

THE WEEK

The Week in Review | Volume II

The West

This week was busy in the US and Europe: Impeachment proceedings, Erdogan's offensive, an attack in Germany on Yom Kippur, and California's rolling blackouts were the news this week.

The East

Both Apple and Google pulled apps related to the Hong Kong protests, a capitulation to Beijing. Among other things, these apps crowdsourced police activity in the semi-autonomous city, which helped the protesters avoid scrutiny.

Focus: NBA Tweets

Houston Rockets executive Daryl Morey tweeted support for the Hong Kong protests on Friday evening, which infuriated Chinese fans and sponsors as the NBA tries to grow in China. While there is no plan to discipline Morey, many Chinese firms have suspended advertising deals with the NBA.

Quick Take

Trump has outdone himself yet again, this time facing criticism from both parties. On Sunday he announced that he would withdraw troops from Syria, effectively abandoning the Kurds to Turkey. President Erdogan considers the Kurds a domestic terrorist group and has vowed to take action, although Trump tweeted on Monday that he would "totally destroy and obliterate the Economy of Turkey" if Erdogan oversteps.¹ On Wednesday, Erdogan overstepped by launching an offensive along Turkey's border with Syria. Trump has yet to totally destroy and/or obliterate anything in Turkey.

On a related but different note, the House Democrats' impeachment 'investigations' are underway, marking the first time in history such investigations have started without bipartisan support. According to FiveThirtyEight, 55.7% Americans oppose impeachment while just 35.8% support it.²

Finally, a gunman attacked on a synagogue on Wednesday, during the Jewish holiday. Broadcasting live video, the 27-year-old suspect was unable to gain entry into the synagogue and subsequently shot two people dead before being arrested.



From [National Geographic](#): The Canada warbler has lost 63 percent of its population since 1970. Its numbers are likely to decrease further as climate change alters its habitat, according to a new Audubon report.



Something Delicious

After a wonderfully fall-themed hike at Breakneck Ridge last weekend left us devoid of hot chocolate, we decided to make our own. We compiled these three recipes from the popular YouTube series [You Suck at Cooking](#). Note that each option requires **one cup of milk**. Which is your favorite?

Option 1 - Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons coca powder
- Sea salt
- 3 teaspoons honey

Directions

1. Warm milk to just less than boiling
2. Mix in hot chocolate; stir
3. Add in pinch of salt
4. Add in honey

Option 2 - Ingredients

- 4-6 squares semisweet baking chocolate
- 0.5-1 teaspoon brown sugar
- Ground ginger

Directions

1. Warm milk to just less than boiling
2. Add chocolate, let melt; stir
3. Mix in brown sugar to taste
4. Add a pinch of ginger

Option 3 - Ingredients

- 3 squares 85% dark chocolate
- 2-3 teaspoons maple syrup
- Vanilla
- Sea salt

Directions

1. Warm milk to just less than boiling
2. Add dark chocolate, let melt; stir
3. Mix in maple syrup, and add a few drops of vanilla
4. Add in a pinch of salt

Finance & Markets

Markets rallied as Chinese investors returned from their holiday last week and as Trump announced he would continue negotiations on Friday. Despite this recent surge of optimism, traders are still watching the headlines closely for any firm indication of a final deal—the fact that the situation remains fluid has worried many fund managers. The tense situation with China continues to justify relatively stable low bond yields even as stocks pretend to be roller coasters.

As if this wasn't enough of a worry for investors, flat month-on-month consumer price data, which came out on Thursday, could give the Fed more of a reason to cut rates later this month since it suggests that consumer spending has started to fall. Consumer spending has been supporting the economy despite negative indicators elsewhere.

The Big Headlines

Erdogan Launches Strike Despite US Threats

Despite Trump's threats to impose sanctions on Turkey, Erdogan launched an offensive against the Kurds on Wednesday. This latest action was just three short days after Trump announced he would begin withdrawing American troops from the region. There are three big concerns with this move: the lives of the Kurds, who served as American allies in the war against ISIS; who will deal with the thousands of IS prisoners who are currently in custody of the Kurds; and whether Turkey is going to annex part of their border with Syria. Erogan has vowed to drive the Kurds out of the region, since his government considers them terrorists, and has said that Turkey will take charge of IS prisoners. He has also stated that his forces are not in Syria to annex any parts of the border.

Trump to Discuss Trade with China

Closed-door trade talks between the Trump Administration and Chinese officials began Thursday evening, sparking a wave of optimism in the markets. Although most US-based companies are advocating for a deal to ease sanctions and to calm tensions, some members of the administration and in political advocacy groups are looking for ways to further pressure China into caving to US

demands.³ US-Chinese relations have been strained recently following pro-Hong Kong tweets from the NBA and controversy over Huawei’s involvement in the US telecom industry.

Rolling Blackouts hit the Bay Area

Hundreds of thousands of customers were left without power as PG&E cut power to Bay Area customers on Wednesday and Thursday nights. This recent set of blackouts are part of PG&E’s campaign to reduce the chance of sparking another wildfire by reducing the burden on their transmission lines. What’s up this weekend?

What’s Up this Weekend?

What	Where	When	Notes
<u>NY Coffee Festival</u>	Metropolitan Pavilion	Friday, Saturday, & Sunday	This is an awesome event! Would highly recommend
<u>Bridge the Gap for Girls 5K Walk</u>	Brooklyn	Saturday	Walk begins at 10am
<u>Journey to the Stars</u>	Museum of Natural History	Saturday, Sunday, +	

Further Reading

<https://waitbutwhy.com/2014/05/secretly-hate-bars.html>

- ♦ What do we actually like about going to that hip new bar on the corner? Tim Urban discusses this question in an article from the archives.

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/energy-and-fatigue/9-tips-to-boost-your-energy-naturally>

- ♦ Who doesn't want more energy? A new study from Harvard suggests starting with four hours of sleep, and going from there.

Citations

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-begins-pullback-from-northern-syria-clearing-way-for-turkish-offensive-11570439862>

² https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/impeaching-trump-on-russia-was-unpopular-will-ukraine-be-different/?ex_cid=538twitter

³ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/trump-to-meet-with-china-s-top-trade-negotiator-on-friday-11570716458>