



# SNAPSHOTS

Monthly Bytes

2024

November Edition





# The 47th President Of The United States, Trump's Implications For The World



## The Crypto Market Surges, While Commodities Go Sideways



Friday 30th November, 2024

Crypto soared on the night of the election, and set off a bull run for the remainder of the month, driven by market expectations of the incoming trump administration being "crypto-friendly" and less likely to impose harsh regulation. Individual investors and Bitcoin (BTC) reached new all time highs of \$153,371 (AUD) on the 22nd of November, with other coins such as Ethereum (ETH) making 38% gains from over the month. The market itself surging 40% since November 5th. The commodities market on the other hand has been hit hard with Oil, Gold, Silver trading lower, likely due to the election and trumps commitment for world peace and stability, relieving upwards pressure. due to the erratic and unpredictable nature of the incoming Trump Administration, we will have to wait a few months to see where the markets move next.

Thursday 28th November, 2024



Heath Clark

On election night it was decided that Trump will serve as the 47th President of the United States, winning 50% percent of the popular vote, and obtaining 312 of the electoral college votes, well above the 270 margin required to win the presidency. While some politicians and left leaning news outlets suggest Trump will follow similar footsteps, Trump's statements and cabinet picks such as RFK Jr, Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy suggests otherwise. Trump has been vocal about tackling the issues of immigration and using tariffs in an attempt to rebuild domestic industries which have been negatively impacted due to globalization. Trump also plans on returning US back to surplus and cut government spending in order to clamp down on the \$36.078 Trillion US national debt which continues to grow



The incoming Trump administration has pledged to place a 35% tariffs on China to both protect it's industry, and to persuade China to crack down on Fentanyl production. Trump has pledged a base rate of 25% Tariffs on Mexico and Canada, (the USA's other major trading partners) while countries such as Australia may dodge direct tariffs and the impacts of a trade war, although this is still unclear. The incoming administration has been called "unpredictable" and erratic by both political opponents and media outlets alike, suggesting a shake up and dramatic change which is likely to have shockwaves around the globe. The selection of Trump loyalists in the cabinet and majorities in both house and senate should provide a solid grip on power for the 47th president.



The Trump team is well underway preparing for the January 20th transfer, and all cabinet nominees have been named, including RFK Jr who will lead the department of Health. The incoming Border Czar Tom Homan who will spearhead the "largest deportation operation in American history" (Donald Trump, 2024). Vivek Ramaswamy and Elon Musk are set to lead the new "Department of Government efficiency" (DOGE) which plans to cut down on bureaucracy and inefficiencies within the government. Among others include controversial Pete Hegseth for defense secretary, and Marco Rubio for Secretary of State just to name a few. There are still a variety of decisions and factors yet to be put in place, and we'll be sure to keep an eye on things as we approach the Inauguration.



### Trump Cabinet Picks subject to bomb threats

Wednesday 27th November 2024

On Wednesday, Several of Trump's cabinet picks were targeted by bomb and swatting threats. Trump-Vance spokesperson Karoline Leavitt stated "President Trump and the transition team are grateful for their swift action" in preventing the threats from materialising. Those targeted include Matt Gaetz and his family, Elise Stefanik (UN Ambassador), and Lee Zeldin's family which was sent a pipe bomb threat. Despite the threats, none materialised and authorities are currently searching for potential suspects.





# The Hong Kong Democratic Crisis

Tuesday 19th November, 2024



Heath Clark

On the 19th November, A Hong Kong Court Sentenced 45 of the so called “Hong Kong 47 Activists” to 10-Year Prison sentences over charges regarding breaches in the 2020 Security Act, and attempting to “overthrow the government” by organizing unofficial elections. This marks the conclusion of the 2019 Protests against new legislation which could extradite Hong Kongers to mainland China to stand trial for any crimes committed in the special administrative zone that is Hong Kong. The hopes of the 2019 protesters was to elect a desired 70% of the legislature in order to pass democratic reforms. The Hong Kong Election committee, which is responsible for appointing lawmakers and executives is by technicality subject to Beijing with them able to handpick members allows Beijing to have near total control of the executive, and selection of the Chief Executive (highest office-bearer in Hong Kong). As a result, the citizens can only directly elect 20% of the legislature.

