

Rise of China: War on Hegemony; How China is an Influential Actor in the Hegemonic Race with the United States



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Abstract: *More than competitors, the United States and China are potential rivals. Why are the two greatest economies fighting a trade war when free markets and free trade have mainly shown to be beneficial? It might be the worry of losing influence in the global market and world politics from the standpoint of the United States. Using hegemonic stability theory as an analytical framework, this paper uses a Neo-Realistic method to study China's rise and China as a challenge to US hegemony. Without a doubt, the emergence of China as a major power is one of the most confusing occurrences in the international arena since the end of the Cold War. Similarly, it jeopardises the United States' strategic position. China's economic and technical might have cast doubt on US hegemony, and the Covid 19 pandemic has provided China with numerous opportunity to win the race. The global implications of China's surveillance technology is discussed in this study. More than competitors, the United States and China are potential rivals. Why are the two greatest economies fighting a trade war when free markets and free trade have mainly shown to be beneficial? It might be the worry of losing influence in the global market and world politics from the standpoint of the United States. Using hegemonic stability theory as an analytical framework, this paper uses a Neo-Realistic method to study China's rise and China as a challenge to US hegemony. Without a doubt, the emergence of China as a major power is one of the most confusing occurrences in the international arena since the end of the Cold War. Similarly, it jeopardises the United States' strategic position. China's economic and technical might have cast doubt on US hegemony, and the Covid 19 pandemic has provided China with numerous opportunity to win the race. The global implications of China's surveillance technology is discussed in this study.*

Key Words: China, War On Hegemony, Economies, US, Covid-19

Introduction

The United States and China are now engaged in a trade dispute. As a result of the increase in import taxes, supply chains have been disrupted, affecting businesses and individuals all over the world in various ways. With the escalation of the Trump administration's trade war with China in 2018, the two countries' relationship worsened. China quickly responded by imposing \$60 billion in tariffs on

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American goods. US-China conflict is "A war between the value of democracies in the twenty-first century versus autocracies," Biden said.

China's policies, actions, and initiatives, such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), portray it as a rising global power. After decades of isolation and devotion to economic success, the country has re-emerged on the global stage. While the United States' dominance has dwindled, China has continued to expand economically and militarily. It has developed a national economy that outperforms that of the US.

Because global powers strive to balance and strengthen their positions in the international system, this great power struggle between the two adversaries may result in a new geoeconomic world order. Current tendencies are growing insecurity and instability in the economic, political, technical, and ideological spheres. Despite the fact that the means and mods of policies, rivalries, conflicts, and wars have changed and evolved, states remain stuck in rivalry in a variety of domains, including manufacturing, health, investments, research and technology, cyberspace, military modernization, and the economy.

Washington has attempted to stifle Beijing's admission into the global trading system for a long time. In the meantime, the US is forming an anti-China alliance system with China's neighbours. To delegitimize and counter China's might, the United States is creating collective defence techniques. China, on the other hand, rejects the US's hegemony and the associated economic gains. As a result, China is attempting to create and retain political, economic, and technological dominance in order to win and maintain a tolerant sphere of influence. As a result, the US' worldwide supremacy would be impacted. Along with economic rivalry, technical warfare is on the rise, with the post-pandemic ages providing sufficient chance to hone their strategic struggle.

According to a variety of economic indices, China's rise is still ongoing. Unless something really awful happens, China is on course to overtake the United States as the next global economic hegemon. China may be on the verge of transitioning into one of the probable hegemonic routes, which would most likely be founded on benevolent leadership objectives, similar to how Britain and the US acted under the Pax Britannica and Pax Americana, respectively. ([Danner 2019](#)) The United States and China are now embroiled in a trade war. Import taxes have been raised, causing supply chains to be disrupted and affecting businesses and individuals all around the world. The United States and China are currently engaged in a trade dispute. As a result of the increase in import taxes, supply chains have been disrupted, affecting businesses and individuals all over the world. With the escalation of the Trump administration's trade war with China in 2018, the two countries' relationship became increasingly frosty and volatile. By imposing \$60 billion worth of tariffs on American goods, China has retaliated quickly. Biden described the conflict between the United States and China as "a war between the value of democracies in the twenty-first century versus autocracies.

China is portrayed as a rising global power through its policies, activities, and initiatives, such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).. After decades of isolation and devotion to economic success, the country has re-emerged on the global stage. While the United States' dominance has dwindled, China has continued to expand economically and militarily. It has developed a national economy that outperforms that of the US.

