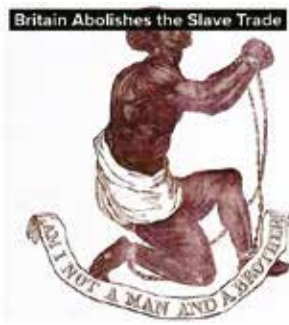


1789

William Wilberforce makes his first major speech on abolition in the UK House of Commons, reasoning the slave trade morally reprehensible and an issue of natural justice

1940

Nazi blitzkrieg and conquest of France begins with German forces crossing the Muese River



1943

Axis forces in North Africa surrender

1949

The Soviet Union lifts its blockade of West Berlin after the US, the UK, and their allies successfully supply the city during the Berlin Airlift

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran said Monday it had demanded the release of its frozen assets and the end of a US blockade of its ports, after President Donald Trump angrily rejected Tehran's terms for ending the Middle East war.

Trump reacted with fury after Iran responded to the latest US proposed outline for peace talks with a counteroffer he deemed, in a brief social media post, "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE".

The impasse unnerved global energy markets, with international benchmark Brent crude prices rising 4.65 percent to \$99.95 a barrel during early Monday trade in Asia.

The US leader did not say what had offended him in Iran's response, but Tehran's foreign ministry said it had called for an end to the US naval blockade and to the war "across the region" -- implying a halt to Israel's strikes targeting Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Crucially, ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei told reporters, Iran demanded the "release of assets belonging to the Iranian people, which have for years been unjustly trapped in foreign banks".

### Hormuz meeting

The United Kingdom and France will host a multinational meeting of defence ministers involving 40 countries Tuesday on military plans to restore trade flows through the Strait of Hormuz, the British defence ministry said.

This would suggest not just a return to the status quo before the United States and Israel launched the war on February 28, but a victory for the Islamic government's long-standing campaign against economic isolation.

"We did not demand any concessions. The only thing we demanded was Iran's legitimate rights," Baqaei said. An end to international sanctions would also diminish Washington's leverage over Tehran as it tries to secure a lasting end to Iran's nuclear enrichment.

The US, Israel and their allies have long accused Iran of seeking an atomic bomb, an accusation Tehran has repeatedly denied.

The Wall Street Journal, citing people familiar with the

matter, said Iran's counter-proposal had included the possibility of diluting some of its highly enriched uranium, with the rest transferred to a third country.

Iran had sought guarantees that the transferred uranium would be returned if negotiations failed or Washington abandoned the agreement, sources told the Journal.

Trump is expected to press China's President Xi Jinping -- a major buyer of Iranian oil -- on the Iran issue when he visits Beijing on Thursday, according to a senior US official.

US officials have stressed it would be "unacceptable" for Tehran to control the international waterway -- the export route for a fifth of the world's oil.

The US Navy is also blockading Iran's ports, at times disabling or diverting ships heading to and from them.

In a social media post on Sunday, the spokesman for the Iranian parliament's national security commission warned Washington: "Our restraint is over as of today."

"Any attack on our vessels will trigger a strong and decisive Iranian response against American ships and bases," Ebrahim Rezaei said.

# Trump angrily rejects Iran's terms



### UN warns of crisis

Tens of millions of people could face hunger and starvation if fertilisers are not soon allowed through the Strait of Hormuz, the head of a UN task force aimed at averting a looming humanitarian crisis told AFP.

"We have a few weeks ahead of us to prevent what will likely be a massive humanitarian crisis," Jorge Moreira da Silva, executive director of the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and leader of the task force, told AFP in an interview.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



I want to express my support for the government of Spain & others as they manage the #hantavirus in close coordination with our @WHO colleagues. While the current public health risk from the virus remains low, it's important that international health efforts ensure the safety of all, including passengers & crew of the MV Hondius.

@antonioGuterres

02



Most passengers and crew of the MV Hondius cruise ship successfully disembarked today. I'm grateful to Ministers @Monica\_Garcia\_G, Fernando Grande-Marlaska and @avtorresp, their @sanidadgob, @interiorgob and @territorialgob teams, and the whole government of #Spain for their leadership and technical excellence shown throughout this operation. @WHO continues to work closely with experts in all involved countries, as coordination remains key to keeping passengers, crew, responders and communities healthy and safe. #hantavirus

@DrTedros

03



I had a call with His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan @Mohamed-BinZayed, President of the UAE. I condemned the recent strikes from Iran against the UAE. And we must make every effort to truly protect life in the Gulf region, which is of global importance.

@ZelenskyyUa

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)

## Growing concerns about AI's sweeping takeover of American Universities



ELYES HANAFI, PHD IN AMERICAN STUDIES

There is no gainsaying that the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the last few years has generated a paradigm shift in the way laypeople, think-tanks, and officials all over the globe used to address daily issues and make future projections. Indeed, with AI, humanity has, albeit to various degrees, entered a brave new era, marked by an abrupt reconfiguration of pre-AI systems regulating human societies and worldviews.

In the US, pundits and commentators tend to jump headlong onto the marketplace to reflect on the omnipresence of such technology and draw conclusions regarding its implications for job security in the face of inevitable automation. While some have adopted a gloomy stance toward the new machine by highlighting the radical replacement of workers with chatbots, others have chosen the path of least resistance, hailing a potential transition into a smarter world where new employment opportunities will very likely be created.

Such controversy has lately spilled over into the US political scene as well, manifesting itself in a tug-of-war between states and national governments over AI regulation. Heretofore, all US fifty states have introduced preemptive legislative measures to rationalize the use of AI, especially in the areas of biological activities, children's entertainment, and economic restructuring. At the national level, however, the incumbent US President, Donald Trump, has chosen to stand at the other end of the spectrum, striking back with an executive order on December 11, 2025, intended to ban any form of oversight over AI, threatening to withhold federal funding from those states bent on enforcing "onerous AI laws."

Notwithstanding the legitimacy of such political and economic concerns, the debate, however, tends to lose sight of another no less important casualty of AI largescale disruptions: tertiary education. A growing number of US scholars and researchers have recently drawn attention to AI's potential threat to human agency through its systemic debilitation of the faculties of critical thinking and creativity. These critics, while cognizant of the inherent repercussions of AI on labor and democracy, deem it more urgent to scrutinize how AI is jeopardizing to the quality of education, in the first place.

The question perplexing a sizeable number of these educators is who is controlling higher education in the US and to what end. Media theorist Neil Postman, for instance, believes that the ascension of AI is not an arbitrary development, but rather an extension of a culture dominated by a "technopoly" where automation and digitalization reign supreme. Others like professors Sheila Slaughter and Gary Rhoades refer to the rise of "academic capitalism," a situation where postsecondary education is shaped by the heavy hand of the global economy, turning technology into a control panel powerful enough to redefine the meaning and scope of teaching and learning. Accordingly, what is commonly popularized as efficiency, innovation, and creativity is in actual fact a complete surrender to technological imperatives and instructions. Invaluable educational attributes, such as reflection, dialogue, knowledge, discernment, and productivity, have, for the most part, been substituted with automation, optimization, data delivery, commodity, and prompting. The upshot, Philosophy professor Troy Jollimore ominously predicts, will be seen in those "Massive numbers of students [who] are going to emerge from university ... essentially illiterate."

Nothing is more outrageous to educators than the preposterous connection of AI with students' cheating. On this specific point, educators have proved to be quite resilient. While powerless to regulate AI, they have, nonetheless, devised their own means to curb its repercussions on the quality of educational outcomes.... (to be continued)

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)