

KIMKJ.COM DAILY BRIEFING

2026 · 09 · 21

Monday, September 21, 2026

AI, Economy, and Global Conflict Daily Briefing

- 1 China AI, Robotics and Semiconductors In-Depth Briefing
- 2 World Economy Top 10
- 3 International Conflict Briefing

This edition omits: Global AI News Briefing, Global Incidents and Disasters Briefing.
Available sections are published first.

Published by kimkj.com · Kim Kyung-jin, Attorney at Law · English edition

China AI, Robotics and Semiconductors In-Depth Briefing

China AI, Robotics and Semiconductors In-Depth Briefing 2026-09-21

Monday, September 21, 2026

Today's Top 5 Highlights

1. Treasury Secretary Bessent and Vice Premier He Lifeng met in New York on September 20 to discuss AI guardrails, tariffs, and rare earths. This is preparatory coordination ahead of the September 24 summit.
2. President Trump announced plans to create a dedicated AI task force, "AI Force," and to appoint an AI czar. He called AI risk warnings a scam and rejected regulation.
3. China's state media outlet Yuyuan Tiantian targeted Anthropic, claiming it could hand over user information to U.S. intelligence agencies without legal process.
4. Altman, Jensen Huang, Cook, and Amon will attend the summit dinner. China is bringing executives from BYD, CATL, and Xiaomi.
5. China's humanoid robots are moving into mass production. Two production lines — UBTech in Liuzhou and XPeng in Guangzhou — began operating in September.

China AI Models and Platforms

Chinese state media targets Anthropic's data policy

CCTV-affiliated account Yuyuan Tiantian (玉渊潭天) posted an article on September 19 targeting Anthropic. The claim: Anthropic revised its privacy policy to allow handing over user information to U.S. intelligence agencies without legal process. The post also flagged clauses moving user data from South Korea, Canada, Brazil, and the EU to the United States. The report did not include Anthropic's response or the basis for the claims.

Ahead of the summit, China has elevated U.S. AI companies' data practices into a formal point of contention. This is a countermove to U.S. criticism of Chinese AI firms' use of distillation — a technique that trains a model by copying another model's outputs.

The United States and China have begun using AI model security as leverage against each other.

(Bloomberg 2026-09-19, Geopolitechs 2026-09-19)

Rhodium Group report and the AI infrastructure investment gap

Last week, Rhodium Group analyzed the AI revenue gap between the United States and China. Combined annual recurring revenue for seven Chinese AI companies totals \$10.7 billion, less than OpenAI's \$40 billion alone. ByteDance ranks first at \$4 billion, followed by Alibaba at \$2.4 billion. Annual recurring revenue refers to steady, subscription-like revenue that recurs each year.

This gap translates into a difference in infrastructure investment capacity. U.S. hyperscalers (major cloud operators) have committed \$725 billion in 2026 capital expenditure, up 77% from the previous year. In its "Intelligent World 2035" report, Huawei projected that computing demand would need to grow 100,000-fold to realize an era of 900 billion AI agents. Who can shoulder this

investment is the fork in the road for U.S.-China AI competition. Chinese AI companies rely on state funding and cloud revenue.

Chinese AI companies attract investment based on valuation multiples rather than revenue. DeepSeek's valuation-to-revenue multiple stands at 163x, ten times that of U.S. companies.

(CNBC 2026-09-17, Huawei 2026-09-16, Reuters 2026-09-16)

Robotics, Humanoids, and Embodied Intelligence

Two production lines launched in September, shift to mass production

Two Chinese humanoid robot production lines began operating in September. UBTech opened an industrial line with annual capacity of 10,000 units in Liuzhou, Guangxi, on September 12. It produces one robot every 10 minutes, using Siemens digital twin technology, with robots assembling robots.

XPeng launched its IRON production line in Guangzhou on September 8, automating 80% of core processes. It started at 200 units a month and is targeting 1,000 units by year-end.

