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### Thirty Years' Crisis: The Decline of U.S. Hegemony and the Rise of China

*Otuz Yıl Krizi: ABD Hegemonyasının Gerileyişi ve Çin'in Yükselişi*

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#### Abstract

This article examines the current global landscape, characterized by the decline of US hegemony and the rise of China, and draws parallels to Carr's "Twenty Years' Crisis." The implications of these shifts are explored, including the resurgence of realism, China's ascent as a global power, challenges to US leadership, and the potential risks of a global military conflict. The resurgence of power politics challenges the prevailing belief that it had diminished in the post-Cold War era. Territorial disputes and the pursuit of national interests by major powers such as Russia and China highlight the enduring relevance of realism. China's rapid rise as a global power echoes the emergence of the United States as a superpower in the past. Meanwhile, the United States faces challenges as its economic and technological superiority wanes, with China posing a significant threat to its leadership. In conclusion, the current global landscape, similar to Carr's "Twenty Years' Crisis," demands a holistic approach to understanding and addressing the complexities of our time.

**Keywords:** Twenty Years' Crisis, United States, China, Rise of China, Carr

#### Öz

Bu makale, ABD hegemonyasının gerileyişi ve Çin'in yükselişi ile karakterize edilen mevcut küresel ortamı incelemekte ve Carr'ın "Yirmi Yıl Krizi" ile paralellikler kurmaktadır. Realizmin yeniden canlanması, Çin'in küresel bir güç olarak yükselişi, ABD liderliğine yönelik meydan okumalar ve küresel bir askeri çatışmanın potansiyel riskleri de dahil olmak üzere bu değişimlerin sonuçları araştırılmaktadır. Güç politikalarının yeniden canlanması, Soğuk Savaş sonrası dönemde azaldığı yönündeki yaygın inanca meydan okumaktadır. Rusya ve Çin gibi büyük güçlerin

toprak anlaşmazlıkları ve ulusal çıkar arayışları, realizmin süregelen geçerliliğini vurgulamaktadır. Çin'in küresel bir güç olarak hızlı yükselişi, geçmişte Amerika Birleşik Devletleri'nin süper güç olarak ortaya çıkışının bir yansımasıdır. Bu arada ABD, ekonomik ve teknolojik üstünlüğünün gerileyişi ve Çin'in ABD'nin liderliğine yönelik önemli bir tehdit oluşturması nedeniyle zorluklarla karşı karşıyadır. Sonuç olarak, Carr'ın "Yirmi Yıl Kriz"ine benzer şekilde, mevcut küresel ortam, çağımızın karmaşıklıklarını anlamak ve ele almak için bütüncül bir yaklaşımı gerekli kılmaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Yirmi Yıl Krizi, Amerika Birleşik Devletleri, Çin, Çin'in Yükselişi, Carr

## Introduction

The current global landscape is undergoing a significant shift that bears striking resemblances to the period that E.H. Carr meticulously analyzed in his seminal work, 'The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919–1939.' Carr's critique of the volatile interwar years serves as a lens through which we can better understand the complexities of today's international relations. He observed that shifts in power often occur in a context of economic upheaval, ideological transformation, and geopolitical realignments. Carr posited that 'power over opinion...is less a matter of the coercion of minds by propaganda than of the creation of authority by means of the interpretation of events' (Carr, 2016). His analysis prompts us to consider how the decline of U.S. hegemony and the rise of China as a global power is both shaping and shaped by changes in global opinion and authority structures.

In Carr's view, the decline of British power during the interwar period was a critical factor that led to the restructuring of international systems. Similarly, we argue that the decline of American power is not merely an economic or military phenomenon but involves a complex interplay of ideological, economic, and geopolitical elements. Carr was critical of the utopian idealism that he believed had led to policy failures; his realist perspective emphasized the role of power and national interest in international relations(Carr,2016). As we delve into the intricacies of the current global landscape, this article will adopt a similar realist lens to explore how national interests and power dynamics are shaping the world order.

This article aims to present a nuanced understanding of the shifts in global politics by examining the decline of U.S. hegemony and the rise of China, in light of Carr's insights into the dynamics of international

power shifts. We will discuss these changes across multiple dimensions, including economic capabilities, ideological influence, and geopolitical strategies, to offer a comprehensive analysis of this transformation.

Today, one notable trend shaping the international order is the rise of realism in international relations. Traditional notions of liberal internationalism, characterized by multilateral cooperation and global governance, are being challenged as power politics and the pursuit of national interests gain prominence. This shift in dynamics has far-reaching implications for the balance of power and the functioning of international institutions.

Furthermore, the changing global order is marked by the evolution of hegemonic power. The influence and dominance of traditional powers, such as the United States, have faced challenges as the global economic and technological landscape evolves. This power shift creates opportunities for emerging powers, such as China, to assert themselves on the global stage. The emergence of China as a major global player, with its economic growth, military advancements, and assertive foreign policy, has reshaped the dynamics of international relations. These developments necessitate a deeper understanding of the implications and consequences for global stability and cooperation.

In summary, the current global landscape reflects a period of transformation and uncertainty. The rise of realism, the evolving dynamics of hegemonic power, and the emergence of China as a global player contribute to the changing global order. By examining historical parallels and understanding these developments, policymakers and scholars can better navigate the challenges and opportunities of this new era in global politics.

To understand the current state of affairs, it is essential to examine the rise of realism in international relations. Realism asserts that the international system operates within an anarchic structure, lacking a central authority. Power becomes the fundamental concept that determines relations between states. While the international system lacks a universal structure that enforces rules, one state inevitably emerges as relatively stronger than the others, capable of exerting significant influence on a global scale. These periods, characterized by a dominant power, are often associated with the name of that state. For example, Pax Romana referred to the period when the Roman Empire held hegemonic power and imposed its norms and rules (Rosecrance, 2006).

After the Cold War, the United States emerged as the sole hegemonic

power, leading to a belief in the triumph of liberal democracy and the end of history. But this optimism, which dreamed of a more peaceful and democratic world, was short-lived as conflicts continued around the world, underscoring the enduring importance of nation-states and their pursuit of national interests. In the absence of a peer competitor capable of balancing U.S. power, Washington sought to create artificial enemies, primarily through the prism of international terrorism. Nevertheless, the need for a common adversary persisted, as demonstrated by Huntington's argument in "Who Are We?" that a nation formed by immigrants like the United States requires a common enemy (Huntington, 2004).