The existence of Hong Kong is due to the “One Country, Two systems” principle developed by Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s in order to solve the political and social issues surrounding territorial claims on Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan. The handover of Hong Kong in 1997 by the UK and Macau by Portugal resulted in the two territories enjoying most privilege's of sovereign nations. Since the passing of the 2020 National Security Law by China, any form of Subversion, Terrorism, Succession or collusion is considered a crime, firmly solidifying that Hong Kong will remain with China, and to many Hong Kongers is end of free speech and standard democratic practices in the nation. The Court’s sentencing decision of the 45 comes after previous ones against democratic leaders, journalist and rival politicians. The national security law, as well as Hong Kong Article 23 makes it technically impossible for political parties to engage outside of the region, for anyone to access information outside of china and prohibits free press, censoring and heavily altering global news, and so called “secessionist ideals”.



## UK General Election Petition Set To Pass 3 Million Signatures

Wednesday 27th November 2024

A petition, started by local Michael Westwood has garnered over 2.9 Million signatures calling for a fresh re-run of elections after he believed the Labour Party has “gone back on the promises it made” despite the government only sitting for 4 months of their 5 year term. Prime Minister Kerr Starmer said he “was not surprised” that people who voted against Labour want a rerun of the polls. Westwood claims that the party lied its way into power and has went on to predict tough times ahead regarding the national insurance, business rates and other parts of the Labour budget which he claims to be detrimental to small business. The Prime Minister responded to the petition, claiming that his government inherited alot of problems from the Tories and that “now it is the time to make the tough decisions”. Meanwhile, Westwood has stated he has the rights to his own opinion and is concerned about small businesses across the nation, claiming “there's not going to be any left”. The petition is set to close on the 20th May, but is likely to be debated in the December-January sitting periods of parliament.

## Macron Acknowledges 1944 Thiaroye Massacre by French Army

French President Emmanuel Macron has officially recognized the 1944 killings of West African soldiers by the French Army in Thiaroye, Senegal, as a massacre. The soldiers, part of the Tirailleurs Sénégalais, a colonial infantry unit, were killed on December 1, 1944, after protesting unpaid wages. Estimates of the death toll range from 35 to 400. This acknowledgment, coming ahead of the 80th anniversary of the incident, was announced by Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye in a recent interview. In a letter to Senegalese authorities, Macron expressed support for the Committee for the Restoration of the Facts, tasked with uncovering the full truth. Faye welcomed the move, viewing it as a step toward closure on this painful chapter of history.





# Israel-Hezbollah Ceasefire, Implications For The Middle East Crisis



## Taiwan Drills Amid Further Chinese Pressure

Wednesday 27th November 2024



Heath Clark

On the 27th November, both the Israel and the listed terrorist organization Hezbollah have agreed to a ceasefire which would see the gradual withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon over 60 days. The agreement, which was approved by the Israeli cabinet on Tuesday and effective at 4am (local time) comes after more than a year since Hezbollah began striking Israel on October 8th 2023. The ceasefire would see Israel withdraw from southern Lebanon, and the Hezbollah paramilitary relocating north of the Litani River. The Lebanese army as well as an international peacekeeping taskforce led by the united states will oversee the peacekeeping arrangements and ensure minimal conflict and support refugees in the region.

An additional term of the agreement would see the Lebanese army expand it's role in the region to become the only military force in Lebanon, this could result in the disbandment of the Hezbollah paramilitary wings but there is much uncertainty regarding this. The damage in the region is quite extensive, and according to Al Jazeera it's quite unlikely that Lebanese civilians will return in the short term, due to distrust and uncertainty regarding how long the ceasefire will last. Imad Salamey, a political science professor at the Lebanese American University suggests it will hold, although likely to only be a temporary measure. The lack of Iranian involvement in the deal and the fragility of the Lebanese army leads some analysts such as Alon Pinkas to suggest a less optimistic outlook regarding the treaty's longevity. As of November 29th there have already been allegations of ceasefi-

re allegations from both sides. For now though, it's likely the ceasefire will hold.