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology projects that 2026 humanoid robot production will exceed 100,000 units. First-half shipments reached 40,000 units, or 97% of the global total. The industry is moving past the stage of building units one at a time by hand.

South Korea is seeking entry into the humanoid robot market with NPU-based on-device AI chips. An NPU is a chip that accelerates only AI computation, and on-device processing means computation happens within the device itself rather than on a server. Nita, LG Electronics, and Mobilint have been selected for Korean NPU humanoid robot projects.

(China News 2026-09-12, Tencent News 2026-09-19, Xinhuanet 2026-09-17)

AI Semiconductors and Computing Infrastructure

Ahead of the summit, chip export rules are the biggest variable. The issue was discussed at the Bessent-He Lifeng working-level talks, with no outcome yet. Commerce Secretary Lutnick ruled out chip concessions. Trump said he could discuss Nvidia chip sales with Xi Jinping.

However the rules change, they will affect China's domestic chip supply chain. This week Huawei announced it would move up the timeline for its Ascend 960. China Telecom released an open-source 29B-parameter model trained entirely on Ascend NPUs. Vertical integration — building models with Chinese chips and Chinese software — is beginning to produce results.

SK Hynix and Intel are discussing a joint venture for a memory plant in Ohio, which could become the first case of a Korean company producing memory chips on U.S. soil. As the share of memory bound for China declines, pressure for domestic U.S. production is growing.

(CNBC 2026-09-20, Seeking Alpha 2026-09-18, Huawei 2026-09-17)

Telecom, Networks, and Edge AI

At its Connect event this week, Huawei unveiled a network blueprint for the agentic AI era. It projected that network connectivity would need to increase 100-fold to handle the traffic generated by 900 billion AI agents. The HiONE optical engine and Stella AI Network 2.0 are the first products in this direction.

Computing, storage, and networking all need to scale together. The outcome of the summit's technology trade discussions will determine the pace of this investment.

Huawei's NPO optical engine reduced the number of optical modules needed from 48,000 to 5,500.

(Huawei 2026-09-17, PR Newswire 2026-09-17)

Trump announces creation of dedicated AI task force "AI Force"

President Trump posted plans for a dedicated AI task force on Truth Social on September 19. Named "AI Force," he likened it to the Space Force created during his first term. He also said he would appoint a new AI czar. He again called AI risk warnings a scam and wrote that he would not hinder industry growth.

The task force's authority, budget, and department affiliation were not disclosed. The AI czar position has been vacant since David Sacks resigned in early 2026.

The announcement is a rebuttal to the ongoing debate over pacing AI development. Amodei, Altman, and Musk had jointly proposed slowing the pace of frontier AI development. Citing competition with China, Trump said "whoever wins AI wins."

The United States is solidifying a direction that prioritizes competitive advantage over regulation.

(Al Jazeera 2026-09-19, CNN 2026-09-19, Washington Post 2026-09-19)

China's AI Safety Governance Framework 3.0

AI Safety Governance Framework 3.0 was unveiled at the opening ceremony of Cybersecurity Awareness Week on September 14. "Governance" (治理, zhili) is a Chinese term for management and oversight. The framework expanded its scope from large-model outputs to agent execution, embodied intelligence, and loss of control.

It categorized agent risks into five types: planning errors, privilege overreach, memory tampering, identity spoofing, and tool misuse. Refusal to shut down,

capability concealment, and evaluation deception were also classified as model-level risks.

China has made agents' autonomous actions a subject of regulatory oversight.

(Xinhuanet 2026-09-14, CN-SEC 2026-09-16)

U.S.-China Tech Rivalry

Bessent-He Lifeng working-level talks held in New York

U.S. Treasury Secretary Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng met at JPMorgan Chase's New York headquarters on September 20. U.S. Trade Representative Greer also attended. The meeting began around 10:30 a.m. and continued throughout the day.

The agenda covered AI, tariffs, rare earths, and critical minerals. Secretary Bessent said the day before that discussions would cover both open-weight and closed-weight models. Weights are a model's internal computational values; when made public, a model is "open," and when kept private, it is "closed." Guardrails are a point of contention following reports of security breaches involving AI models.

