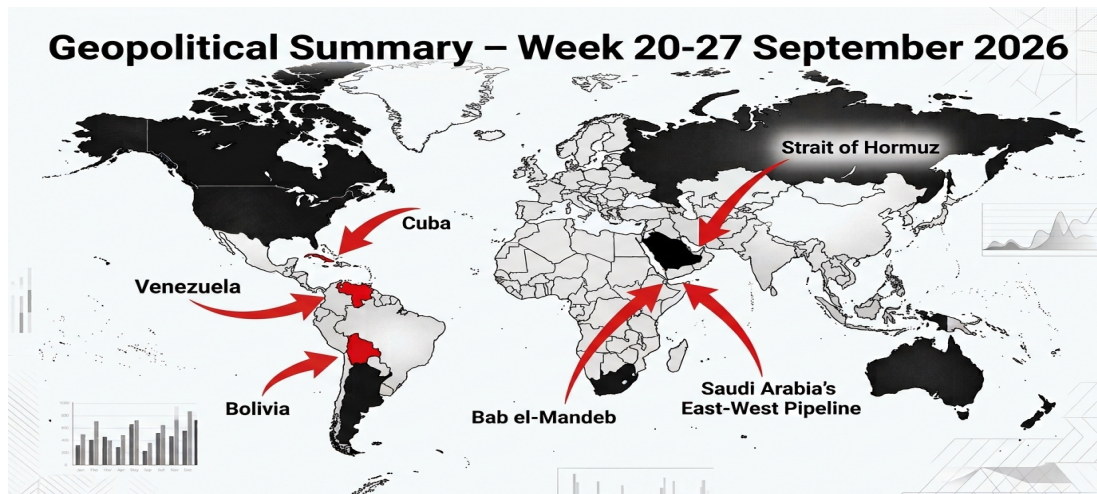




Middle East: Sustained pressure on energy corridors and regionalisation of the conflict

Strait of Hormuz: Proposals, rejection and naval blockade

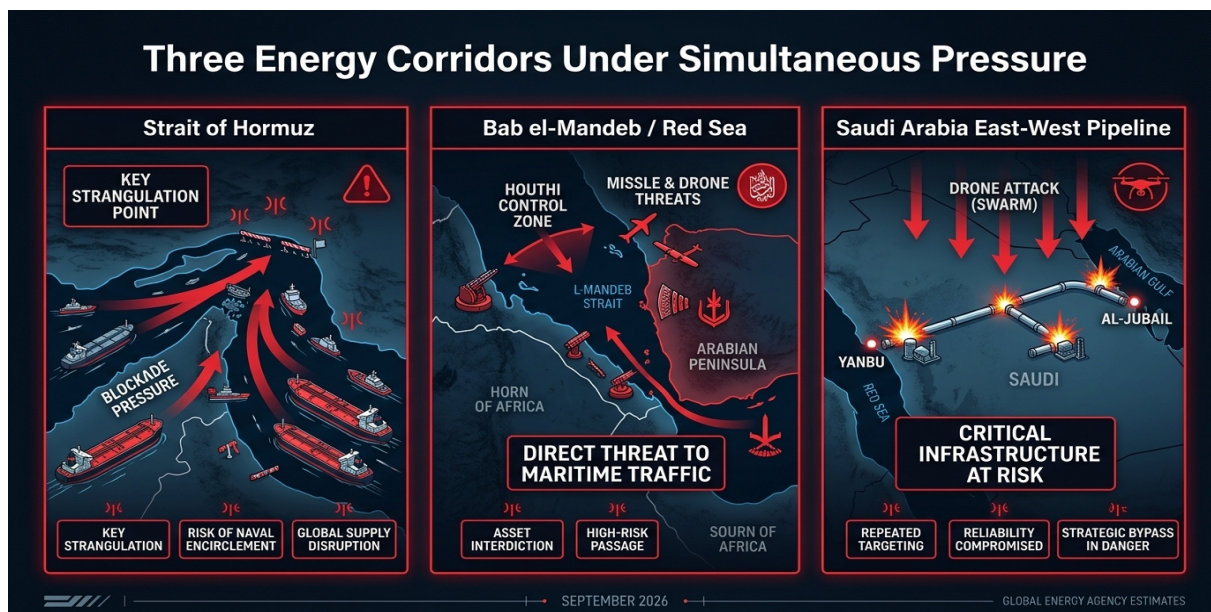
Iran submitted a plan through mediators to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within seven days, conditional on the lifting of the US blockade of Iranian ports and the resumption of talks. US sources spoke of “positive” discussions, but President Trump is reported to have rejected the ceasefire proposal. CENTCOM stated that the naval blockade had diverted more than 110 Iran-linked vessels. Saudi Arabia restarted its East-West pipeline at reduced capacity after it was closed following drone attacks launched from Iraqi territory. Crude prices remained elevated, with Brent fluctuating around the \$100 mark.

