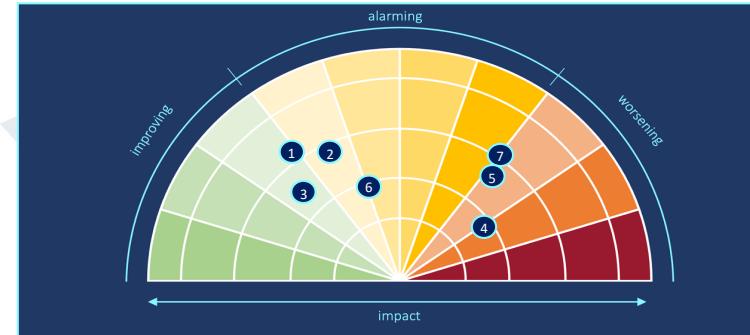
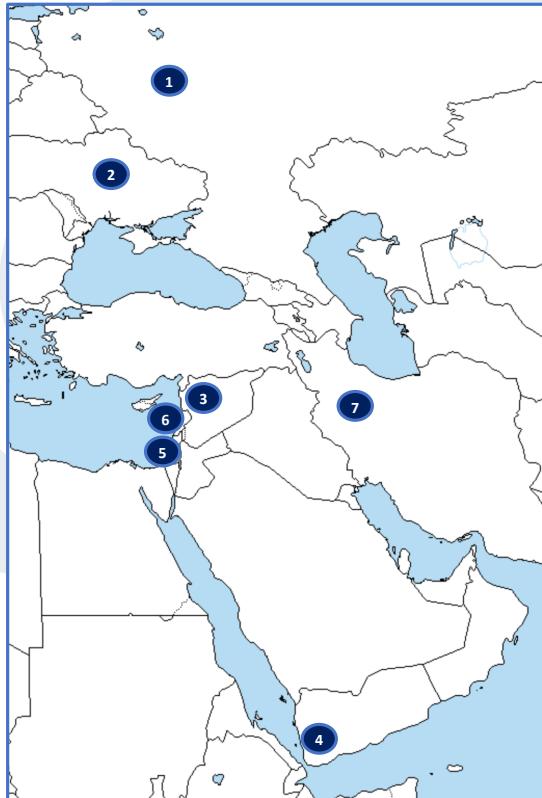




# Owl Eye to Strategic Hotspots

30 April 2025  
ICOD: 29/04/2025



Hot Spots	Now what?	Then what?	Now what?	Then what? (90)
Russia-NATO ①	Resilience	Likely de-escalation	De-escalatory	Alarming
Ukraine-Russia ②	Attrition War – Resilience Peace efforts	The US commitment, European position/commitment Internal cohesion,	De-escalatory	Alarming
Syria ③	Promising but fragile	The future of PKK/YPG/SDF, ISR Threat Perception	De-escalatory	De-escalatory
Yemen-Houthi ④	Prudence vs assertiveness	Connected to Gaza Ceasefire	Escalatory	Escalatory
Israel-Palestine ⑤	Humanitarian disaster	IDF effectiveness	Escalatory	Alarming
Israel-Lebanon ⑥	Ceasefire	Implementation of the ceasefire	De-escalatory	De-escalatory
Israel-Iran ⑦	Diplomacy over military	Subject to escalation,	Alarming	De-escalatory



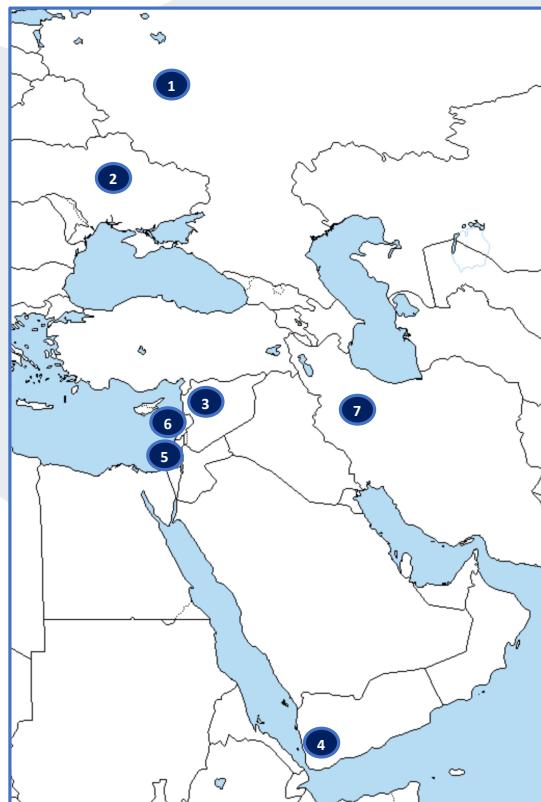
Fusion4Strategy

[www.fusion4strategy.com](http://www.fusion4strategy.com)



