



GLOBAL DIGEST  
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# Executive Summary

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Global Guardian sees a worsening geopolitical landscape in Q3 marred by persisting threats – Iran and the Persian Gulf, Venezuela, Sudan and Mexico – as well as evolving threats from Brexit and the Hong Kong protests that are rife with uncertainty. What is certain is the pillars of post WWII Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the European integration project are beginning to crack – the global economy is slowing with low interest rates across the horizon and international shipping is under siege (Black Sea and Strait of Hormuz). The following is a deeper look at key issues affecting Europe and the MENA region.



## EUROPE – MOUNTING PROBLEMS FROM THE EAST AND WEST

On 24 July, Boris Johnson became the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK), promising to lead the British people out of the European Union (EU) by 31 October. With his highly split Conservative Party, Mr. Johnson is charting the UK towards a hard Brexit holding tightly to a razor thin majority in parliament (321/320). On the one hand, either a no-confidence vote or snap elections could run the risk of bringing Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party into a ruling coalition. A Labour government would pose serious risks to the British free-market and its divergent foreign policy orientation would significantly damage the transatlantic alliance. On the other hand, setting aside macro risk, if the UK leaves Europe, it is possible that Scotland and Northern Ireland will leave the UK.

To the east, Turkey's purchase of the Russian-made S-400 air defense system, in conjunction with its regional adventurism and democratic backslide could render it a NATO member in name only. If the US moves forward with sanctioning Turkey, Turkey may opt to leave NATO or deny NATO access to its airbases. Incirlik Air Base is critical for ongoing US missions in the Middle East. It houses US nuclear assets and maintains key radar installations. The likely fragmentation of these key elements of the European political system could constitute the most significant geopolitical changes to Europe in the last decade.

## MENA – REGIONAL COMPETITION CONTINUES TO DESTABILIZE FRAGILE STATES



Source: <https://www.businessinsurance.com/article/20190110/story/912326068/middle-east-reinsurance-capacity-is-lacking>

While Iran's subversive regional activity (in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen) continues to make headlines, another regional power struggle has reemerged between the Islamist-bloc consisting of Turkey, Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood and the counter-revolutionary bloc of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. Backed by the counter-revolutionary bloc, General Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA) began an offensive to take Tripoli from the Islamist-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) in April. With over 1,000 casualties, the warring parties are nearing a stalemate. However, given the high degree of external involvement, a more robust foreign-led air campaign is increasingly likely. The negative consequences of this new chapter of the Libyan Civil War could include another refugee crisis in Southern Europe, the creation of a new Islamist militant haven, instability in Egypt, and the horizontal proliferation of heavy weaponry to regional terrorist groups.

Meanwhile, in post-coup Sudan, the Transitional Military Council (TMC) is firmly in control of the country with help from the counter-revolutionary bloc. Led by Mohamed Hamdan "Hemeti" Dagolo, the chief of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the military junta has brutally suppressed the pro-democracy movement. What remains to be seen is whether Turkey and Qatar will intervene and tip the scale towards another civil war in the already war-torn region.

## CONTACT US

Please contact the 24/7 Global Guardian Operations Center at any time with questions or comments on this special report, or for any travel security need.

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