Today, global politics is undergoing a significant shift, mainly driven by the rise of China, the forces of globalization, interdependence among nations, and transnational violent movements. As of 2023, China is the world's second-largest economy, with a nominal GDP of approximately \$19.37 trillion, close behind the United States (\$26.85 trillion), according to data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF, 2023). The nation has also extended its influence through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). By June 2023, China had signed more than 200 BRI cooperation agreements with more than 150 countries and 30 international organizations across five continents, yielding a number of signature projects and small-scale yet impactful projects (The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, 2023). Concurrently, the United States is experiencing a decline in its influence, particularly in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis. According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) data, the U.S.'s share of global GDP (PPP) has decreased from approximately 20.3% in 2000 to around 15.4% in 2023 (IMF, 2023).

According to the theory of hegemonic stability, a hegemon acts as a central authority in the international system, mitigating tensions arising from its anarchic nature and preventing large-scale wars while supporting free trade. The hegemon benefits the most from liberal trade, and its currency typically becomes the globally recognized currency (Sachse, 1989).

In the post-World War II and post-Cold War periods, the United States played the role of the hegemonic state, exerting significant control over the global economy through institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, and the WTO. It utilized initiatives like the Marshall Plan to improve infrastructure and purchasing power among its allies and partners. However, the United States is now witnessing a decline in its economic and technological superiority, resulting in anxiety and insular tendencies that undermine free trade (Stein, 1984). In contrast, China, as an emerging

power, champions free trade and seeks to expand its global market presence through initiatives like the BRI and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) free trade agreement (Vines, 2018). In addition to these, China has also founded the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which had a capital stock of \$100 billion as of 2021 and aims to support infrastructure projects in the Asia-Pacific region (Cai, 2022). The Silk Road Fund, another strategic endeavor, is a \$40 billion initiative designed to invest in businesses and projects that are part of the Belt and Road framework (Feng, 2019).

China's rise mirrors the historical trajectory of the United States, which emerged as a global power during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As China continues to grow economically, assert itself militarily, and expand its influence globally, it poses a challenge to US dominance. This changing power dynamic has far-reaching implications for the international system, raising questions about the potential risks of a new global military conflict. As history has shown, power transitions often lead to periods of instability and conflict as rising powers challenge the established order (Allison, 2017).

Considering the historical parallels and the present circumstances, this article aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the evolving dynamics of the international system. By examining the rise of realism, the decline of US hegemony, the emergence of China as a global power, and the potential risks of a new global military conflict, this research sheds light on the factors shaping the current international order. Understanding these dynamics are crucial for policymakers, scholars, and global citizens as they navigate the complexities of a changing world order and seek to mitigate the risks associated with power transitions and geopolitical competition.

In the following sections, this article will delve into a comprehensive literature review, methodology, data analysis, and further discussion to provide a comprehensive analysis of the research question and contribute to the existing body of knowledge in international relations.

In the three decades following the end of the Cold War, there was a prevailing belief that realism had taken a backseat in international relations. The interwar period of the 1920s and 1930s witnessed the devastating consequences of power struggles, territorial disputes, and the collapse of the global order, leading to a desire for a different approach to international relations. The establishment of international institutions, such as the United Nations, and the emergence of liberal

internationalism fostered the hope that cooperation, multilateralism, and the pursuit of shared values would prevail over power politics.

### **Rise of Realism**

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, there was a growing belief that realism had become outdated, and the international system was transitioning towards a more cooperative and peaceful era (Roberts, 1991). The decline of traditional interstate conflicts, the integration of economies through globalization, and the spread of democratic governance were seen as signs of progress towards a more harmonious global order. The concept of a "new world order" emerged, emphasizing the idea that power politics would be replaced by collective security, international law, and the promotion of human rights (Ikenberry, 2018).

However, as the years unfolded, it became apparent that the situation was not as idealistic as initially envisioned. The rise of realism as a prominent theoretical framework in international relations gained traction as the flaws and limitations of the liberal order became evident. Realism, as a theoretical perspective, posits that states are the primary actors in international relations and that their behavior is driven by self-interest, power considerations, and the pursuit of security. It contends that the international system is characterized by anarchy, meaning there is no overarching authority to enforce rules and order among states. In this anarchic environment, states engage in power struggles and seek to maximize their own interests (Waltz, 1990).

Additionally, the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine serves as a stark reminder of the enduring relevance of power dynamics and the pursuit of national interests. Initiated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the conflict shattered the notion that armed conflicts between states were relics of the past, highlighting the potential for aggression and territorial expansion in an anarchic international system.

Additionally, China's assertive behavior and its efforts to expand its influence in various regions have further undermined the notion of a post-realist international order. China's economic prowess, military modernization, and growing assertiveness in territorial disputes, such as the South China Sea, demonstrate that power politics remain a significant force shaping the global system (Kwon, 2019). China's passionate endeavors in the Middle East and Africa, as well as its increasing engagement in Eastern Europe, highlight its intention to expand its sphere of influence and challenge the existing balance of power (Fardella, 2015).

Moreover, the aspirations of Finland and Sweden to join NATO reflect a shift towards realism. These countries, despite initially embracing a more cooperative approach to security, have recognized the need for a stronger collective defense alliance to counter potential threats. Their desire to align with NATO and enhance their security demonstrates a growing realization that power and self-interest continue to play a crucial role in international relations, especially in an uncertain and changing global order (Alberque and Schreer, 2022).

In light of these developments, it has become increasingly clear that the belief in a post-realist era following the end of the Cold War was overly optimistic. The inter-war period of the 1920s and 1930s serves as a reminder that power struggles, territorial disputes, and the pursuit of national interests are enduring features of the international system. The resurgence of realism as a prominent theoretical framework in international relations highlights the limitations of liberal internationalism and emphasizes the need to acknowledge the complex interplay of power, interests, and strategic calculations among state actors.

By recognizing the continued relevance of realism, policymakers and scholars can better understand and navigate the evolving dynamics of the international system. This understanding allows for more effective strategies to address the challenges posed by power politics, balance competing interests, and maintain stability in an increasingly complex and multipolar world.

### **A Great Shift in Global Politics**

The transformation in the global political landscape, characterized by the diminishing influence of the United States and the ascendance of China, can be understood through E.H. Carr's theory of international relations. Carr highlighted that the 'haves' and 'have-nots' dynamic was central to understanding the interplay of power in the international arena. According to Carr, 'The line of cleavage between "haves" and "have-nots" was not only the most important fact in the history of the last two decades (1919-1939), but the key to an understanding of most of the international problems of today' (Carr, 2016).