Whether to extend the tariff truce set to expire on November 10 was also discussed. The agenda also included concerns that China's supply of rare earth magnets and critical minerals falls short of U.S. standards.

This meeting serves as preparatory coordination for the September 24 Trump-Xi summit. No outcome has been announced yet.

(CNBC 2026-09-20, Nikkei Asia 2026-09-20, Taipei Times 2026-09-21)

Summit D-3: AI CEOs turn out in force

The guest list for the September 24 White House state dinner has been released. On the U.S. side, OpenAI's Altman, Nvidia's Jensen Huang,

Qualcomm's Amon, and Apple's Cook will attend, along with JPMorgan's Dimon. President Xi Jinping will bring executives from BYD, CATL, and Xiaomi.

Chip export rules remain the central issue. Commerce Secretary Lutnick has ruled out chip concessions. Reports indicate that Nvidia H200 chips have been held up at Chinese customs. Blocking remote cloud access routed through Southeast Asia is also under consideration.

The summit's outcomes are expected to have several downstream effects on global supply chains.

(Semafor 2026-09-18, Daily Signal 2026-09-20, Analytics Insight 2026-09-20)

Attorney Kim Kyung-jin's Commentary

Three days before the summit, Bessent put AI guardrails on the agenda in New York. On the same day, Trump said he would create AI Force instead of pursuing regulation. Chinese state media attacked Anthropic's data practices. A battle for dominance is playing out across three fronts: models, chips, and data.

The outcome of the September 24 talks bears watching.

[Source Links]

- Bessent-He Lifeng New York working-level talks
- <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/09/20/bessent-he-lifeng-trump-xi-summit.html>
- <https://asia.nikkei.com/politics/international-relations/bessent-and-china-s-he-launch-talks-on-ai-trade-and-critical-minerals>
- <https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/biz/archives/2026/09/21/2003864596>
- Trump announces plans for AI Force
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/9/19/trump-says-he-will-create-ai-force-with-new-ai-czar>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/19/politics/trump-ai-task-force-czar>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2026/09/19/trump-form-ai-force-name-ai-czar-rejects-calls-constraints/>

- Chinese state media raises concerns over Anthropic's data policy
- <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-09-19/china-state-tv-affiliate-flags-anthropic-data-and-privacy-risks>
- <https://www.geopolitechs.org/p/yuyuan-tantian-escalated-its-criticism>
- Rhodium Group report on China AI revenue
- <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/09/17/chinas-ai-models-make-only-10percent-of-us-leaders-revenue-rhodium.html>
- <https://qz.com/china-ai-companies-revenue-openai-anthropic-rhodium-091726>
- Huawei Intelligent World 2035 report
- <https://www.huawei.com/en/news/2026/9/hc-intelligent-world-2035>
- <https://www.hypefresh.com/huawei-predicts-900-billion-ai-agents-by-2035-what-it-means-for-humans/>
- China's humanoid robot production lines launched in September
- <https://www.chinanews.com.cn/cj/2026/09-12/10695446.shtml>
- <https://news.qq.com/rain/a/20260919A0AFF100>
- AI Safety Governance Framework 3.0
- <https://www.news.cn/20260914/a029f0381add40dfaf9ced5548ac8ae5/c.html>
- <https://cn-sec.com/archives/5434041.html>
- Summit D-3: AI CEO dinner
- <https://www.semafor.com/article/09/18/2026/ai-titans-to-attend-xi-white-house-dinner>
- <https://www.dailysignal.com/2026/09/20/expect-trumps-summit-with-xi/>
- Search keywords: Bessent He Lifeng AI talks, Trump AI Force, Anthropic Yuyuan Tiantian data, Trump Xi summit, China humanoid robot mass production, Rhodium Group China AI revenue, Huawei Intelligent World 2035 agents, AI Safety Governance Framework 3.0, Bessent He Lifeng AI chips
- Generated: 2026-09-21 06:30 KST