### The Ongoing Gaza Conflict

Hamas has opened up public talks with it's neighbors regarding a ceasefire after the signing of the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire on Tuesday. the official statement:

“ Hamas appreciates the right of Lebanon and Hezbollah to reach an agreement that protects the people of Lebanon and we hope that this agreement will pave the way to reaching an agreement that ends the war of genocide against our people in Gaza” - Sami Abu Zuhri.

Israel is still focused on destroying Hamas (a listed terror organization) and recently Benjamin Netanyahu has stated the IDF and relief efforts have catered for the citizens of Gaza.



Wednesday 27th November 2024

Taiwan drilled on Tuesday amid retaliatory statements from China ahead of Taiwan's president Lai Ching Te's visit to pacific island nations. The exercise lasted over two hours with a combination of fighter, ship and drone warfare demonstration, in an effort to keep up military pressure and perceived strength. This comes after previous sighting of alleged Chinese spy balloons operating around the island, and several Chinese military vessels and 13 Chinese jets were spotted patrolling close by. The Taiwanese President plans to visit pacific island nations in order to bolster it's waning allies, as the PRC continually pressures minor nations to only recognize the PRC under the "one China, two systems" policy.



### Global Inflation On Strong Decline, Despite Some Holdouts

Inflation is beginning to lower globally as most major nations have entered their rate cutting cycles in order to slowly open up national economies and encourage greater investment again. spending cuts and surplus goals from nations such as the USA. Despite the incoming trump administration, Australia and a few holdout nations inflation has remained sticky, and for Australia at least, is not likely to cut rates until January 2025



# 47th Australian Parliament's Last Sitting Week Of The Year

Saturday 30th November 2024

The Australian Parliament has concluded its last sitting week of the year, managing to push through 37 bills with limited debate via an agreement with the Greens. This week we saw reforms to housing, childcare, healthcare and energy just to name a few. Key bills passed include migration reforms, the Future Made in Australia package, Privacy Act changes, Reserve Bank reforms, and aged care sector changes. Labor approached the Greens for official support, in exchange for \$500m in social housing energy upgrades and commitments against fossil fuels investments. Independent senators such as Jacqui Lambie have opposed the legislative changes, claiming them dangerous due to a lack of detail. On the other hand opposition leader Peter Dutton called the Albanese government incompetent and challenged him to call an election.



Albanese has responded by restating his prior commitments and achievements throughout the year such as the stage 3 tax cuts, rental assistance and energy bill relief (in reference to the energy rebates committed during the 2024-2025 Federal Budget). Key legislation such as a potential Environmental Protection Agency and electoral reforms have been shelved for later debate when parliament sits again in February. In other news, Leader of the opposition in the senate Simon Birmingham has announced his retirement from Australian parliament which will be effective at the 2025 federal election. Birmingham has been a senator for South Australia since 2007 and some of his notable achievements include the IACEPA bilateral trade agreement with Indonesia. Birmingham has also had involvement around the Murray-darling water basin to protect the future of water resources for both farmers and residents of the region.

## ACCC Approves More Qatar And Virgin Flights

Virgin Australia has received interim approval from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to sell tickets for new Qatar Airways-operated flights.



## Lydia Thorpe Censured By Senate Over King Protest

Monday 18th November 2024

On Monday, Federal parliament censured Lydia Thorpe over her actions during King Charles III's visit across Australia in late October, with the senate vote finalizing the decision.

## "Children's Play", The Fiery Senate Trio

The Australian Senate had some other difficult moments throughout the last sitting week of Parliament. On Wednesday, One Nation senator Pauline Hanson raised section 44 against Australia First senator Fatima Payman, questioning her eligibility to serve in parliament due to her dual Afghan-Australian citizenship. The statement drove retaliation from Senator Payman, calling Hanson "vindictive, mean and nasty" and quote "[bringing] disgrace to the human race". Her response sparked retaliatory action by Senator Lydia Thorpe who tore up Hanson's papers and allegedly threw them back at her. Later that day, opposition senate leader Simon Birmingham stated the motion to suspend Lydia Thorpe was "a line in the sand" and that she had clearly crossed the line when it comes to unacceptable behavior. He also went on to accuse the Greens of "double standards" for not supporting the motion, claiming they would not tolerate a similar action from an opposing party. On Friday, Lydia Thorpe protested in the senate gallery area after sneaking into parliament, denouncing the senate as racist.