### **The Decline of U.S. Hegemony: Economic, Ideological, and Geopolitical Factors**

In the same vein, this section argues that the United States, traditionally a 'have' in terms of economic and military capabilities, is experiencing a

decline that threatens its hegemonic status. On the other hand, China's rapid economic growth has catapulted it into the 'have' category, challenging the global status quo. This shift in the balance of power brings forth a reevaluation of global politics, much like the decline of British power led to a reconfiguration of international systems in Carr's analysis.

Carr's concept of hegemonic stability theory can be applied to analyze the changing dynamics. According to Carr, a dominant power or hegemon plays a pivotal role in maintaining international stability by crafting rules and norms that suit its interests (Carr, 2016). In the post-World War II era, the United States, much like Britain in the 19th century, assumed this role, championing free trade and establishing global institutions like the World Bank and the IMF. However, China's rise challenges this established order, echoing Carr's observations on the fluidity of power dynamics.

The decline of the United States can be traced back to multiple fronts—economic, ideological, and geopolitical—which aligns with Carr's multidimensional approach to understanding power shifts. Carr argued that power is never static; it is continuously influenced by changes in economic capabilities, public opinion, and international alignments (Carr, 2016). This perspective is instrumental in analyzing the decline of U.S. superiority in production and technology, and the increasing prominence of China as a champion of free trade.

To summarize, the great shift in global politics, characterized by the decline of U.S. hegemony and the rise of China, can be better understood through Carr's lens. His multidimensional analysis of power, which accounts for economic capabilities, ideological sway, and geopolitical alignments, provides a robust framework to analyze these transformations.

Today the rise of China, along with the forces of globalization, interdependence, and transnational movements, has caused a profound shift in global politics. These changes have had significant implications for the United States, which has been experiencing a decline in its influence, particularly following the 2008 global financial crisis. This section will explore the concept of hegemonic stability theory and examine how the United States, as the previous hegemon, played a central role in maintaining stability and supporting free trade. Furthermore, it will discuss the decline of US superiority in production and technology, the emergence of China as a champion of free trade, and its expanding global influence, ultimately arguing that the era of Pax Americana is eroding.



## **China's Rise: An Alternative Model of Hegemony**

One of the key factors contributing to the shift in global politics is the rise of China. Over the past few decades, China has experienced rapid economic growth, transforming itself into the world's second-largest economy. Its increasing economic power has translated into geopolitical influence, challenging the longstanding dominance of the United States. According to World Bank data, China's GDP growth rate has consistently outpaced that of the United States in recent years, with China's economy expanding at an average annual rate of around 6-7% compared to the United States' rate of around 2-3% (World Bank Open Data, 2023)

While the United States has traditionally been seen as a proponent of a liberal international order, characterized by democratic governance, human rights, and economic freedoms, China's rise presents an alternative model of hegemony. China has effectively leveraged its economic prowess to gain geopolitical influence, despite its communist governance model that places less emphasis on liberal democratic values (Breslin, 2018).

In contrast to the United States, China's hegemonic pull does not primarily stem from its promotion of democracy or human rights. Instead, it is largely economic, driven by its massive investment in research, development, and infrastructure projects across the globe, such as the Belt and Road Initiative. Furthermore, China has been successful in institutionalizing its influence through the establishment of alternative global governance structures, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Silk Road Fund (Li, 2019).

It is worth noting that China's economic-centric model of influence does attract a variety of nations, including some in the Western sphere, who view economic development as a pathway to stability and prosperity. However, this also raises critical questions about whether China's model offers a sustainable form of hegemony that can uphold international stability in the absence of a focus on democratic governance and human rights (Vučetić, 2022).

Globalization and interdependence have also played a significant role in reshaping global politics. The interconnectedness of economies, facilitated by advancements in technology and communication, has created a web of economic and political relationships that transcend national borders. Trade agreements, such as the WTO and regional free trade agreements, have promoted economic integration and interdependence among nations. As a result, the economic fortunes of countries have

become increasingly intertwined, with disruptions in one part of the world having ripple effects across the globe (Keohane and Nye, 1973).

### **The Role of Transnational Movements**

Transnational movements, such as the spread of ideas, advocacy for human rights, and the rise of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), have further challenged traditional power structures. These movements have facilitated the exchange of information and fostered global solidarity around issues such as climate change, social justice, and human rights. They have empowered individuals and groups to influence global politics beyond the confines of traditional state-centric diplomacy (Tarrow, 2005).

While transnational movements have been instrumental in shaping global politics, particularly in the realms of climate change, social justice, and human rights, China's engagement with these movements presents a complex picture. On the one hand, China has been an active participant in international climate agreements and has pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. On the other hand, its approach to social justice and human rights has been a subject of international scrutiny. China's more state-centric model of governance has often been at odds with the grassroots, bottom-up approach that characterizes many transnational movements. This divergence raises questions about the compatibility of China's emerging role as a global power with existing transnational networks aimed at fostering global solidarity (Breslin, 2021).

### **Hegemonic Stability Theory: A Theoretical Lens**

The concept of hegemonic stability theory provides insights into the changing dynamics of global politics. According to this theory, a dominant power, or hegemon, plays a central role in maintaining stability in the international system by providing public goods, such as security and open markets (Gilpin, 1981). In the post-World War II era, the United States assumed the role of the global hegemon, championing free trade, establishing global institutions like the World Bank and the IMF, and ensuring the security of its allies through military alliances such as NATO (Ikenberry, 2001).

However, the decline of US superiority in production and technology has weakened its position as the unrivaled global power (Wolf, 2014). China has emerged as a formidable competitor, investing heavily in research and development, technological innovation, and infrastructure projects. Chinese companies have become leaders in industries such as

telecommunications, renewable energy, and e-commerce. This shift in economic power has led to debates over intellectual property rights, trade imbalances, and market access between the United States and China, challenging the existing economic order (Economy, 2018)

Moreover, China has positioned itself as a champion of free trade, particularly in the face of rising protectionism and skepticism towards globalization. China's BRI, an ambitious infrastructure and development project spanning multiple continents, aims to enhance connectivity and promote economic cooperation among participating countries. By investing in infrastructure projects and forging economic partnerships, China has expanded its influence and gained support from nations seeking development opportunities (Rolland, 2017).

### **The Erosion of Pax Americana and Future Implications**

As China's economic and geopolitical influence grows, it is challenging the traditional dominance of the United States and eroding the concept of Pax Americana. The United States' ability to maintain its position as the global hegemon is being questioned, as it faces domestic challenges and a shifting geopolitical landscape. This shift has significant implications for global politics, trade, and security, as well as the future trajectory of international relations (Ikenberry, 2008).