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China's Strategic Policies towards Hegemony

As Napoleon Bonaparte once said, "Let China sleep; for when she wakes, she will move the world," This prediction has come to pass around two hundred years later. With the world's second-largest economy, the largest exporter, and increasing involvement in global politics, China is a force to be reckoned with. As a result, China is on the verge of becoming a major player in world politics, not only in terms of economics but also in a wide range of other areas. As the UN Security Council's largest contributor to UN peacekeeping operations, foreign policy is a major source of personnel. With its current rise and ambitions, the hegemonic stability theory perfectly captures China's current situation (HST).

China is actively functioning within the current system due to the inevitability of international frameworks. China has joined almost every major international organisation and multilateral treaty, but refuses to recognise the International Court of Justice, as does the United States. China adapts to existing norms and standards in general after Deng Xiaoping's "Two-Way Socialization" reforms. China, for example, has sought for changes to the World Bank's "general principles" or lending conditions. ([Golley 2011](#))

China's (IMF's) clout is steadily rising. "authority-seeking" behaviour is expected to be used by China to disrupt the international liberal order. With its goal of becoming more accountable to the international system, China has either increased or created its own institutions in order to meet this requirement. China established the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) as part of the Belt

and Road Initiative (BRI). Initially announced in 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) aims to invest trillions of dollars in more than 70 countries, covering half of the world's population and a quarter of its GDP, in order to promote cultural exchange, infrastructure trade, and global connectivity between China and the rest of the world. In the year 2018, [\(Diane 2018\)](#) and her coworkers

BRI and AIIB's success could be seen as important components of a Chinese-led alternative hegemony. When it comes to enforcing free trade agreements with other countries, a hegemon uses "purely in its own self-interest," tactics like using economic and military force as well as symbolic pressure.

Thus, a hegemonic currency's wisdom supports the free trade framework. A common example of this kind of behaviour is China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Mearsheimer predicts that a rising China will seek hegemony, using coercion and persuasion to influence global norms and promote trade liberalisation in its own self-interest [\(Mearsheimer 2010\)](#).

In order to maximise its political clout, national income, economic growth, and social progress, an open trading system appears to be the best option for China. There are many factors that China is expected to have to control in order to become a hegemon: raw materials, financial sources, and markets. 21st Century: Ames-Brobbeey The use of symbolic, economic, and military force to gain control of China's resources, capital, and markets clearly favours free trade for China.

Growing global interdependencies can also be ascribed to Chinese BRI investments and RMB promotion measures aimed at boosting and simplifying commerce with China. The reciprocal impacts of actors are referred to as interdependence. All international transactions, including the movement of capital, goods, and people, as well as the interchange of information and ideas, are considered effects. The BRI has the potential to enhance Chinese global economic integration by assisting Chinese enterprises in "going out," promoting the Chinese development model, decreasing US/European influence, and increasing asymmetric dependency. Many countries, to be sure, admire China's alternative lending and economic policy, which primarily benefits certain countries.

"Getting out" is also critical for China's manufacturing sector, which is under pressure to move up the value chain in response to rising labour costs and global competition.

In an open international system, China's unquestionable leadership is guided by noble intentions. Suppose that China succeeds the United States as world leader in this scenario. According to this view, China vigorously supports and administers "an international economy based on open trade, monetary stability, and capital mobility.

It makes sense that this function would develop within China's existing political-economic structure because it values individual initiative and human rights less than other countries participating in the global neoliberal economic order. Other large countries will have little objection if China actively participates on the international stage. Hegemonic models would be used, as they are in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Evidence from China's public assertions expressing support for international standards can be analysed using defensive realism to show that it is a status quo state, as they aim to avoid generating

undesired caution from other states in anarchy where their security is unknown. If China disregards internationally recognised sovereignty standards and limits on the use of force, it will be seen as a potential threat, increasing concerns among other nations. As a result, portraying China as a status quo state that follows international law provides the country with more security ([Jyalita 2021](#)).

As proven by their actions, China's actions have reflected its pronouncements of international sovereignty and constraints on the use of force. China has prioritised bilateral conversations that follow international law as an approach for settling territorial issues in terms of sovereignty. Negotiations, for example, were used to address land or marine concerns with 12 neighbouring countries, including Vietnam.

China's adherence to international rules further shows that it is a defensive realist status quo state, as it avoids encroaching on other countries' sovereignty and using force. In anarchy, China's attempts to govern other countries, which would obviously violate sovereignty and the use of force constraints, would be greeted with military retribution by other states wanting to preserve their own security. The defensive military response of other governments is one of the disincentives to seeking to rule other nations that anarchy provides.

