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A Peace Deal a Month?
Examining Trump's Record on
Global Conflicts

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	Page 3
1. Peace Deals: The Background	4
2. Armenia and Azerbaijan	4
3. DRC-Rwanda	5
4. Israel-Iran	5
5. India-Pakistan	5
6. Cambodia-Thailand	5
7. Serbia-Kosovo	6
8. Egypt-Ethiopia	6
9. Did Trump Bring An End to Six or Seven Wars?	6
NOTES	7

Page | 2



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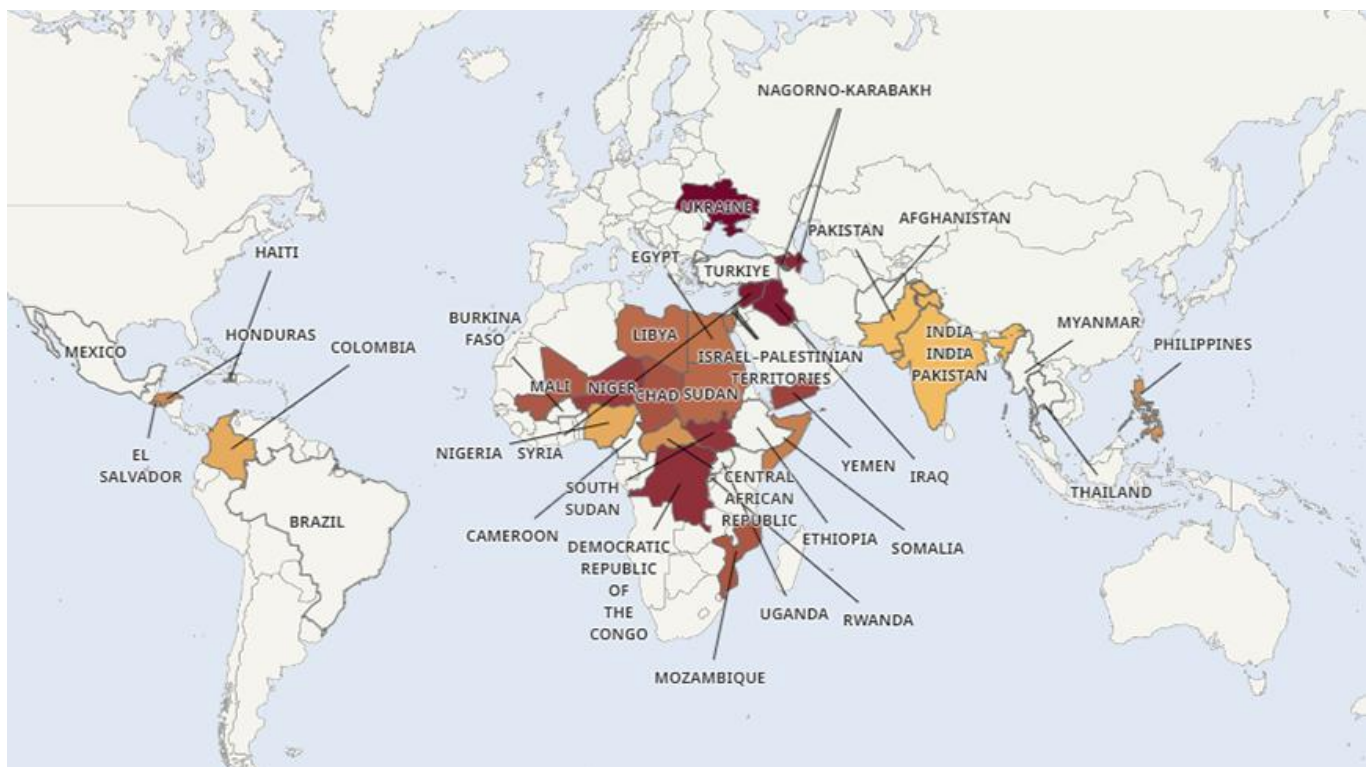
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Executive Summary

Page | 3

- ✧ Trump claims credit for multiple peace initiatives, including between Armenia and Azerbaijan. However, key disputes like displaced populations, heritage rights, and regional opposition still block lasting solutions between the two countries.
- ✧ In Africa, he announced a deal between the DRC and Rwanda tied to US mineral rights, yet rebel violence quickly resumed, undermining the agreement.
- ✧ In the Middle East and South Asia, ceasefires involving Israel–Iran and India–Pakistan were declared, though Iran’s nuclear ambitions persist, and India denied US involvement in the talks.
- ✧ In Southeast Europe and Asia, Trump pressured Serbia–Kosovo and Cambodia–Thailand into de-escalation, but Serbia disputes his claims and Cambodia–Thailand’s temple border conflict remains unresolved.
- ✧ Similarly, Egypt–Ethiopia’s Nile dam tensions saw no real progress despite Trump’s assertions.