Yemen and Bab el-Mandeb: Houthi consolidation

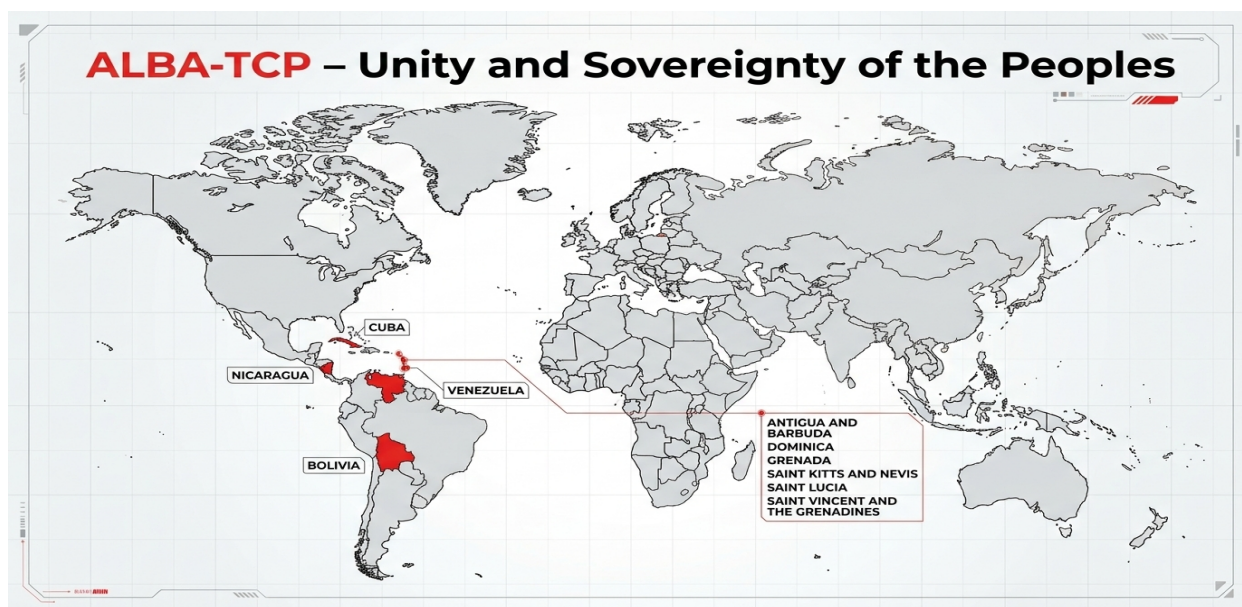
The Houthis consolidated control of the Red Sea coast after seizing Mocha and Perim Island, strengthening their position over the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Reports indicated the presence of Iranian Revolutionary Guard personnel supervising infrastructure. Trump decided to postpone direct strikes on Houthi targets. The United Kingdom announced RAF defensive support for Saudi Arabia. Houthi control raises the risk to one of the world’s key maritime routes.

Gaza and regional extension

Despite the October 2025 ceasefire, Israeli airstrikes continued to cause casualties. Iraq is emerging as an operational platform and a point of connection between Iran and the Gulf states, while the crisis projects itself towards the Red Sea and international trade routes.