© 2026 KIMKJ.COM

World Economy Top 10

World Economy Top 10 **2026-09-21**

As of: 2026-09-20 05:30 KST - 2026-09-21 05:30 KST

Today's Top 10

1. Weekend note: US and European stock markets were closed Saturday and Sunday. The latest closing prices are from Friday, September 18. New developments in this window are mainly pre-summit trade talks between the US and China and next week's schedule.
2. The United States and China began high-level trade talks in New York ahead of their summit. On Sunday, September 20, US Treasury Secretary Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng met in Manhattan to discuss the tariff truce ending November 10, rare earth supply, artificial intelligence controls, and the issue of Iranian crude oil.
3. A summit between US President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled for next week in Washington. China is expected to offer roughly 30 billion dollars in tariff-free or low-tariff imports and agricultural and aircraft contracts, with Xi planning to arrive on September 23 and depart on September 25.
4. Major-economy indicators and central bank schedules are clustered this week. Flash September manufacturing and services purchasing managers' index readings for Germany, the eurozone, the UK, and the US are due Wednesday, followed by the Swiss National Bank's decision and China's loan prime rate announcement, with ten Federal Reserve official speeches also scheduled.

5. Global oil prices posted their first weekly decline in three weeks. As of the September 18 close, Brent crude was 103.87 dollars per barrel and West Texas Intermediate was 100.30 dollars, as an early restoration of Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline and export rerouting around the Strait of Hormuz eased supply disruption concerns.

6. The US 10-year Treasury yield held above the 5 percent threshold. The yield closed at 4.998 percent on September 18, reflecting the Federal Reserve's September 16 rate hike and signals of further increases, while the dollar index rose 1.1 percent over the week to 100.215.

7. Rare earths and critical minerals stood at the center of US-China negotiations. China controls roughly 70 percent of rare earth mining, about 90 percent of refining, and about 93 percent of permanent magnet production, and the US has pointed to a shortage in magnet supply.

8. China is expected to hold its loan prime rate steady for a 16th consecutive month. The one-year rate is forecast to remain at 3.00 percent and the five-year rate at 3.50 percent, with analysts saying room for further easing is narrow amid a hawkish stance among major economies.

9. The Swiss National Bank is expected to keep its policy rate at 0.00 percent on September 25. Of 41 economists surveyed by Reuters from September 17 to 22, all but one forecast a hold.

10. Gold and silver posted their first weekly gains in four weeks. On September 18, gold rose 0.73 percent for the week to 4,380.01 dollars per ounce and silver rose 3.05 percent to 66.35 dollars, as falling oil prices eased inflation pressure even as a stronger dollar capped gains.

11. An International Monetary Fund mission begins its third program review of Argentina this week. About 15.8 billion dollars of the 20 billion dollar expanded financing facility has been disbursed, with net foreign reserves and fiscal targets under review; Argentina's country risk gauge rose from 485 basis points on September 11 to 524 on September 18.

Market Indicators

US and European stock markets were closed over the weekend. As of the Friday, September 18 close, the US 10-year Treasury yield was 4.998 percent and the dollar index was 100.215. Brent crude was 103.87 dollars per barrel and West Texas Intermediate was 100.30 dollars. Gold was 4,380.01 dollars per ounce, silver was 66.35 dollars, and copper was 6.61 dollars per pound.

Central Banks and Policy

The Federal Reserve raised its policy rate to 3.75-4.00 percent on September 16 and maintained signals of further increases. This week brings the Swiss National Bank's decision and China's loan prime rate announcement, with China expected to hold for a 16th month and Switzerland expected to hold at 0.00 percent. The US and China are negotiating an extension of the tariff truce ahead of the summit.

Commodities and Energy

Oil prices posted their first weekly decline in three weeks as an early restoration of Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline and export rerouting around the Strait of Hormuz eased supply disruption concerns. Brent crude stood at 103.87 dollars per barrel, still above 100 dollars. Gold and silver posted their first weekly gains in four weeks as falling oil prices eased inflation pressure.