Key Picture: Map of Global Conflicts (2024)



Source: The International Institute for Strategic Studies

1. Peace Deals: The Background

Since returning to the White House in January, US President Donald Trump has emphasised a role as a peacemaker, highlighting his initiatives to resolve international conflicts. During meetings with European leaders, he has emphasised his involvement in ending multiple wars.¹ As Trump works to negotiate an end to the Russia-Ukraine war, he has repeatedly pointed to his track record in peace talks.²

Page | 4

On different occasions, Trump has cited varying numbers of conflicts he claimed to have ended, first pointing to six and later increasing the figure to seven (**Figure 1**). While he has played a part in mediating relations between several countries, analysts note that the extent of his influence is less definitive than he presents it to be.³ However, the White House has argued that Trump is long overdue for the Nobel Peace Prize, pointing to what it describes as “a peace deal a month” since the start of his second term.⁴

Figure 1: Trump's Peace Deals: Summary

Claimed deal	Status
Armenia–Azerbaijan	Preliminary declaration
DRC–Rwanda	Partial agreement with currently ongoing violence
Israel–Iran	Ceasefire after military action
India–Pakistan	US mediation is disputed
Cambodia–Thailand	Short-lived truce achieved through trade pressure
Serbia–Kosovo	No real conflict
Egypt–Ethiopia	Non-war diplomatic issue

Trump and his administration have asserted that they played a role in easing tensions in conflicts involving Armenia and Azerbaijan, Israel and Iran, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, Cambodia and Thailand, India and Pakistan, Serbia and Kosovo, as well as Egypt and Ethiopia. However, the assertion of having resolved those conflicts is overstated and, in certain instances, undermined by ongoing violence.⁵

2. Armenia and Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan and Armenia’s hostilities date back to 1988, when ethnic strife and violence broke out over Nagorno-Karabakh, a disputed enclave that declared independence from Azerbaijan after the USSR’s collapse.⁶ On August 8, Trump convened the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, leading to a joint declaration in which both sides committed to pursuing peaceful relations after decades of hostilities.⁷

The peace agreement grants the US sole authority to develop a transit corridor cutting through Armenia’s Zangezur region, linking Azerbaijan to its exclave. Establishing this route represents a major blow to both Russia and Iran, who have traditionally sought dominance over the South Caucasus. The passage is to be named the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity, or TRIPP.⁸

However, practical challenges remain unsettled, such as the procedures for customs and security controls and the scope of Armenia’s reciprocal access to Azerbaijani territory. In addition, Iran has warned that it may obstruct a proposed corridor in the Caucasus tied to a regional deal backed by Trump, casting fresh doubt on a peace initiative.⁹

Further, in Armenia, the deal has received a mixed reception. Some see opportunities for economic growth and a chance to lessen Russia’s influence, while others condemn it for overlooking the plight of displaced Armenians¹⁰, cultural heritage issues, and unresolved prisoner cases.¹¹ In addition, critical matters, such as the

rights of indigenous Armenians displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan's October 2023 offensive, remain unaddressed.¹² Analysts caution that these uncertainties could delay the agreement's implementation.

3. DRC-Rwanda

Since the 1994 Rwandan genocide, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have been locked in decades of conflict fuelled by armed groups like the M23 rebels, who intensified fighting in early 2025.¹³ Rwanda is widely accused of supporting the rebels, with reports of its troops fighting alongside them. In January 2025, the DRC labelled some M23 actions a "declaration of war," though Rwanda itself never made such a declaration.¹⁴

On June 27, 2025, Trump announced a peace agreement between Rwanda and the DRC that included US mineral rights, calling it "a glorious triumph for the cause of peace." An agreement would benefit US companies that had long hesitated to invest in the DRC due to security risks and the ethical concerns of trading in "blood minerals" that sponsor rebellions.¹⁵

However, the deal excluded M23, and violence quickly resumed. By mid-August, M23 abandoned talks entirely, showing that Trump's claim of having secured peace was far from reality.¹⁶