Latin America and the Caribbean: UN General Assembly and the US offensive



Venezuela: Delcy Rodríguez at the UN

Acting President Delcy Rodríguez addressed the 81st UN General Assembly (the first appearance by a Venezuelan head of state in nearly a decade). She announced that “there will be elections in Venezuela” and that political dialogue with opposition sectors had begun, without setting a date. She thanked Trump for his “willingness to resume the path of diplomatic relations and cooperation”

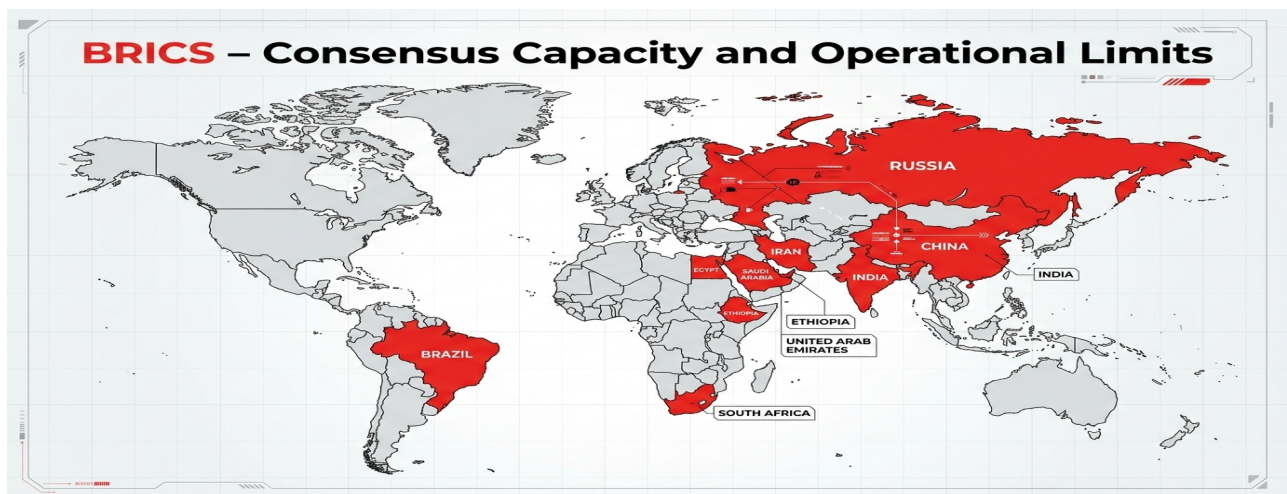
following a private meeting. She also met the IMF Managing Director. The context remains one of US control over finances and oil resources after Maduro's capture in January. teleSUR and Prensa Latina highlighted the bilateral meetings and the post-earthquake recovery agenda.

Cuba: Unprecedented blockade and regional rejection

Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez denounced before CELAC the “unprecedented tightening” of the US blockade, including an energy siege equivalent to a naval blockade, secondary sanctions, a media offensive and threats of military aggression. Trump described Cuba as a “failed state” that “will fall”. Leaders from Brazil (Lula), Barbados and other countries called for an end to the embargo. Cuba reaffirmed its solidarity with Venezuela, Nicaragua and Bolivia.

CELAC, Bolivia and the Malvinas/Falklands

Venezuela proposed turning CELAC into a mechanism for concrete results and emergency cooperation. Bolivia advanced with a \$1.9 billion IMF loan, criticised by the Bolivian Workers' Central for the impact of subsidy cuts. At the UN, Javier Milei raised Argentina's claim to the Malvinas/Falklands, accused the UN of “looking the other way” and criticised British-Israeli oil projects. London reaffirmed its “firm” defence of its position.



BRICS: Capacity for consensus and operational limits

Following the New Delhi Summit (12–13 September), the New Delhi Declaration — which called for “maximum restraint” in the Middle East and condemned attacks on civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities — remained a reference point. China will assume the presidency in 2027. Iran pressed for concrete measures against unilateral sanctions. The bloc retains the capacity for joint diplomatic statements, but internal divisions limit operational responses.

United Kingdom: Ukraine, winter, cost of living and the electoral landscape

Support for Ukraine and the winter factor

The British government continues significant support for Ukraine ahead of winter. A package of around £100 million (€116 million) was recently announced to strengthen Ukrainian air defence, including Patriot missiles, interceptors, artillery and drones, for delivery before winter to protect critical infrastructure and civilians from Russian attacks. This adds to earlier commitments of nearly £290 million for recovery and energy security (including nuclear fuel), within a cumulative total of approximately £25 billion since 2022. The Defence Secretary stressed that Russia is preparing to use winter as a weapon against energy and civilian targets.