What to Watch in the Next 24 Hours

The outcome of the New York US-China trade talks and the outline of the summit agenda will come first. China's loan prime rate announcement, flash manufacturing and services PMI readings from major economies, and Federal Reserve official speeches will shape interest rate and currency trends. Whether further clashes occur involving Iran and the Strait of Hormuz will also be key for oil prices.

[Source Links]

- <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2026/9/20/us-china-open-high-level-talks-ahead-of-trump-xi-summit>
- <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/09/20/bessent-he-lifeng-trump-xi-summit.html>
- <https://www.euronews.com/business/2026/09/18/what-to-expect-from-the-trump-xi-summit-from-tariffs-to-a-possible-30-billion-deal>
- <https://www.newsquawk.com/headlines/week-in-focus--21-25th-september-2026-highlights-include-xis-visit-to-the-us-global-flash-pmis-aussie-jobs-and-the-snb-rate-decision>
- <https://www.cnbc.com/2026/09/18/oil-prices-today-brent-wti-saudi-arabia-houthi.html>
- <https://www.riotimesonline.com/gold-silver-precious-metals-saturday-september-19-2026/>
- <https://time.com/7326132/china-trump-xi-rare-earth-minerals/>
- <https://www.investing.com/news/economy-news/china-set-to-keep-loan-rates-steady-for-16th-consecutive-month-in-september-4906730>
- <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/snb-hold-rates-zero-september-120433916.html>
- <https://www.riotimesonline.com/imf-mission-to-argentina-september-2026/>
- Generated: 2026-09-21 05:30 KST

© 2026 KIMKJ.COM

International Conflict Briefing

International Conflict Briefing **2026-09-21**

Period: 2026-09-20 09:20 KST - 2026-09-21 09:20 KST

Key Developments Today

1. In the early hours of the 20th, the final day of Russia's parliamentary election, Ukraine carried out its largest drone attack on Moscow and surrounding areas since the war began. Russian officials said 3 people were killed.
2. North Korea fired a ballistic missile into the East Sea on the afternoon of the 20th. Yonhap News reported it was the second launch of the day, following a launch that morning.
3. One Israeli settler was killed in a shooting near the Neve Tzuf settlement in the West Bank. The Israeli military sent additional troops to the West Bank.
4. A senior Houthi official in Yemen warned countries supporting Saudi Arabia, while stating the Houthis would not attack US ships.
5. US President Trump cut short his weekend schedule at Camp David and returned to the White House to review whether to strike the Houthis.
6. The Israeli military announced it killed 3 Hamas operatives in weekend airstrikes on the Gaza Strip.
7. The Iranian military warned it would retaliate if the United States resumes airstrikes.

Changes by Front

Russia-Ukraine War

In the early hours of the 20th, the final day of voting in Russia's parliamentary election, Ukrainian drones launched a large-scale attack on Moscow and Moscow Oblast. Moscow Mayor Sobyanin said about 450 drones heading toward the capital were shot down. The Russian Defense Ministry claimed more than 1,600 were intercepted nationwide overnight. Some drones reached a Moscow oil refinery, and a 21-story residential building was also hit. The governor of Moscow Oblast said 3 people were killed and 20 were injured, including 3 children. Ukrainian President Zelensky confirmed that Russia's key oil facilities were struck. Mayor Sobyanin claimed the attack was aimed at disrupting the election. On the same day, Russian forces sent 138 drones across Ukraine, and the Ukrainian military said it shot down 101 of them. In Kherson Oblast, Russian attacks killed 3 people and injured 9. In Kyiv Oblast, the death toll from the previously reported drone attack on the Fastiv district rose to 4, including 3 children.