Overall, the rise of China, globalization, interdependence, and transnational movements have brought about a great shift in global politics. The decline of US superiority in production and technology, coupled with China's emergence as an economic powerhouse and advocate for free trade, has challenged the concept of Pax Americana. The changing dynamics of the international system have far-reaching implications, requiring policymakers and scholars to reassess traditional notions of power, influence, and stability in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

### **China's Rise**

The rise of China as a global power can be compellingly interpreted through E.H. Carr's theories on international relations. Carr noted that the rise of new powers often disrupts the established international order, leading to a restructuring of global systems. He observed that 'the rise of new powers is always the most destabilizing and the most fertile of political changes' (Carr, 2016). By this measure, China's ascent is a clear example of a disruptive force in global politics.

Carr also argued that economic power is a critical component of a country's

overall influence. He stated, 'Economic factors are fundamental in all political phenomena; and politics is the science of the struggle for survival and predominance' (Carr, 2016). In line with this, China's remarkable economic growth over the past few decades has translated into greater geopolitical influence. This economic power has not only given China a prominent seat at the international table but also emboldened it to challenge established norms and institutions, much as Carr observed in the interwar period.

Carr was particularly interested in how ideology shaped international relations. In this context, it is worth noting how China has been actively promoting its own model of governance and development as an alternative to Western liberalism. This can be seen as a modern parallel to Carr's argument that 'Power over opinion...is less a matter of the coercion of minds by propaganda than of the creation of authority by means of the interpretation of events' (Carr, 2016).

Another key aspect that Carr emphasized was the role of institutions in the global order. China's engagement with and, in some cases, creation of international institutions like the AIIB and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) can be seen as strategic moves to restructure the global system in its favor, akin to how new powers in Carr's era sought to reshape international organizations.

To sum up, understanding China's rise through the lens of Carr's theories offer a multi-faceted insight into its growing influence. Carr's emphasis on the interplay of economic capabilities, ideological influence, and institutional engagement provides a robust framework to analyze China's evolving role in global politics.

The rise of China as a global power has had a profound impact on the shifting dynamics of international relations. In this section, we will explore China's rise in greater detail, examining its BRI, its advocacy of free trade, and its technological advancements, military expansion, and defense spending as key factors contributing to its growing influence on the global stage.

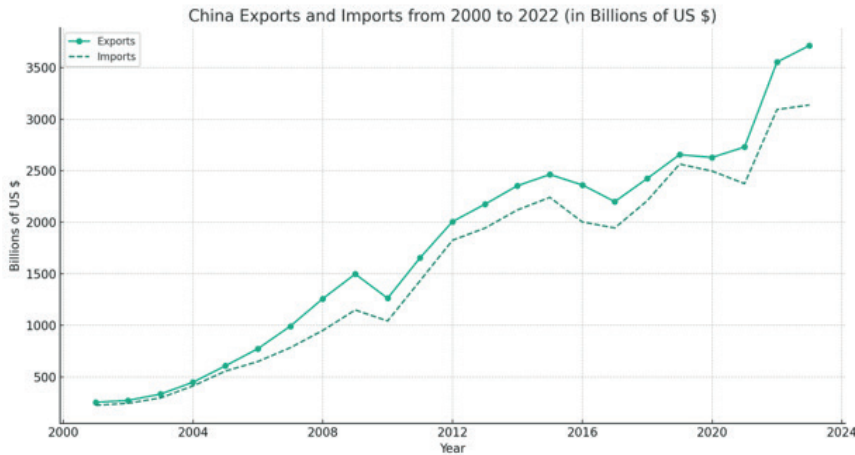
### **China's Economic Ascent and Global Trade Relations**

The pivotal factor in China's rise as a global trading power was its accession to the WTO in 2001. This event marked a significant turning point in China's economic policy and global trade relations. As a result, China's trade volume has seen remarkable growth. According to WTO

statistics, China's merchandise exports surged from approximately \$253 billion in 2001 to over \$3.7 trillion in 2022, making it the world's largest exporter. Similarly, its merchandise imports rose from about \$224 billion in 2000 to nearly \$3.1 trillion in 2022 (World Bank, 2023).

## Graph 1

*China Exports and Imports from 2000 to 2022 (in Billions of US \$)*



This substantial increase in trade volume is a testament to how China leveraged its WTO membership to integrate itself into the global economy, opening its markets to more foreign businesses and gaining easier access to other markets in return. The surge in trade has been instrumental in fueling China's economic growth and solidifying its status as a key player in global trade.

China's BRI, launched in 2013, is a vast infrastructure and development project aimed at promoting economic cooperation and enhancing connectivity across Asia, Europe, Africa, and beyond (Chatzky and McBride, 2020). With its emphasis on developing infrastructure such as roads, railways, ports, and energy facilities, the BRI seeks to facilitate global trade and connectivity. The scale of China's financial commitment to BRI projects are substantial. According to data from 2013 onwards, the cumulative engagement in BRI amounts to a staggering \$962 billion. This includes approximately \$573 billion in construction contracts and \$389 billion in non-financial investments (Wang, 2023). These figures highlight the significant investment China has made to support the implementation of BRI initiatives and underscore its dedication to shaping global trade

and economic integration.

The BRI aligns with China's national interests, serving as a platform for expanding its economic influence, securing access to vital resources and markets, and strengthening its geopolitical ties. By facilitating greater connectivity and trade, China aims to create a network of economic partnerships that will not only benefit its own economy but also foster development in participating countries. The BRI has the potential to reshape regional and global trade patterns, with the envisioned network covering approximately 65% of the world's population and about a third of the global GDP (Schulhof et al., 2022).

In addition to the BRI, China has positioned itself as a vocal advocate of free trade at a time when protectionism and skepticism towards globalization have been on the rise. As the United States has become increasingly inward-looking, China has seized the opportunity to promote itself as a champion of open markets and multilateral trade cooperation. China actively supports institutions such as the WTO and has engaged in regional trade agreements, most notably the RCEP. These efforts have allowed China to expand its economic influence and assert itself as a major player in global trade (Chaisse and Hsieh, 2023).