Heating costs, energy and the basic basket

With autumn arriving and winter approaching, British households face a further rise in energy bills. The price cap is set to increase in the fourth quarter of 2026 (by around 4 per cent) with a further rise forecast for the first quarter of 2027. Typical gas and electricity bills remain significantly above 2021/22 levels (projected around 58 per cent higher). Organisations such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation warn that a record number of low-income households cannot afford essentials (food, heating, housing), with increased use of high-cost credit to cover basic needs. Although some partial improvements in fuel poverty have been recorded, pressure on the basic basket and heating hits pensioners, precarious workers and lower-income families particularly hard. The Winter Fuel Payment continues with adjusted eligibility and income thresholds.

Electoral landscape

Polling shows a fragmented and competitive picture. Labour, under Andy Burnham's leadership, has regained some advantage in seat projections (around 240 in recent models), but remains well short of an overall majority and far below its 2024 results. Reform UK and the Conservatives remain strong (around 20–21 per cent each in several polls), with the Greens and Liberal Democrats also significant. Burnham has ruled out an early general election before 2029, prioritising stability and delivering on the mandate. The outlook points to a hung parliament or difficult coalitions at the next election, against a backdrop of polarisation over the cost of living, immigration and foreign policy.



Strategic signals of the week

- The Middle East conflict is regionalising: Iraq and Yemen act as transmission belts; three energy corridors under simultaneous pressure raise the risk of global economic impact.
- Latin America under an updated Monroe Doctrine offensive: Maduro's capture, the energy siege on Cuba and the return of the IMF to Bolivia illustrate control of resources and political subordination.
- BRICS: diplomatic consensus capacity, operational limits: ability to issue joint statements, but difficulty translating them into a common operational position.

- United Kingdom: dual external and internal pressure: continued support for Ukraine (especially ahead of winter) coexists with rising energy and basic basket costs that hit the most vulnerable sectors, against a fragmented electoral landscape with no clear majority in sight.
- Sovereignty and strategic resources: from the Malvinas/Falklands to Venezuelan oil and the Cuban blockade, the struggle over resources and territorial sovereignty dominates the agenda.

Overall assessment and analysis

The week confirms the interconnection between regional war, energy, multilateralism and domestic politics. US imperialism advances with two complementary faces: the military-naval face in the Middle East and the Caribbean, and the financial-diplomatic face in Latin America. The promise of elections in Venezuela without real guarantees of popular sovereignty, the energy siege on Cuba and IMF adjustment in Bolivia are not isolated phenomena: they form part of a recolonisation project aimed at controlling strategic resources and dismantling any experience of economic and political independence.

In the United Kingdom the contrast is particularly revealing. While hundreds of millions are allocated to Ukraine's defence and energy ahead of winter, millions of British households face higher heating bills and growing difficulty covering the basic basket. Fiscal discipline and external support coexist with the deterioration of living conditions for the working class and the most precarious sectors. This gap between the rhetoric of "national security" and the everyday reality of fuel and food poverty is not accidental: it reflects class priorities.

As we have noted in recent editorials on this platform, denouncing imperialist aggression is indispensable, but it is not enough. National sovereignty is only complete when it is combined with popular control over the means of production and the defence of the rights of the working class. Separating geopolitics from class struggle is a doctrinal error that weakens the revolutionary response.

The unity of the peoples of Our America — expressed in CELAC, ALBA-TCP and, above all, in active solidarity and mobilisation — remains the only effective antidote to the offensive. Pressure on Middle Eastern energy corridors is already affecting global prices; the offensive against Venezuela and Cuba threatens to spread. Faced with this, the response cannot be capitulation or ideological paralysis.

We shall overcome!

-  Radio Solidario GB: community appeal launched to build a new digital communication platform.
-  Volunteer recruitment: collaborators sought for editorial production, translation, audio, video and web content management.
-  Recent analysis: coverage of the evolution of struggles in Latin America and the imperialist offensive.
-  Communications strengthening: expansion of our own tools for dissemination and community participation.
-  Agenda: activities linked to solidarity with Latin America, the Anti-fascist International and the campaign for the centenary of Che Guevara in 2028.
-  Assessment: organisational and communications building combined with the production of international political analysis.

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