Israel, Palestine, and Lebanon

On the 20th, a shooting at a vehicle occurred at a spring near the Neve Tzuf settlement in the West Bank. Netanel Shukrun, a resident of the Aley Zahav settlement, was killed. Israeli authorities said a 37-year-old suspect from the village of Biddu was arrested at a hospital near Ramallah. Prime Minister Netanyahu said he would hold those responsible accountable in Gaza, Lebanon, and the West Bank alike. The Israeli military has deployed 27 battalion-level units in the West Bank and is conducting arrest operations. National Security Minister Ben-Gvir demanded that the death penalty law enacted last March be applied. The Israeli military and Shin Bet announced they killed 3 Hamas operatives in weekend airstrikes on the Gaza Strip. The Israeli side claimed they were 2 participants in the October 7 attack and 1 Nukhba unit commander. These figures are from the Israeli side.

United States and Iran

The Iranian military warned on the 20th that it would retaliate if the United States resumes airstrikes. US Central Intelligence Agency Director Ratcliffe met Egyptian President Sisi in Cairo to discuss regional stability.

Red Sea and Yemen

A senior Houthi official told the AP on the 20th that the Houthis are warning countries joining Saudi Arabia in fighting in Yemen. The official said the Houthis had promised the Trump administration not to attack US ships in the Red Sea. The Houthis are consolidating control over Yemen's western coast. The Houthis earlier claimed to have attacked areas near King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh and Aramco facilities in Yanbu with ballistic missiles and drones. President Trump cut short his weekend schedule at Camp David and returned to the White House. President Trump said he faces a major decision on whether to strike the Houthis. The National reported that the United States is maintaining a channel of dialogue with the Houthis through Oman.

Korean Peninsula

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected a ballistic missile launched from the Wonsan area into the East Sea at around 3 p.m. on the 20th. Yonhap News reported it was the second launch following one that morning. Japan's NHK reported that the projectile fell outside Japan's exclusive economic zone. South Korea's National Security Council condemned the launch. This launch came about a week after the launch on September 12.

Taiwan Strait

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said it detected 5 sorties of Chinese military aircraft, 11 naval vessels, and 6 official ships during the 24 hours

ending at 6 a.m. on the 20th. All 5 aircraft sorties crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait.

Civilian Casualties and Humanitarian Situation

In Moscow Oblast, 20 people were injured, including 3 children. The strike on a 21-story residential building in Moscow forced 400 residents to evacuate. In Kherson Oblast, 3 people were killed and 9 injured. In Kyiv Oblast, 31 sites across 5 districts were damaged. One Israeli civilian was killed in the West Bank.

Diplomacy, Sanctions, and Military Aid

The Iranian military warned of retaliation if the United States resumes airstrikes. The US Central Intelligence Agency director held talks with the Egyptian president. The Houthis publicly disclosed a pledge not to attack US ships. The US president is reviewing whether to strike the Houthis. South Korea's National Security Council condemned North Korea's missile launch.

Points to Watch in the Next 24 Hours

The scale of Russia's retaliatory strikes after the end of the Russian parliamentary election needs to be watched. The key question is whether the United States decides to strike Houthi missile and drone facilities. Israel's Yom Kippur operation in the West Bank and the possibility of an expanded response in Gaza and Lebanon will be observed. Additional North Korean launches and the US-South Korea response need to be confirmed.

[Source Links]

- <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/9/20/mass-ukrainian-drone-attack-on-moscow-kills-two-russia-says>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2026/09/20/europe/moscow-ukraine-attack-russia-election>
- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog-september-20-2026/>

- <https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/2026-09-20/ty-article/houthis-warn-countries-against-joining-saudi-arabia-in-renewed-yemen-fighting/000001a0-c01e-d1d5-a1f5-cfbec2a90000>
- <https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/gulf/2026/09/20/is-the-us-poised-to-hit-the-houthis/>
- <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/world/2026/09/20/north-korea-fires-ballistic-missile-off-east-coast-japan-says>
- <https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/taiwan/2026/taiwan-260920-roc-mnd01.htm>

- Generated: 2026-09-21 09:30 KST

© 2026 KIMKJ.COM