURE, DATA,
AND STRATEGIC AUTONOMY**

**GLOBAL POLICY INTELLIGENCE UNIT
THE SIXTEENTH COUNCIL**

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Monthly Geopolitical Policy Brief

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Audience: Policymakers · Diplomats · Think Tanks ·
Business Leaders

Edition Theme: Infrastructure, Data, and Strategic
Autonomy

I. MENA REGION

SYRIA–UAE: Tartous Port Redevelopment Deal

In July 2025, Syria signed an \$800 million agreement with UAE-based DP World to redevelop the Tartous Port—marking one of the most substantial post-conflict infrastructure investments in the country.

Key Implications:

- If executed, the port could reposition Syria as a critical Eastern Mediterranean transit hub linking Asia, Europe, and Africa.
- Security and operational risks remain high due to terrorist activity, internal strife, and Israeli airstrikes.
- The agreement signals cautious but strategic Gulf economic re-engagement in the Levant.

Strategic Outlook:

Limited near-term impact expected. However, successful delivery could reconfigure regional logistics and catalyze further investment—conditional on political stabilization.

II. AFRICA

Regional Agrifood Transformation Framework Adopted

In April 2025, African policymakers launched a continental framework to develop sustainable, climate-resilient agrifood systems through public-private collaboration and regional alignment.

Key Implications:

- Targets food insecurity and climate vulnerability through innovation, infrastructure, and coordinated subsidies.
- Encourages national policy alignment and supports the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) objectives.
- Requires strong implementation partnerships with multilateral institutions and impact investors.

Strategic Outlook:

Afoundational, long-term transformation effort. East and West African nations leading implementation may emerge as agri-innovation corridors.

III. UNITED STATES

Draft American Privacy Rights Act (APRA)

The proposed APRA legislation aims to establish a national privacy standard, consolidating and replacing state-level data laws like the CCPA.

Key Implications:

- Introduces explicit opt-in requirements for biometric, genetic, and other sensitive personal data.
- Limits targeted advertising without prior consent.
- Elevates compliance costs and governance standards for digital platforms, advertisers, and health-tech firms.

Strategic Outlook:

If passed, APRA would place the U.S. among the world's strictest data regulators. Global firms will need to overhaul data strategies and adjust cross-border data flow mechanisms.

IV. EUROPEAN UNION

EU Artificial Intelligence Act (AIA) Formally Approved

The EU's landmark AI regulation has been enacted, creating the world's first comprehensive legal framework for artificial intelligence systems.

Key Implications:

- Categorizes AI systems by risk tier; mandates conformity, transparency, and human oversight for high-risk use cases.
- Requires non-EU companies serving EU users to establish local representation and undergo compliance audits.
- Raises legal ambiguity around frontier models such as autonomous agents and generative AI.

Strategic Outlook:

Sets a global precedent for AI governance. Jurisdictions including Canada, Brazil, and ASEAN may adopt similar principles. Firms unable to comply face exclusion from the EU market.

Conclusion

This edition highlights a pivotal shift in global power dynamics, as governments and institutions increasingly prioritize infrastructure sovereignty, data protection, and AI governance as levers of strategic autonomy. From port redevelopment in the Middle East to continent-wide agrifood frameworks in Africa, national and regional actors are reasserting control over critical systems that underpin economic resilience and geopolitical relevance. Meanwhile, landmark regulations in the U.S. and EU signal a new era of digital rulemaking with global ramifications. For policymakers, diplomats, and business leaders, early engagement with these evolving frameworks is essential—not only to navigate emerging compliance regimes, but to influence standards, secure long-term advantage, and safeguard national and corporate interests in an era of accelerating technological and geopolitical convergence.

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