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The Shenzhen Trilateral in Numbers: Trump, Xi and Putin by the Figures

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Three leaders, $1.48 trillion in arms, 12,187 nuclear warheads and a bridge in the sea - the figures behind Thursday’s first-ever Trump-Xi-Putin trilateral.

KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS & STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

Executive Summary SHENZHEN Three men who command more than half of the world’s military spending and more than nine in ten of its nuclear warheads meet in Shenzhen on Thursday, November 19, for the first trilateral summit of Donald Trump, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin. The meeting, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, comes two days after Ukraine crippled the Kerch Bridge to Crimea and hours after the United States destroyed five Iranian tankers in the Gulf of Oman. The scale of the room is the story. APEC’s 21 member economies hold about 3 billion people, 36.4 percent of humanity, and produce about $61.4 trillion, 61.6 percent of world output. The three leaders’ own countries spent $1.48 trillion on their militaries in 2025, 51 percent of the global total, and hold an estimated 11,082 of the world’s 12,187 nuclear warheads between them. This study assembles the figures behind the summit: the economic weight of the forum hosting it, the military and nuclear balance of the three powers, the cost of the two wars on the agenda, and the bridge strike that set the tone two days before the leaders sit down together. The trilateral itself was first announced on our November 9 web story ; what follows is the evidence behind the headlines. Methodology This study rests on official statistics and open-source estimates, cross-checked across two or more independent sources for every load-bearing figure. APEC figures come from the forum’s official statistics as published in November 2026. Military spending comes from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute’s Trends in World Military Expenditure 2025, published in April 2026. Nuclear figures come from the Federation of American Scientists’ Status of World Nuclear Forces, early 2026. War figures carry wider

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