An additional barrier created by anarchy is China's lack of certainty of success, which could result in additional losses such as military and security harm. Meanwhile, China's adherence to international sovereignty principles and limits on the use of force in its acts improves its image among other countries and reduces tensions that might otherwise arise if the aforementioned international norms were disregarded.

China's Global Surveillance Technology and its Implications for the US

As a result of China's transformation into a surveillance state, it has had a global impact. Amid growing concerns about the impact on data privacy and security, human rights, democratic freedoms, and US-China technology competition that China's surveillance technology platforms have had as of late 2019, the country has exported platforms to more than 80 countries.

It is clear that President Xi Jinping's approach to national security has changed dramatically, as demonstrated by his comments on national security being important on the first day of his presidency, the release of China's first national security strategy in 2015, and a restructuring of the country's political and legal system. A more proactive phrase is used by Xi, "prevention and control" (Fang kong), rather than "stability maintenance" in the previous lexicon, which was more reactive. China's Central Political-Legal Commission President Meng Jianzhu emphasised fangkong as the "right way" for political-legal action in 2015. In 2019, Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi told an audience that "Political risk avoidance must always be the top concern,"

Information and surveillance technologies play a critical role in this worldview, as well. "a comprehensive information-based preventative and control system for public-social security." was a joint statement issued by the CCP Central Committee and China's State Council in April 2015. To close information gaps and improve public safety, this directive requires the expansion of networked video surveillance and community grid management, as well as the improvement of public security's predictive and early warning capabilities.

Consolidation was accelerated and strengthened by the arrival of COVID-19 in Wuhan in 2020. Community lockdowns were frequently enforced with the help of CGM. A government committee in Hubei (population 59 million) used 170,000 grid employees to conduct health monitoring and house checks, as well as quarantine and travel restrictions.

Surveillance and law enforcement equipment developed in China has already had an impact on other countries. For the purposes of policing and internal security, China has supplied surveillance devices to at least 80 countries, including the United States. These exports can be attributed to a variety of factors, including supply and demand. According to supply-side explanations, China is trying to build a world where authoritarian practises are accepted, or these exports could help China gain a strategic advantage. According to China's tech companies and jurisdictions that have adopted these products, there is a need in the public safety, tourism and job creation sectors that these products address.

We are beginning to get a sense of whether these systems are capable of achieving the numerous goals that have been ascribed to them, despite the fact that there is still a lack of systematic data. It's a shame that these procedures appear to be better at helping authoritarian regimes than they do at combating criminal activity

There are three reasons why China's surveillance technologies could be a concern from a strategic perspective: These technologies may be used in countries where they are sold to violate human rights and/or undermine democratic institutions. Concerns about data security and privacy, on the other hand, could cause problems even if democracy is not degraded in any significant way. Lastly, American officials are concerned about the overall role of technology in the strategic and security fight between the United States and China, which includes the use of surveillance technology. Future American politicians will benefit from being more explicit about which interests are at stake when making policy decisions in various countries around the world. After Greitens takes office in 2020-21

US Fear of Declining Hegemony and Counter Strategies

Three major threats to the United States' global hegemony have emerged in recent years: The Belt and Road Initiative, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and the Made in China 2025 goals of China. In recent years, China has overtaken Germany, the United States, and other countries in exports, commerce, and manufacturing (claiming a title the USA had held for a century). There's no doubt that America's decline has been confirmed by these facts: the Great Recession and China's rapid rise to economic prominence have shown that America's Pax Americana has come to an end. As stated, China does not want to replace the United States as the world's hegemon, but its actions, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, ADB, and Made in China 2025, indicate that this is the ultimate goal. Historically, all new governments have sought to dominate the region in which they are located before expanding their influence across the globe. With its opposition to China's Belt and Road Initiative, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and Made in China 2025 initiatives, the United States is trying to maintain its hegemony. China's Marshall Plan, say some experts, aims to boost Chinese investment around the world in order to establish global dominance through the BRI.

As the BRI expands in breadth, China may gain too much power and influence over other countries, especially tiny and poor ones.

With the BRI, China will become a major centre for international investment, trade, and finance, which will aid in the creation of China's own version of the hub-and-spoke network. According to the commander of US Pacific Command, Admiral Harry Harris, the BRI is "a deliberate, strategic initiative by China to secure a footing and replace the United States and our allies and partners in the region," he stated in early 2018.