### **Technological and Military Dimensions of China's Rise**

China's technological advancements have been another critical factor in its rise as a global power. The country has made remarkable progress in sectors such as telecommunications, artificial intelligence, and renewable energy. Chinese companies, including Huawei, Tencent, and Alibaba, have emerged as global leaders in their respective industries, challenging the dominance of Western tech giants (Brandt et al., 2022). China's investments in research and development have resulted in groundbreaking innovations, driving its transition from a manufacturing-based economy to one driven by technology and innovation. Furthermore, China leads the world in patent filings and has rapidly expanded its high-speed rail network, showcasing its technological prowess on the global stage (Shicong, 2023).

China's military expansion and defense spending have also been noteworthy. The country has significantly modernized its armed forces and increased its military capabilities. China has expanded its presence in the South China Sea, leading to tensions with neighboring countries and raising concerns among global powers. Its defense budget has consistently grown, with a reported increase in 2022, reaching approximately \$292

billion (Tian et al., 2023). China's military buildup reflects its ambition to protect its strategic interests, assert its influence in the region, and project power on the global stage.

These various aspects of China's rise collectively illustrate its growing influence and impact on global politics and economics. The BRI, with its extensive investment and infrastructure development, showcases China's ambitions to shape regional connectivity and economic integration. China's advocacy of free trade positions it as a key player in the face of rising protectionism. Its technological advancements demonstrate its prowess in cutting-edge industries, challenging Western dominance. Lastly, its military expansion and defense spending underscore its ambitions as a global power.

As China's influence continues to expand, it poses both opportunities and challenges for the existing global order. Its rise challenges the traditional dominance of the United States and other Western powers, leading to a reevaluation of the balance of power in international relations. The implications of China's rise are far-reaching and have prompted intense debates among policymakers, scholars, and analysts. Understanding and navigating the complexities of China's rise will be crucial for shaping the future of global politics and ensuring stability in an increasingly interconnected and multipolar world.

### **Historical Parallels and Contemporary Context**

The rise of China in the contemporary international system has drawn comparisons to the rise of Germany in the inter-war period. While the specific historical contexts and circumstances differ, there are some notable parallels that can be drawn.

Similar to China today, Germany's rise in the early 20th century was characterized by rapid economic growth, technological advancements, and a desire for greater geopolitical influence. Germany emerged as a major industrial power, developing advanced manufacturing capabilities and leading sectors such as chemicals, engineering, and automobile production. This economic growth fueled aspirations for greater political and military power, leading to a desire to revise the existing international order.

In a similar vein, China's economic rise over the past few decades has been remarkable, with its GDP growth outpacing that of many other countries. China has become the world's largest exporter and has made

significant investments in infrastructure, technology, and innovation. This economic strength has translated into geopolitical ambitions, with China seeking to assert its influence in various regions and shape the global order according to its own interests.

However, it is important to note that China's advancements in infrastructure, technology, and production have not occurred in isolation. Significant investments from Western countries, most notably the United States, have been instrumental in catalyzing China's development. For instance, U.S. foreign direct investment (FDI) in China was estimated at \$126 billion in 2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (2023). These investments have spanned various sectors, including technology, manufacturing, and real estate, providing not just capital but also technological know-how and expertise (Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2023). Such Western involvement has been a contributing factor in China's rapid economic ascent and its increasing ability to assert geopolitical influence. While China has leveraged these investments to advance its own interests, the role of Western capital in facilitating China's rise presents a complex interdependency that is worth acknowledging.

Germany's rise in the inter-war period was accompanied by a desire for territorial expansion and the pursuit of strategic objectives. Germany sought to challenge the existing balance of power in Europe, leading to territorial disputes, the remilitarization of the Rhineland, and ultimately, the outbreak of World War II.

Similarly, China's rise has raised concerns about its assertiveness in territorial disputes, particularly in the South China Sea. China's actions, such as the construction of military bases on disputed islands and its claims over vast maritime territories, have led to tensions with neighboring countries and heightened regional security concerns. These actions reflect China's efforts to consolidate its control over key strategic areas and project power in the region.

However, it is important to note that there are also significant differences between the rise of Germany in the inter-war period and the rise of China today. Germany's rise was accompanied by a particular ideology, namely Nazism, which espoused aggressive expansionism and racial superiority. In contrast, China's rise is primarily driven by economic and strategic considerations, with the Chinese Communist Party seeking to maintain domestic stability and secure its position as a global power.

Furthermore, the global context in which China is rising differs significantly



from the inter-war period. The world today is more interconnected and interdependent, with complex networks of trade, investment, and diplomacy. This interconnectedness creates both opportunities and challenges for China's rise, as it must navigate a global system shaped by a multitude of actors with diverse interests.

Overall, while there are parallels between the rise of Germany in the inter-war period and the rise of China today, it is crucial to recognize the differences in historical context and circumstances. The lessons learned from the past can inform our understanding of the challenges and opportunities presented by China's rise, but it is important to approach the topic with nuance and account for the unique dynamics of the contemporary international system.

### **Demise of Pax Americana**

The decline of American global leadership, often referred to as the demise of Pax Americana, can be significantly enriched when viewed through the theoretical lens provided by E.H. Carr. He argued that periods of hegemonic decline are often characterized by a weakening of international institutions that the declining power helped to create. In his words, 'When the existing structure of power is challenged, the network of international relations, which it has called into being, is correspondingly weakened or destroyed' (Carr, 2016).

The United States, like Britain in the interwar period examined by Carr, has been the architect of international institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF. However, China's rise and America's relative decline are challenging the effectiveness and authority of these institutions. This aligns with Carr's observations about the fragility of international systems during times of power transition.

Carr also delved into the complex relationship between economic decline and geopolitical influence. He stated, 'Economic foundations of national power are more unstable and more rapidly shifting than the superstructure' (Carr, 2016). This perspective illuminates the decline of the United States in areas of technology and production, as it faces competition from rising powers like China. The erosion of U.S. economic superiority contributes to its diminished capacity to dictate global norms and standards, a phenomenon consistent with Carr's analysis.

Moreover, Carr highlighted the role of strategic policies in a nation's attempt to maintain its global standing. This is evident in the United

States' evolving policies aimed at containing the rise of China, such as the Indo-Pacific strategy. Carr argued that 'The preservation of power requires the continuous adaptation of its instruments to the most effective techniques available' (Carr, 2016). The U.S. strategy to counterbalance China's influence can be viewed as an adaptive instrument aimed at maintaining its geopolitical foothold, resonating with Carr's theories on the dynamism required to sustain power.

The decline of Pax Americana and the challenges it faces from the rise of China can be more thoroughly understood by applying Carr's theoretical insights. His considerations on the fragility of international institutions, the interplay between economic decline and loss of geopolitical influence, and the adaptive strategies required to maintain power offer a multi-dimensional framework to analyze these seismic shifts in the international order.