4. Israel-Iran

In June, tensions between Israel and Iran escalated sharply when Israel attacked Iranian nuclear facilities and Tehran retaliated with missile and drone strikes. The US soon entered the conflict, with Trump ordering strikes on Iran's uranium enrichment sites at Fordow and Natanz, as well as a research base in Isfahan. He claimed the bombings had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear program and told NATO leaders his administration had ended the 30-year conflict in just 12 days.¹⁷

On June 23, Trump announced that Israel and Iran had agreed to a ceasefire, crediting the US for brokering the truce. While neither country disputed US involvement, analysts questioned the durability of the peace, noting Iran's capacity to resume uranium production despite the damage. Talks over Tehran's nuclear program have since collapsed, leaving regional tensions unresolved.¹⁸

5. India-Pakistan

In May, after a terrorist attack in Indian-administered Kashmir led India to launch deadly strikes on Pakistani targets, Trump and other world leaders urged the two nations to de-escalate tensions.¹⁹ After four days of clashes, Trump declared that India and Pakistan had reached a "full and immediate ceasefire," adding that it came after "a long night of talks mediated by the United States."²⁰

Trump asserted that the US helped secure the ceasefire, claiming it was partly the result of trade concessions he offered. Pakistan praised him and even suggested he be considered for the Nobel Peace Prize. India, however, rejected Trump's account, insisting there had been no discussions with the US about trade in connection to the ceasefire.²¹ An Indian official stated that the talks were conducted directly between the two militaries, with no involvement from the US.²²

6. Cambodia-Thailand

Cambodia and Thailand have long disputed control over sections of their shared land border, with ownership of the Ta Moan Thom temple and the 11th-century Preah Vihear temple at the heart of the conflict.²³ In July 2025, long-standing border tensions between Thailand and Cambodia escalated into deadly clashes, triggered by the killing of a Cambodian soldier and a landmine blast that killed five Thai troops. Although neither nation declared war, hostilities prompted Trump to threaten their trade agreements, leading to talks in Malaysia, where leaders of both countries agreed to an unconditional ceasefire. Trump celebrated the outcome online, calling himself

the “president of peace,” but despite the truce, the deeper dispute over historic border temples and territory remains unresolved.²⁴

7. Serbia–Kosovo

Kosovo, once a Serbian province, declared independence in 2008. While tensions have remained high since then, the presence of NATO-led peacekeepers has prevented a return to war.²⁵ At a June 27 press conference in the Oval Office, Trump claimed that Serbia and Kosovo were “on the brink of war” until his administration intervened. He said a “friend in Serbia” had told him that Serbia is going to war with Kosovo. Trump stated that he threatened Serbia with trade sanctions and was able to stop it.²⁶

Page | 6

Kosovo’s president, Vjosa Osmani, supported that account, stating Serbia had intended to launch an attack in May before Trump intervened. She added that while she credited Trump with averting war, she could not share further details because they were “classified.” However, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic denied that any such attack was planned.²⁷

8. Egypt–Ethiopia

Ethiopia and Egypt have not been at war but have faced years of tension over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Nile. Completed in July 2025, the project has long alarmed Egypt, which fears losing vital water access. Despite years of negotiations, no agreement has been reached. Trump tried to mediate in 2020, but Ethiopia refused to join US-led talks, leading him to suspend some aid. His remark that Egypt might “blow up” the dam prompted Ethiopia to accuse him of fuelling conflict.²⁸

In 2025, Ethiopia dismissed Trump’s claim that the US financed the dam, while Trump emphasised its critical importance to Egypt and portrayed himself as working toward a settlement. Egypt welcomed his statements, but no deal has materialised, and no war has occurred. Although the White House has framed this as a conflict Trump resolved, the evidence shows the dispute remains unsettled.²⁹

9. Did Trump Bring an End to Six or Seven Wars?

His administration did help mediate or pause several conflicts, often relying on threats of tariffs or sanctions to pressure rivals into talks. For example, this approach appeared to have some effect in Cambodia and Thailand, while US military strikes pushed Israel and Iran toward a ceasefire. Yet in nearly all of these situations, the results were short-lived, incomplete, or contested. India, for example, dismissed his claims outright, and in other cases, violence soon resurfaced despite Trump’s declarations of peace. India flatly denied his involvement, while Ethiopia dismissed his attempts to intervene. Armenia and Azerbaijan remain at odds, the Congo agreement is already unravelling, and the Israel–Iran ceasefire is highly fragile.³⁰

NOTES

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