For some time now, leaders in the US have voiced their concerns about China's growing global political and economic power as a result of BRI. It has been proposed by the United States since 2015 that Japan and India work together to promote infrastructure development in the Indo-Pacific. In an effort to counteract the BRI's negative effects, the Trump administration has built an infrastructure of development financing. With Japan, they've started looking into ways to be more proactive in supporting regional connectivity and infrastructure projects. It was relaunched in November 2017 by the United States, Japan, Australia and India to discuss the need for a new vision for regional infrastructure and to strengthen the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank to increase lending for infrastructure projects in the region.

To protect sovereign states from external pressures and support good governance, promote free market economics, and aid in high-quality and long-term infrastructure development while focusing on BRI's "neo-colonialist characteristics," a Trilateral Forum was established in May 2018 by the US-Japan Business Council and the US-India Business Council.

In addition, the United States worked tirelessly to prevent the AIIB from being formed. AIIB's stated goal of aiding Asian developing countries in financing infrastructure projects was seen as an attempt by China to undermine existing financial institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank, all of which are heavily influenced by the United States and its close ally, Japan. Following the AIIB's establishment, the United States has been an outspoken critic of it.

Pressure was put on Washington's allies to oppose the AIIB when it was first established. The real reason for Washington's opposition to the AIIB was not that it would maintain the same openness and governance as the IMF, World Bank, and Asian Development Bank, but rather that it would shift the balance of power away from the United States and towards Beijing. Despite the United States' best efforts, an Asian financial institution helmed by China is now a certainty.

Despite strong US opposition and pressure, the AIIB was successfully established, with the majority of US allies (excluding Japan) joining as founding members despite this (e.g., Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Australia, Israel, South Korea, and so on). Some analysts believe that the "the Sino-American power balance is now moving towards Beijing." because the United States was unable to stop China's AIIB project.

Covid 19 Pandemic: An Opportunity for China

Three major threats to the United States' global hegemony have emerged in recent years: The Belt

and Road Initiative, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and the Made in China 2025 goals of China. In recent years, China has overtaken Germany, the United States, and other countries in exports, commerce, and manufacturing (claiming a title the USA had held for a century). There's no doubt that America's decline has been confirmed by these facts: the Great Recession and China's rapid rise to economic prominence have shown that America's Pax Americana has come to an end. As stated, China does not want to replace the United States as the world's hegemon, but its actions, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, ADB, and Made in China 2025, indicate that this is the ultimate goal. Historically, all new governments have sought to dominate the region in which they are located before expanding their influence across the globe. With its opposition to China's Belt and Road Initiative, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and Made in China 2025 initiatives, the United States is trying to maintain its hegemony. China's Marshall Plan, say some experts, aims to boost Chinese investment around the world in order to establish global dominance through the BRI.

As the BRI spreads, China's power and influence over other countries, particularly small and poor ones, may grow unchecked.

With the BRI, China will become a major centre for international investment, trade, and finance, which will aid in the creation of China's own version of the hub-and-spoke network. According to the commander of US Pacific Command, Admiral Harry Harris, the BRI is "a deliberate, strategic initiative by China to secure a footing and replace the United States and our allies and partners in the region," he stated in early 2018.

BRI has become a major source of China's global political and economic power, and US leaders have expressed their concerns and begun to fight it. Trilateral cooperation with Japan and India to promote Indo-Pacific infrastructure development has been proposed by the United States since 2015. The Trump administration has aimed to counteract the BRI's negative effects by constructing a development finance structure. Along with Japan, they've begun looking into ways to be more proactive in supporting regional connectivity and infrastructure initiatives. The Quadrilateral Strategic Dialogue was resurrected in November 2017 by the United States, Japan, Australia, and India, who discussed the need for a new vision for regional infrastructure and the need to strengthen the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank to increase lending for infrastructure projects in the region.

Founded in May 2018 by the US-Japan Business Council and the US-India Business Council, the Indo-Pacific Infrastructure Trilateral Forum aims to protect sovereign states from external pressures, support good governance and liberty, promote free market economics, and aid in the development of high-quality and long-term infrastructure while focusing on the BRI's "neo-colonialist characteristics."

Additionally, the United States worked hard to prevent the AIIB from being established. The United States viewed the AIIB as China's attempt to weaken existing financial institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Asian Development Bank, which are heavily influenced by the United States and its close ally, Japan, despite its stated goal of aiding Asian developing countries in financing various infrastructure projects. Consequently, the US has been an outspoken critic of the AIIB's establishment.