Over the years, the United States has played a central role in shaping the global economic order, establishing and leading institutions such as the World Bank, IMF, and the WTO. However, the rise of China as a global economic powerhouse and technological innovator is posing new challenges to US leadership and influence.

China's remarkable economic growth and technological advancements have propelled it to become the world's second-largest economy, rivaling the United States. It has also emerged as a major player in global trade, with a strong focus on exports. China's manufacturing capabilities, low-cost labor, and extensive supply chains have enabled it to dominate global markets in various industries, ranging from consumer electronics to textiles (Baláž et al., 2020).

The implications of China's rise for US leadership in global institutions are significant. The United States, previously accustomed to shaping the rules and norms of the international economic order, is now facing a challenge to its dominance. China's increasing economic clout has led to calls for reforming existing institutions to better reflect the changing global balance of power (Ly, 2021).

Moreover, China has been proactive in establishing its own international financial institutions, such as the AIIB, which aims to provide infrastructure financing to countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The establishment of the AIIB, seen by some as a rival to the World Bank and the IMF, showcases China's desire to have a greater say in global economic governance and diminish the influence of Western-led institutions (Cammack, 2018).

In addition to its economic rise, China has been actively investing in military modernization and expanding its defense spending. It is developing advanced weapon systems, enhancing its naval capabilities, and strengthening its presence in contested areas such as the South China Sea. These developments have raised concerns among US policymakers and regional actors, as they perceive China's growing military power as a potential threat to the established security order in the Asia-Pacific region (Congressional Research Service, 2021).

As the United States grapples with its relative decline in global influence, it has been developing multifaceted strategies aimed at managing the power dynamics altered by China's rise. One such strategy is the Indo-Pacific policy, which aims to enhance U.S. engagement in the Asia-Pacific region and foster alliances and partnerships with countries that share its vision for a 'free and open Indo-Pacific.' This policy is in part a containment strategy, designed to counter China's growing influence in the region (White House, 2022).

The Asia pivot approach, another U.S. strategic move, is also highly debated. This approach aims to allocate more of the United States' diplomatic, economic, and military resources to the Asia-Pacific region, acknowledging the area's increasing geopolitical significance. Both strategies represent the United States' efforts to maintain its influence and to counterbalance China's rising power (Copper, 2014).

Yet, the capacity for the United States to effectively implement these strategies and China's influence are subjects of ongoing debate among policymakers and analysts. The U.S. faces several constraints, including domestic political divisions, economic challenges, and other global commitments, which limit its ability to fully execute a pivot to Asia or engage more deeply in the Indo-Pacific.

China, on the other hand, has its own set of instruments to assert its rising influence. These include its Belt and Road Initiative, its growing technological capabilities, and its increasingly modernized military force. Moreover, China has actively engaged in 'soft power' diplomacy, investing in cultural exchanges, education, and overseas development projects to enhance its global image (Shambaugh, 2015).

The United States retains several key advantages, including its network of long-standing alliances, its technological innovation capabilities, and its role as the issuer of the world's primary reserve currency. These instruments provide the U.S. with some leverage to navigate the shifting

global landscape and negotiate the terms of a changing international order.

Both the United States and China possess a range of instruments and capacities that they can deploy to either maintain or change the current global order. The interplay between these instruments, set against the backdrop of the United States' relative decline and China's rise, will be a defining feature of international relations in the coming years."

The demise of Pax Americana and the challenges posed by China's rise have broader implications for the international order. The United States' retreat from global leadership and the erosion of support for free trade creates space for other powers, such as China, to exert greater influence and shape global norms and institutions according to their own interests. This shift in power dynamics has led to debates about the future trajectory of the international system and the potential for a multipolar order.

Furthermore, the rise of China has also drawn comparisons to historical events, such as the rise of Germany in the inter-war period. Just as Germany's ascent posed challenges to the established order, China's rise is disrupting the existing balance of power and leading to debates about the potential for conflict or cooperation in the future.

In sum, the demise of Pax Americana and the rise of China are transforming the global political landscape. China's economic growth, technological advancements, and assertive foreign policy are challenging US leadership and influence in global institutions. The United States is grappling with the implications of this shift and facing calls for reform in order to adapt to the changing dynamics of the international system. The long-term consequences of this great shift in global politics are yet to be fully realized, but they undoubtedly mark a significant turning point in international relations.

### **The Role of Other Countries in the Changing Global Order**

While the focus of this review article has primarily been on the shifting dynamics between the United States and China, it is pivotal to widen the lens to include other significant actors that are shaping the international system. Each of these nations brings distinct attributes and influences to the table.

### ***Russia: The Revitalized Geopolitical Challenger***

Russia's assertive foreign policy, particularly in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, presents a rejuvenated challenge to Western geopolitical interests. Its military interventions and energy politics serve as key instruments in its pursuit of a multipolar world.

### ***India: The Aspiring Democratic Counterbalance***

India's democratic governance and rapidly growing economy make it a crucial player in the Indo-Pacific region. It offers a different model of governance from China and is often seen as a democratic counterbalance in global forums.

### ***Japan: The Technological Innovator and Regional Stabilizer***

Japan's technological prowess and commitment to regional stability make it a vital actor in East Asia. Its alliances and partnerships extend beyond economic interests to include security cooperation, particularly in response to North Korean provocations and China's maritime claims.

Understanding how these countries respond to the evolving power dynamics between the United States and China is essential. Each plays a unique role in shaping the future of the international system, contributing to its complexity and multipolarity.

## **Russia**

Russia's actions in recent years have had a profound and far-reaching impact on the global order, particularly with regard to its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the ongoing conflict that ensued. These actions have raised serious concerns within the international community and strained Russia's relationships with Western countries, leading to significant geopolitical tensions.

The invasion of Ukraine in 2022, marked the largest land war in Europe since World War II, shocked the world and has had devastating consequences. It has resulted in massive loss of life, enormous displacement of the Ukrainian population, and the decimation of Ukrainian cities and infrastructure. The conflict has redrawn geopolitical energy supply lines, strengthened alliances among Western countries, and deepened divides with China. It has even put the use of nuclear weapons on the table for the first time in decades, highlighting the gravity of the situation and the importance of leadership in moments of crisis (Qaisrani et al., 2023).

Russia's actions in Ukraine can be seen as part of its broader ambition to assert its influence in neighboring regions and challenge the existing international order. By annexing Crimea and supporting separatist movements in eastern Ukraine, Russia has demonstrated its willingness to use military force to reshape borders and pursue its strategic objectives. This revisionist approach to international relations has complicated the global security landscape and raised concerns about Russia's intentions and behavior on the international stage.