## Defamation Case Raised Against Nine News And Lydia Thorpe

On Thursday, Pauline Hanson's lawyers pushed forward a defamation warning to nine news and Lydia Thorpe after public statements made which Hanson's legal team believes to be degenerating, misrepresentation of character after Lydia stated Hanson being a "convicted racist" during an interview. The network was sent a warning by lawyers due to their failure to challenge, correct or withdraw the broadcast. On Thursday afternoon Today show stated "TODAY wishes to clarify that Senator Hanson has not been criminally convicted of racism, and any suggestion to the contrary is unequivocally withdrawn."



# “Time Out”, Australian Parliament Bans Social Media For Under 16s

Children under 16 will be banned from using social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook from late next year, following the passage of a landmark law in Australia. The government, supported by the opposition, argues the ban is necessary to protect young people’s mental health. Social media companies face fines of up to \$50 million for failing to block underage users, though no penalties will apply to children or parents who bypass the rules. The legislation excludes messaging apps, online gaming, educational platforms, and sites like YouTube that don’t require logins. However, companies cannot demand government-issued IDs for age verification, a move welcomed by privacy advocates. The bill faced criticism for its rapid passage, with minimal consultation and concerns about unintended consequences.



Mental health experts offered mixed views: some praised the effort to curb online harm, while others warned of potential isolation for youth, particularly those in remote areas who rely on online platforms for connection and support. Despite dissent from some MPs and mental health groups, the government pressed ahead, framing the ban as a critical step toward safeguarding Australian children. The laws will come into effect after a 12-month implementation period.

# The Ukraine War So Far

Saturday 30th November 2024

Donald Trump’s pledge to end the Ukraine war by his inauguration lacks details, sparking fears in Europe he might impose unfavorable terms, leaving Ukraine vulnerable. Allies worry Putin could exploit talks to prepare for further aggression. Zelensky demands a ceasefire and NATO-backed security guarantees to safeguard Ukraine’s territory. Despite heavy Russian casualties, Moscow is advancing rapidly, now controlling 20% of Ukraine. Domestically, Zelensky faces declining support, with polls showing only 16% backing his re-election and 60% opposing his candidacy.



## World First: Zelensky Claims He Would Give Up Territory In Return For NATO Membership

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned Russia’s large-scale attack on energy infrastructure as a "despicable escalation," leaving over a million without power across 14 regions, with the west hardest hit. Russia also used cluster munitions and threatened Kyiv with advanced Oreshnik missiles, which Zelenskyy’s adviser dismissed as overhyped. President Joe Biden called the attack outrageous, highlighting the urgency of supporting Ukraine, while Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk deemed Putin’s threats a sign of weakness.

# \$3 Billion Student Debt Wiped Under New Law



In a major win for Australians with student loans, the Albanese Government passed legislation tonight that will erase \$3 billion in student debt for more than three million people. The Universities Accord (Student Support and Other Measures) Bill 2024 introduces significant changes to the way student loan indexation is calculated. Under the reforms, indexation will now be capped at the lower of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or the Wage Price Index (WPI) and will be applied retroactively from 1 June 2023. This change affects HELP loans, VET Student Loans, Australian Apprenticeship Support Loans, and other similar debts. For many, it represents relief from the sharp 7.1% indexation spike in 2023, which will now be reduced to 3.2% under the new rules. Similarly, the 2024 indexation rate will drop from 4.7% to 4.0%.



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Recently we've changed our publication standards to provide you with more in depth and valuable content such as some of the articles you may have seen listed here. We believe we need to make a difference in the media landscape and we hope with this new approach, our new team members and your support we are able to make the greatest change we possibly can, so you can enjoy the news with minimal bias, spin or blackspots.



## Podcast Series

We are planning on continuing the podcast series "The Darkest Hour" with new episodes coming out over the next couple week, be sure to stay tuned for more updates.



## "Letters Of Liberty Conference 2025"

We plan to host an event in mid 2025, If you'd like to express your early interest please RSVP via the website. Additionally if you're interested in supporting the conference, please contact [eicthoughtdigest@gmail.com](mailto:eicthoughtdigest@gmail.com)



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