

Superintelligence Muse-ings meet super-geopolitics

Macro headlines

President Trump used his UN General Assembly speech to reject UK PM Burnham's push for G20-level AI governance, calling global coordination a "globalist scheme" and announcing that his administration will refer to AI as "superintelligence" going forward. The remarks underscore widening transatlantic divergence on AI regulation at a moment when adoption is accelerating – highlighted by Meta's Muse personal AI agent topping the US App Store since Friday. UNGA geopolitical diplomacy intensified. US envoy Witkoff said the US and Iran held lengthy mediated talks on Tuesday, with shuttling intermediaries continuing discussions. Trump also met Middle Eastern leaders seeking to restore shipping through the Strait of Hormuz – once the conduit for a fifth of global oil and gas flows – but wary of empowering Iran. Tehran conveyed conditions via Qatari mediation, including an end to the war on all fronts, removal of the naval blockade, cessation of what it calls US "aggression," and release of Iranian assets. US officials held direct talks with Iranian counterparts – the first since late June – attended by Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi. The dual track of confrontation and negotiation reflects a volatile geopolitical backdrop as energy markets remain sensitive to Middle East developments. Macro data softened. The Richmond Fed's manufacturing index fell to -2 in September from 4, driven by weaker shipments and new orders. Eurozone consumer confidence slipped to -16.5 in September, hurt by rebounding energy prices amid escalating military action. In the UK, government borrowing rose to GBP18.3bn in August, GBP3.5bn above OBR forecasts, driven by higher interest payments – adding pressure ahead of Burnham's pre-Budget positioning. In central bank speech, New York Fed President Williams defended the Fed's rate-control framework, emphasizing the effectiveness of ample reserve operations and flexibility to adjust tools as markets evolve.

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Market performances

The Nasdaq rose 0.45%, hitting another record close, while the S&P 500 was flat and the Dow fell 0.36%. AI-linked equities continued to outperform, led by Micron and broader semiconductor strength. Rising adoption, monetization, and capital spending support the AI trade, reinforcing resilience despite geopolitical noise. Global equities were modestly firmer, with MSCI's world index up c0.1% and the STOXX 600 up 0.13%. Risk appetite benefited from lower oil prices and stable Treasury yields. Oil declined as crude flows through the Middle East improved. A senior Iranian official told Reuters that Tehran could reopen the Strait of Hormuz within seven days if the US eases military pressure and lifts its blockade. Saudi flows increased with the restart of the East-West pipeline and resumed ship movements. US crude fell to USD94.59/bbl, while Brent dropped to USD98.30/bbl. Treasury yields remained stable yet elevated as markets price further global rate hikes. The dollar gained 0.13% against the euro to 1.1448, and was steady at JPY157.37. The yen remains vulnerable after last week's BOJ hike disappointed investors with limited hawkish guidance, leaving traders alert for potential intervention.

What's Next

Wednesday brings a dense PMI slate across major economies. The US releases flash manufacturing and services PMIs. France, Germany, the eurozone, and the UK publish composite PMIs, offering a timely read on whether recent resilience can withstand rising energy prices and geopolitical tension. South Africa reports CPI and its repo-rate decision, expected at 7.25%. Russia releases industrial production, India publishes its composite PMI, and Singapore reports CPI and core CPI. Indonesia's BI rate decision and Taiwan's industrial production round out Asia's macro calendar. Japan's markets are closed for Autumn Equinox Day. Mark Zuckerberg speaks at Meta Connect, likely expanding on Muse's rapid adoption and Meta's broader AI strategy. The OECD releases its Interim Economic Outlook in Paris, providing updated global growth and inflation projections. Markets enter the day balancing UNGA diplomacy, AI acceleration, and a still-hawkish global rate backdrop, with tech strength offsetting geopolitical fragility and energy market volatility. Markets are also watching the Trump-Xi meeting later this week. Xi arrives in Washington today, fueling hopes of extending the one-year trade truce and exploring cooperation on AI.

Daily Market View

Investment Strategy ♦ September 23, 2026

Performance snapshot*				
Rates	Latest	1D (bp)	1M (bp)	3M (bp)
SOFR	3.85	0.00	23.00	24.00
UAE Eibor 3m	4.37	-2.79	46.35	48.25
UAE Eibor 12m	5.03	8.95	81.09	76.76
US 3m Bills	4.09	1.69	31.02	33.20
US 10yr Treasury	4.96	1.03	31.47	45.25
German 10yr Bund	3.46	0.50	20.10	51.10
UK 10yr Gilt	5.24	2.60	19.40	43.00
Fixed Income		1D (%)	1M (%)	3M(%)
Global Agg. Index	495	-0.06	-1.36	-0.86
Global Treasuries	205	-0.05	-1.22	-0.63
Global Corporate	299	-0.08	-1.52	-1.36
EM USD Sovereign	461	0.12	-0.86	-1.52
EM LCY Sovereign	169	0.14	0.22	2.17
Global High Yield	1,896	-0.03	-1.05	-0.21
Currencies				
Dollar Index	100.60	0.17	1.79	-0.41
EUR USD	1.1449	-0.14	-1.95	0.17
GBP USD	1.3346	-0.16	-1.91	0.72
USD JPY	157.39	0.02	-0.49	-2.59
Equities				
S&P 500	7,765	0.00	0.74	3.91
Dow Jones	51,864	-0.36	-2.99	0.29
NASDAQ	27,244	0.45	3.47	4.12
STOXX 600	643	0.13	-1.29	0.55
DAX	25,579	0.02	-1.96	1.75
Nikkei 225	65,019	0.00	-0.47	-10.14
FTSE 100	10,708	-0.29	-0.33	2.59
SENSEX	74,529	-0.44	-3.10	-3.33
Hang Seng	25,088	0.18	-1.60	5.55
MSCI World	4,978	0.01	0.06	3.25
MSCI EM	1,746	0.69	4.64	-3.16
Regional Equities				
ADX	10,232	1.25	2.26	1.96
DFM	5,997	0.62	2.66	-3.01
Tadawul*	10,681	-0.01	-4.96	-0.37
DSM*	9,514	-0.47	-3.67	-5.83
MSM30*	7,560	0.13	0.37	1.07
BHSE*	1,910	-0.08	-1.60	-3.75
KWSE*	8,755	-1.03	-1.56	1.05
Commodities				
BBG Commodity Index	144.4	-0.06	4.32	14.66
Brent USD/bbl	99.25	-1.09	8.33	27.41
WTI USD/bbl	94.59	-1.24	10.21	26.42
Gold USD/t oz	4,360.7	0.40	-3.43	4.07
Silver USD/t oz	67.1	1.58	0.15	3.06

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Platinum USD/t oz	1,836.7	1.72	0.89	9.21
Aluminum	3,266.7	-0.23	1.21	-3.16
Copper USD/MT	14,797.0	0.06	4.35	8.47
Digital Assets				
Bitcoin	86,264.9	-0.82	24.95	34.01
Ether	2,751.7	-1.15	24.06	58.79
Solana	118.0	-1.00	40.89	62.13
XRP	1.6	2.51	42.97	38.99
Volatility				
VIX	14.21	-4.44	-4.57	-17.77
MOVE	78.56	-3.25	10.24	12.20

Source: Bloomberg, and ADCB Asset Management *Notes: Data as at 8:00AM UAE time – September 23, 2025. Performance in local currency terms.

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