Dealing with Russia's revisionist approach poses complexities for the international community. It requires careful navigation of diplomatic channels, economic pressures, and deterrence measures. Western countries, in particular, have been compelled to reassess their security policies and reinforce their defense capabilities in response to Russia's actions. The conflict in Ukraine has sparked discussions about the need for increased support to Ukraine and collective defense measures among NATO allies (Shay, 2023).

Moreover, the conflict in Ukraine has exacerbated tensions between Russia and other global powers. The United States and European Union have been vocal in their condemnation of Russia's actions, imposing sanctions and diplomatic pressure in an attempt to change Russia's behavior. The conflict has also strained Russia's relationships with other regional powers, such as Türkiye, which has been caught between maintaining its strategic ties with Russia and supporting Ukraine. Meanwhile, China has maintained its support for Russia, viewing a weakened Russia as beneficial to its own long-term competition with the United States. China's strategic partnership with Russia and its careful balance of support demonstrates the complexities of the global power dynamics (Lyu et al., 2022).

In addition to geopolitical implications, the conflict in Ukraine has caused significant humanitarian suffering. The war has resulted in thousands of casualties, including both civilians and military personnel, and has forced a large number of people to become internally displaced or seek refuge in neighboring countries. The humanitarian crisis has strained resources and infrastructure, posing additional challenges for the affected populations and the countries hosting them (Fontanarosa et al., 2022).

Overall, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing conflict have had wide-ranging consequences. They have strained Russia's relationships with Western countries, triggered geopolitical tensions, and prompted a reassessment of global security dynamics. The conflict has caused

significant human suffering and displacement, exacerbating tensions between Russia and other global powers. Resolving the conflict and finding a sustainable solution remains a complex challenge for the international community, requiring leadership, diplomacy, and concerted efforts to restore stability and address the humanitarian crisis.

## **India**

India, as the world's largest democracy and a rapidly growing economy, has emerged as a key player in global affairs. With its "Act East" policy, India has been actively seeking to strengthen its ties with Southeast Asia and the broader Indo-Pacific region, positioning itself as a significant player and counterweight to China's influence in the region. India's actions, military capabilities, strategic partnerships, and participation in multilateral organizations all demonstrate its aspirations for a more prominent role on the global stage (Kumar, 2022).

India's "Act East" policy reflects its desire to deepen economic, political, and security engagement with countries in Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific. This policy is driven by a recognition of the region's growing importance in global affairs and India's own economic interests. By expanding its diplomatic and economic presence in the region, India aims to enhance regional connectivity, trade, and cooperation, while also countering China's expanding influence (Ngalung, 2022).

India's military capabilities have undergone significant development in recent years. It has made substantial investments in modernizing its armed forces and expanding its defense capabilities. This includes the development of advanced missile systems, naval expansion, and the enhancement of its cyber and space capabilities. These efforts are aimed at ensuring regional security and safeguarding India's strategic interests (Colley and Suhas, 2021).

India has also forged strategic partnerships with countries around the world, including the United States, Japan, Australia, and countries in Southeast Asia. These partnerships have been bolstered by shared interests in maintaining a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region. Collaboration with these countries has involved joint military exercises, defense technology transfers, intelligence sharing, and diplomatic coordination (Basrur and Kutty, 2021).

India's active participation in multilateral organizations further underlines its growing relevance in the global order. It is a member of several

influential forums such as the United Nations, G20, BRICS, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association, among others. Through its engagement in these forums, India seeks to shape global agendas, contribute to decision-making processes, and advocate for the interests of developing countries (Saran, 2010).

India's demographic dividend, with a large and youthful population, is seen as a valuable asset that can potentially contribute to its global standing. The country's workforce is projected to be the world's largest by 2027, offering a significant consumer market and a source of skilled labor. Additionally, India's status as a technology and innovation hub has further bolstered its relevance in the changing global order. The country has a thriving tech industry, with major global IT companies establishing a presence in India. This has contributed to India's reputation as an emerging leader in sectors such as information technology, biotechnology, space technology, and renewable energy (Ahya, 2022).

India's rise as a regional power serves as a counterweight to China's expanding influence in the Indo-Pacific. Its large population, growing economy, and military capabilities make it an attractive partner for countries seeking to balance against China's rise. The United States, in particular, has recognized India's importance and has been actively deepening its strategic partnership with India to counterbalance China's assertiveness in the region (Ullah and Hayat, 2021).

The United States and India have been strengthening their defense ties through various initiatives, including the U.S.-India Defense Technology and Trade Initiative and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) with Japan and Australia. The Quad, in particular, serves as a forum for these countries to coordinate their efforts and promote a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region (Jain, 2022).

Furthermore, India's historical tensions with China, including territorial disputes and border clashes, have led to a cautious approach by India in managing its relationship with China. While India seeks to maintain cooperative and constructive relations with China, it also remains wary of China's assertive actions. The United States, on the other hand, has been actively building closer ties with India as part of its strategy to counterbalance China's influence (Ogden, 2022).

In this context, India's role in the great power competition between China and the United States is multifaceted. It provides an important partner for the United States to balance against China's regional ambitions, while also



seeking to safeguard its own interests in the face of China's assertiveness. India's strategic location and its growing military capabilities make it a significant factor in shaping the balance of power and security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific, contributing to the complex dynamics of the great power competition between China and the United States.

In sum, India's status as the world's largest democracy, its rapidly growing economy, and its active engagement in global affairs have positioned it as a key player in the evolving global order. Its "Act East" policy, military capabilities, strategic partnerships, and participation in multilateral organizations highlight its aspirations for a more prominent role on the global stage. With its demographic dividend and status as a technology and innovation hub, India's relevance in shaping the future of the global order continues to grow.

## **Japan**

Japan's economic prowess, technological advancements, and stable political system have firmly established it as a major global player. Over the years, Japan has actively sought to enhance its security posture and redefine its role in international security affairs. Through its strategic alliance with the United States and its commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region, Japan positions itself as a key partner in the evolving regional dynamics. Moreover, Japan's economic cooperation, development assistance, and investments in infrastructure projects across Asia further demonstrate its efforts to shape the emerging global order (Koga, 2020).

Japan's economic strength and technological innovations have contributed to its global significance. As the world's third-largest economy, Japan plays a vital role in global trade and investment. Japanese corporations are renowned for their advanced technologies, particularly in sectors such as automotive manufacturing, electronics, robotics, and telecommunications. These innovations have not only boosted Japan's economic standing but have also positioned the country as a global leader in technology and innovation (Flath, 2022).