# Owl Eye to Strategic Hotspots

30 April 2025  
ICOD: 29/04/2025



Hot Spots	Now what?	Then what?	Now what?	Then what? (90)	Key Uncertainties
<b>Russia-NATO</b>	Resilience	Likely de-escalation	<b>De-escalatory</b>	<b>Alarming</b>	Trans-Atlantic relations, trust gap European solidarity Resilience of Europe
<b>Ukraine-Russia</b>	Attrition War – Resilience Peace efforts	The US commitment, European position/commitment	<b>De-escalatory</b>	<b>Alarming</b>	Resilience of UKR/RUS
<b>Syria</b>	Promising but fragile	Internal cohesion, The future of PKK/YPG/SDF, ISR Threat Perception	<b>De-escalatory</b>	<b>De-escalatory</b>	Internal cohesion – federalism/unitary The future of PKK/YPG ISR's threat perception
<b>Yemen-Houthi</b>	Prudence vs assertiveness Escalation with escalation	Connected to Gaza Ceasefire Iran's commitment	<b>Escalatory</b>	<b>Escalatory</b>	Capability and capacity Resilience
<b>Israel-Palestine</b>	Humanitarian disaster IDF inability to eliminate Continued sporadic attacks Keeping hostages	IDF effectiveness	<b>Escalatory</b>	<b>Alarming</b>	IDF effectiveness and ISR resilience Hamas' fighting capacity The process of de-Iranification
<b>Israel-Lebanon</b>	Ceasefire	Implementation of the ceasefire	<b>De-escalatory</b>	<b>De-escalatory</b>	Hezbollah's fighting capacity The process of de-Iranification
<b>Israel-Iran</b>	Diplomacy over military	Subject to escalation,	<b>Alarming</b>	<b>De-escalatory</b>	The outcome of nuclear talks Resilience and capacity to retaliate
<b>Implications of global factors:</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The US prefers disengagement from the ME and the War in Ukraine, and focus on CHN</li> <li>CHN prefers the prolongation of US engagement in the ME, in UKR, and keep the US distracted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distant and indirect engagement</li> </ul> </li> <li>ISR's ability to keep the US engaged in the ME is a key factor, but ISR's gains at the expense of the US loss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ISR's ambitions pushes the US to lose its energy, and the US is in discontent with ISR ambitions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					



# Owl Eye to Strategic Landscape

30 April 2025  
ICOD: 29/04/2025

## Ukraine – alarming / de-escalatory

- NATO – resilience?
  - De-couple Russia and Ukraine
  - De-couple the US and Europe
- Russia – great power status?
  - From great power to regional power
  - Revert from 'far abroad' to 'near abroad' strategy

## Arctic: alarming / escalatory

- The Geopolitical Frontier – TRUMP 2.0 focus
- Northern Sea Route
- Expanding military infrastructure
- Critical and Rare-earth materials

## Indo-pacific: alarming / escalatory

- Pivot to Global Strategy – TRUMP 2.0 focus
- Rare-earth materials
- Tech-driven competition

## Latin America: alarming / escalatory

- Migration and drug-trafficking
- Geoeconomic competition – TRUMP 2.0 focus
- Rare-earth materials
- Offshore Balancing

## Africa: alarming / alarming

- Geopolitical competition
- Development – security nexus
- Terrorism & instability
- Natural resources

## Middle East – de-escalatory/alarming

- From **de-proxification** of Iran to **de-Iranification** of the ME
  - The quest for post-American vs post-Iranian ME
- ISR –Arab peace
  - Are Arab countries becoming more vulnerable to the US influence?
  - Narrowed space for China and Iran – loss of balancing/leveraging