When the AIIB was created, Washington went as far as putting pressure on its friends to oppose it. Although the United States' opposition to the AIIB was ostensibly motivated by concerns that it would maintain the same level of openness and governance as the IMF, World Bank, and Asian Development Bank, the true reason was Washington's fears about the shifting power balance between the United States and China. What's certain is that the US's efforts to prevent the emergence of an Asian financial institution led by China have failed miserably.

The AIIB was successfully established despite strong US opposition and pressure, with the majority of US allies (excluding Japan) joining as founding members despite this (e.g., Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Australia, Israel, South Korea, and so on). The failure of the United States to halt China's AIIB project, according to some observers, suggests that "the Sino-American power balance is now moving towards Beijing."

Power Transition through Independent Hegemonic Era

Since the 2008 global financial crisis, rising powers have effectively invaded a number of global domains in terms of economic competitiveness, capital accumulation, political and economic influence, as well as technical and material capabilities, with the continuous erosion of US hegemony. In terms of high-tech manufactured goods, financial competitiveness, international aid, and foreign investment, China has outperformed the rest of the world. In this new era of interdependent hegemony, the West will be less dominant and more dependent on expanding power inputs, it is argued, the international order is approaching.

The rise of new powers has led to an era of interconnected hegemony in the world. According to Xing Li, "Interdependent hegemony," entails a dialectic of mutual challenge, restriction, need, and accommodation. Defenders and challengers of the current system are constantly constructing and recreating the global order in an interactive process, and this presents a dynamic environment. The rise of China has given it a stronger structural position in global wealth distribution, but it has also made it a key competitor to many "enduring elements" and "global arrangements" established by the primary countries of the current international order. China's state-owned businesses are now part of the "capitalist classes" along with other governments, as a result of the globalisation of capitalism. Because of the seamless integration of state interests and capital accumulation, some emerging countries are redefining alliance structures and rewriting the landscape and borders of global social, economic, and political interactions.

It has been said that the "Beijing Consensus" shows a separate political economy of "state capitalism" as a "norm diffusion" from Chinese achievements. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, led by the Chinese government, symbolises Beijing's global governance norm-setting and rule-making leadership (AIIB). With the AIIB, China is moving from being a rule-taker to a rule-maker in the international financial system, as the term "China's normative authority in international financial governance," indicates.. I'm Xing Li, by the way.

No single country (or core cultural civilization) will establish hegemonic norms and values in a post-US hegemony era, which is being brought about by the term "Interdependent hegemony" (the West). Because of China's economic success and the so-called "Chinese model" multiple alternative

norms and values can now be accommodated and included. The so-called "Chinese model" opens up new possibilities for mechanisms that benefit and empower emerging nations, such as those based on mutual dependence and interdependence. The monopoly of the current ruling powers is being eroded as these norms and values become more "interdependent," more open, less rigid, and non-universal.

With globalisation and trans nationalization, current hegemonies and new states are confronted with opportunities and challenges that are both positive and negative. According to this perspective, many aspects of the current international order have been challenged as a result of rising countries. Both "interdependent hegemony," which is characterised by the system's robust ability to accommodate and integrate new powers, and "great power rivalry," which is characterised by disagreements and zero-sum power struggles, appear to be present in the current international order. This is sufficient justification for China to take over the reins of global leadership from the United States.

Conclusion

The United States has been ruled by a single hegemon for a long time. After World War II, however, the power struggle accelerated and governments began to emerge as challengers or potential threats to hegemony. As China has grown into a great power, this study predicts that the two countries' security competition will only intensify, and that China will work to undermine US dominance. China's military modernization is taking place at an unprecedented rate. As a result of the Soviet Union's demise, the United States was handed the world's military hegemony. That it has accepted the neo-conservative goal of maintaining its supremacy at all costs is beyond question. Conversely, the United States' military advantage is being eroded by the rise of China's defence capabilities. US force projection capabilities in the Western Pacific are at risk because of China's anti-satellite projects, its anti-carrier weapons, and its expanding cyber operations, all of which jeopardise US government and economic operations. American power and national interests are in grave jeopardy because of these threats. The United States' inability to halt China's AIIB plan shows that "the Sino-American balance of power is currently shifting towards Beijing." As a final point, our research expands on the term "interdependent hegemony" and presents an alternative framework for a more complete picture.

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