In terms of security, Japan has been working closely with the United States through their strategic alliance. The U.S.-Japan alliance serves as a cornerstone of Japan's security policy and provides a framework for bilateral defense cooperation, including the stationing of U.S. military forces in Japan. This alliance has been instrumental in maintaining stability and security in the region, deterring potential threats, and addressing shared challenges such as North Korea's nuclear program

(Richardson, 2020).

Furthermore, Japan has been actively engaged in promoting multilateralism and strengthening international institutions. It is an active participant in forums such as the United Nations, G7, and G20, where it contributes to discussions on global issues, including climate change, sustainable development, and global health. Japan's leadership in these forums reflects its commitment to addressing global challenges and shaping the rules-based international order (Midford, 2020).

Moreover, Japan aspires to deepen its relations with NATO, as evidenced by the presence of a NATO Liaison Office in Tokyo. Japan's desire to strengthen ties with NATO reflects its commitment to multilateralism and its recognition of the importance of global partnerships in addressing security challenges. Japan's stable political system, advanced technology, and economic strength make it a valuable partner for NATO, and through closer cooperation, Japan aims to contribute to global peace and security (Grieco, 2023).

Overall, Japan's role as a US ally in the region, along with its aspirations to improve relations with NATO, showcases its significance in the evolving global order. Its strategic partnership with the United States ensures regional stability, while its engagement with NATO highlights its commitment to international security cooperation. As Japan continues to deepen its relationships with both the United States and NATO, it strengthens its position as a key player in shaping regional dynamics and contributing to the broader international security landscape.

The responses of these countries to the changing global order vary, reflecting their unique national interests, historical contexts, and regional dynamics. While some nations may seek closer alignment with the United States to balance against China's influence, others adopt a more pragmatic approach by engaging with both major powers to maximize their own benefits. Moreover, regional alliances and organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the European Union (EU), and the African Union (AU), play a vital role in shaping regional and global dynamics by fostering cooperation, promoting stability, and addressing shared challenges.

Understanding the perspectives and actions of these countries is essential for comprehensively analyzing the changing global order. The interactions, alignments, and rivalries among major powers and regional actors will shape the future trajectory of global politics, economy, and security.

Therefore, further research and analysis are necessary to explore the evolving roles and strategies of these countries, as well as their impact on the international system.

In sum, while the United States and China's relationship has been at the forefront of discussions on the changing global order, it is crucial to acknowledge the significance of other major powers in shaping the future landscape. Countries like Russia, India, and Japan are increasingly asserting their influence and impacting the dynamics of the international system. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has raised concerns about its revisionist approach, while India and Japan seek to establish their roles in the emerging order. Understanding the responses, strategies, and interactions of these countries provide a more nuanced perspective on the multifaceted nature of the current global landscape and aids in identifying opportunities for cooperation and managing potential challenges. By considering the diverse perspectives and actions of major powers and regional actors, policymakers and scholars can better navigate the complexities of the changing global order and strive for a more stable and cooperative international system.

## **Conclusion**

The current global landscape, marked by the decline of US hegemony and the rise of China, resembles a "Thirty Years' Crisis." Throughout this review article, we have examined various aspects of this changing global order and discussed the implications for states and international institutions. The findings and arguments presented in the preceding sections underscore the need for a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities posed by this new era in global politics.

Firstly, it has been revealed that the impact of realism in international relations, challenges the prevailing belief that it had taken a backseat in the post-Cold War era. The resurgence of power politics, territorial disputes, and the pursuit of national interests by major powers such as Russia and China demonstrated the enduring relevance of realism. The events of the past decades shattered the notion that conflicts between major powers were a thing of the past, reminding us of the inter-war period's consequences.

Moreover, China's rise as a global power, its BRI, and its advocacy of free trade parallel the emergence of the United States as a superpower. China's technological advancements, military expansion, and defense spending further demonstrate its growing influence on the global stage.

We drew comparisons with the United States' past endeavors, such as the Marshall Plan, highlighting the parallel between China's pursuit of its national interests and America's historic role as a superpower.

Furthermore, the United States, which previously dominated the global economy through institutions like the World Bank, IMF, and WTO, is facing challenges as its economic and technological superiority wanes. China's rise poses a threat to US leadership in these areas. The anxiety generated by this power shift has led to initiatives within the United States that undermine free trade and reflect a more insular approach.

Additionally, concerns about the risk of a new global military conflict have been raised, drawing parallels with the interwar period. The limitations of nuclear deterrence and the absence of a state capable of establishing and sustaining global peace raise serious concerns about the potential for a new global conflict. It is crucial to remain vigilant and take proactive measures to prevent the escalation of tensions and maintain stability in the international system.

Bringing together these findings and arguments, it is evident that the current global landscape demands careful analysis and adaptive responses. The decline of US hegemony, the rise of China, the challenges to established norms and institutions, and the risks of military conflicts necessitate a comprehensive understanding of the implications. Policymakers and scholars must grapple with the complexities of power politics, the limitations of existing institutions, and the imperative of global cooperation.

The current global landscape, reminiscent of Carr's "Twenty Years' Crisis," (Carr, 2016) demands a holistic approach to understanding and addressing the complexities of our time. By recognizing the enduring relevance of realism, the transformative impact of China's rise, the challenges to the US leadership, and the risks of a global conflict, policymakers and scholars can develop nuanced strategies and proactive measures. By embracing cooperation, adaptability, and a commitment to multilateralism, we can strive for a more inclusive, equitable, and resilient global order that navigates the challenges of this new era in global politics.

In light of these developments, states and international institutions must adapt to this changing reality. Reforming and strengthening international institutions will be crucial to address the legitimacy concerns arising from shifting power dynamics and to foster effective global cooperation. By embracing the lessons of history and harnessing collective wisdom, the

international community can navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by this transformative period, fostering a more stable, inclusive, and cooperative global order.

In conclusion, the current global landscape, marked by the decline of US hegemony and the rise of China, resembles a "Thirty Years' Crisis." Understanding the implications of these shifts is crucial for policymakers and scholars alike as they navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by this new era in global politics. By recognizing the complexities and drawing on the lessons of history, we can work towards a more inclusive, equitable, and resilient global order that fosters cooperation, addresses power dynamics, and promotes stability in the international system.

### **Declaration**

In all processes of the article, TESAM's research and publication ethics principles were followed.

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