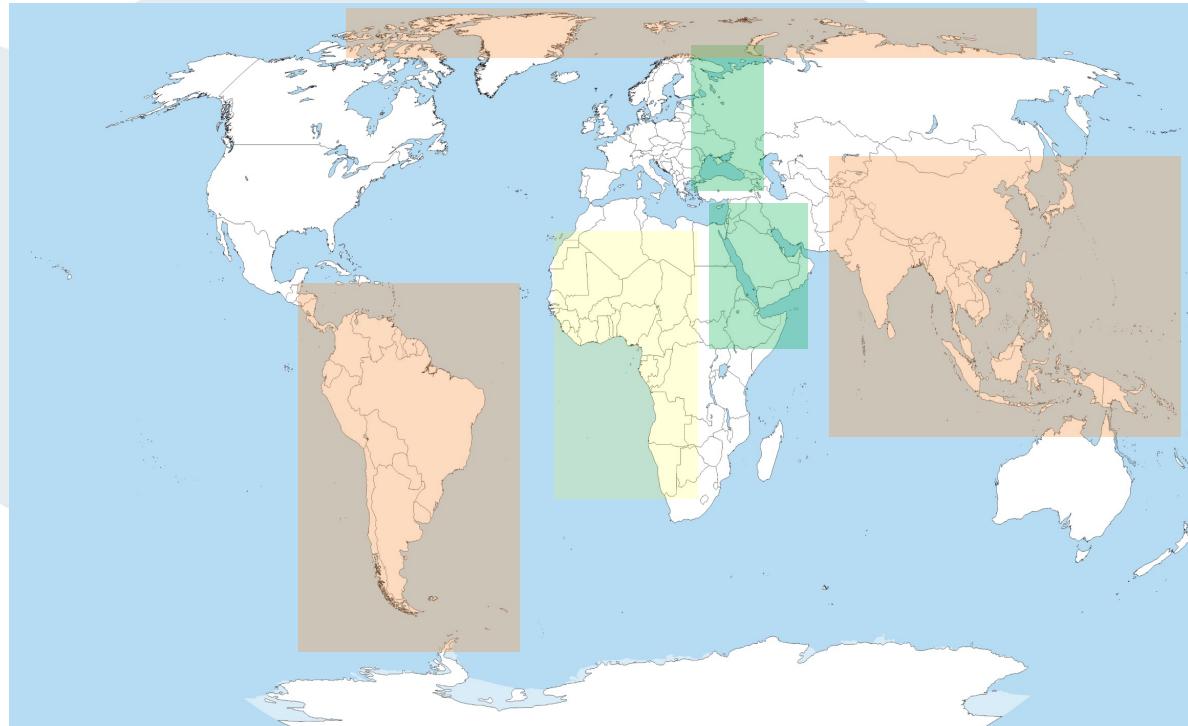
Fusion4Strategy

[www.fusion4strategy.com](http://www.fusion4strategy.com)



# Owl Eye to Strategic Landscape

30 April 2025  
ICOD: 29/04/2025



## Key Takeaways

### Geostrategic shift

- From the old-world to the new world

### TRUMP 2.0

- Changing the ground rules
- New and novel theoretical perspectives
- Reinterpreting strategy
  - Ends: New-new world order
  - Means: non-military and military (novel)

### Strategic foresight (Owl Eye) is vital to

- navigate uncertainty
- calibrate strategy
- extract competitive advantages



# What have we delivered?

**Escalation Barometer (March 2025)**

Hot Spots: Russia - NATO (1), Ukraine - Russia (2), Syria (3), Yemen - Houthi (4)

**Escalation Barometer (March 2025)**

Hot Spots: Israel - Palestine (1), Israel - Lebanon (6), Israel - Iran (7)

Key Trends: What to Monitor, What to Expect, What to Expect

What to Expect: What to Expect

**Fusion4Strategy**

[www.fusion4strategy.com](http://www.fusion4strategy.com)

## Monthly Escalation Barometer

- 7 geopolitical hotspots that are still volatile,
- Each hot spot is tracked through three subtitles: significant developments, what to monitor, and what to expect
- All hotspots are visualized in a barometer along with their escalatory/de-escalatory trajectory

Fusion4Strategy Assessment offers you with an overall assessment of the current trajectory and provides foresight to cover the likely direction of developments.

**Escalation Baro** Weekly Update (15-21 April 2025)

Hot Spots: Russia - NATO (1)

**Escalation Barometer (March 2025)**

Hot Spots: Israel - Palestine (1), Israel - Lebanon (6), Israel - Iran (7)

Key Trends: What to Monitor, What to Expect, What to Expect

What to Expect: What to Expect

**Fusion4Strategy**

[www.fusion4strategy.com](http://www.fusion4strategy.com)

## 3 x Weekly Updates on Escalation Barometer

- Identification of key developments that will be followed up with 'what to monitor' for each hotspot.
- It provides you with a comprehensive update on the latest developments,
- An updated weekly assessment of how key developments may change the trajectory, refining our foresight.

The visual barometer allows you to see the overall escalatory and de-escalatory trends.

Fusion4Strategy continue to expand its reach out with positive feedbacks from our esteemed clients.

Below you can find out samples of our basic pack products which are tailored to enhance your understanding of geopolitical hotspots.

The insights will provide you with a more in-depth analysis of specific topics.

If you haven't subscribed yet, we encourage you to reconsider your decision. [info@fusion4strategy.com](mailto:info@fusion4strategy.com)

Checkout our subscription plans from <https://www.fusion4strategy.com/plans-and-prices>

**Fusion4Strategy**

[www.fusion4strategy.com](http://www.fusion4strategy.com)

**Hypersonic BMs: escalatory or de-escalatory?**

**Key Takeaways:**

- Russia and Iran allegedly developed hypersonic ballistic missiles (HBM) for the first time in April, demonstrating their strategic significance in modern warfare.
- The US has reportedly developed its own hypersonic missiles, including the Avangard, which is capable of bypassing missile defense systems.
- Both sides are engaged in a hypersonic arms race, with Russia and Iran reportedly increasing their capabilities and threatening to use them in future conflicts.
- The US has reportedly developed its own hypersonic missiles, including the Avangard, which is capable of bypassing missile defense systems.
- Both sides are engaged in a hypersonic arms race, with Russia and Iran reportedly increasing their capabilities and threatening to use them in future conflicts.
- The US has reportedly developed its own hypersonic missiles, including the Avangard, which is capable of bypassing missile defense systems.
- Both sides are engaged in a hypersonic arms race, with Russia and Iran reportedly increasing their capabilities and threatening to use them in future conflicts.

**Iran-Houthi Relations and other Proxies in the post-Assad Era**

**Key Takeaways:**

- Iran's relationship with the Houthi rebels remains a key factor in the conflict in Yemen.
- Iran has provided military and political support to the Houthi rebels, including training and equipment.
- The US and Saudi Arabia have reportedly increased their military operations against the Houthi rebels in Yemen.
- Iran's position in post-Assad Syria is also a key factor, with the US and Saudi Arabia reportedly increasing their military operations against the Houthi rebels in Syria.
- The US and Saudi Arabia have reportedly increased their military operations against the Houthi rebels in Syria.
- Iran's position in post-Assad Syria is also a key factor, with the US and Saudi Arabia reportedly increasing their military operations against the Houthi rebels in Syria.

**The U.S. - Iran Talks: Implications for Regional and Global Stability**

**Key Takeaways:**

- With the aim of normalizing relations between the United States and Iran, a framework for a nuclear deal has been reached.
- The deal aims to limit Iran's nuclear program, while also providing economic relief to Iran.
- The deal is seen as a significant step towards regional stability, as it could reduce tensions between the US and Iran.
- The deal is seen as a significant step towards regional stability, as it could reduce tensions between the US and Iran.
- The deal is seen as a significant step towards regional stability, as it could reduce tensions between the US and Iran.

## 2 x Insights per month

In 2025, we have covered:

- Hypersonic BMs: escalatory or de-escalatory?
- What is next for Russia in post-Assad Syria?
- The Role of PKK/YPG in post-Assad Syria?
- The War in Ukraine: Implications of an Unprecedented Shift
- Iran's Position in Post-Assad Syria: Capabilities, Proxies, Threats, and Aims
- Iran-Houthi Relations and other Proxies in the post-Assad Era
- Increased wariness in Taiwan after Trump's ambiguous statements?
- The US-Iran Talks: Implications for Regional and Global Stability

Insights delve more into specific topics from different angles to uncover the generative dynamics, governing rationale, and likely implications.



www.fusion4strategy.com

Fusion4Strategy