

The rise of China is being heralded as a return of 'balance of power' politics in international relations. As the world moves towards multipolarity, account for the essential features of the international security architecture and its evolving dynamics?

Answer:

"The rise of China is reshaping the world order, challenging established norms, and beckoning a new era of global relations"
Fareed Zakaria

Introduction:

United States of America has been the global hegemon after the end of the decades long cold war. But, 21st century faced and experiencing the rise of multipolarity with the resurgence of China which is threatening the established world order by US. With the rise of China world is moving towards counter-balancing China in order to maintain balance of power. Global

Security dynamics is evolving whether it be game of alliances, competition for resources, technology or control of geo-political flashpoints.

1- Multipolarity and power distribution:

a- Multipolarity

Multipolarity in international relations means that there is a global system which is characterized by the presence of multiple major powers. For a particular time U.S. has enjoyed uni-polarity in the global international system. But, now with the rise of multiple powers in general and China in particular is threatening the established uni-polar, liberal world order of U.S.

b-

Multipolarity and the downfall of U.S.

When there is a rise in multipolarity and states are gaining their strength, the U.S. is facing the one of worst-times of its history. U.S. is going through the worst debt-crisis and is failing to beat the rise of multiple powers especially China. Which, has been seen in gaining huge economic

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might just second to U.S. In terms of economy total GDP size of U.S. is \$26 trillion while the total loan accumulated on the U.S. is \$32 trillion. The rise of BRICS economies in general, China in particular has potentially challenged U.S. economic supremacy. On one hand there is an economic decline of ~~the~~ U.S., on the other, there is an unprecedented rise of China.

↳ Multipolarity and Rise of China.;

"Let China sleep, when she will wake, she will shake the world."

Napoleon Bonaparte.

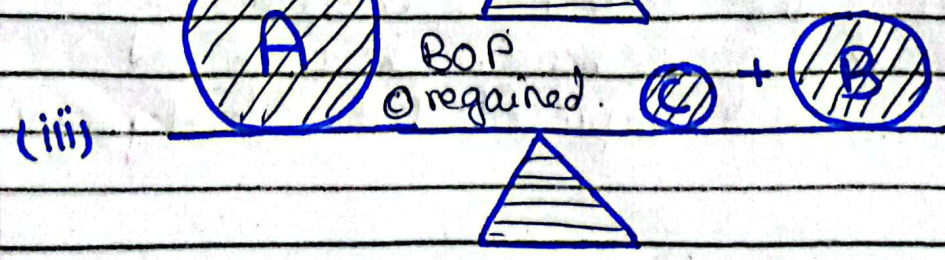
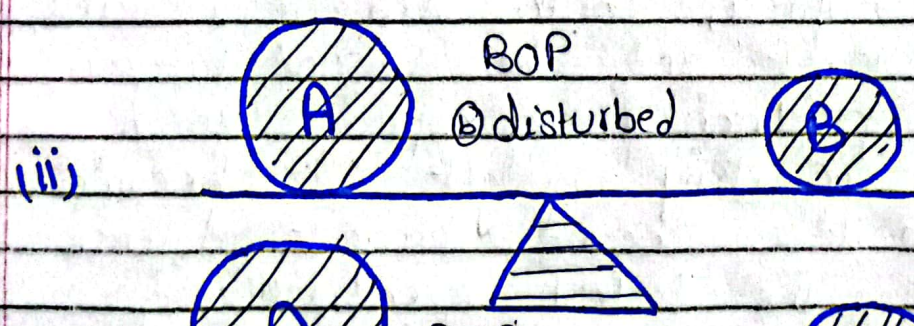
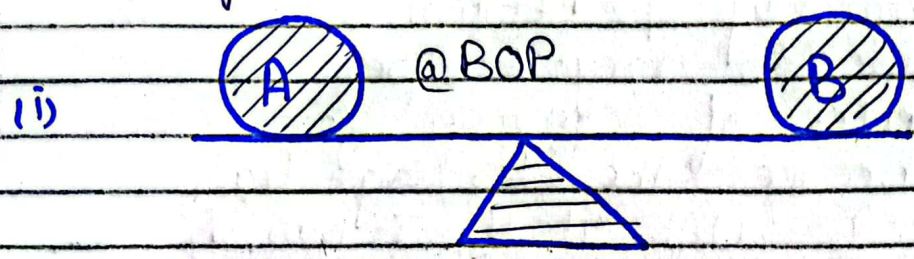
Chinese economy has reached to approximately \$10 trillion. China is the world's largest producer and exporter of consumer goods. China has become the leading trade partner of U.S. itself, Japan, ASEAN, India, Africa, South American states, Middle East and the second largest trade partner of European Union. China's military budget has become the world's second largest defence budget. The fastest ever growing navy is of China. China has made an unprecedented development

in AI, like 5G, robotics, cyber technology, etc. With all these abilities and rise China is a source of concern for US. for that the world in general and U.S in particular trying to balance China's rising influence.

2- Balance of Power and Global politics;

a- Balance of Power;

In International relations the concept of balance of power suggests that in a multi-state system, states will try to prevent any other state to become dominant and threatening their security.



b- Balance of power and Alliances:

In a multi-state system when a state gets more powerful or dominant than before other states try to balance the influence of its growing power either by alliances or by increasing their military strengths.

For example rise of China is threatening to U.S. So the U.S. is trying to make alliances in order to counter balance China.

States can make alliances either for mutual benefit or to counter a more dominant power. They can do so even by increasing military strength.

c- Balance of Power and increasing military strength:

States can counter-balance the dominance of a state through increasing their military might. As the realists argue that survival is the driving source for unrest. For example "On the Peloponnesian war the rise of Athens threatened Sparta the already strong power of that-time, and they ended up in the bloodshed. Similar is the

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Case with U.S. and China. One is existing Superpower and the other is a rising power, going towards thucydides trap, like the Sparta and Athens did."

Graham Allison
"Destined for war"

3- Competition and Multipolarity;

When there is a multipolar system, there is an inevitable competition among the states making matters even more complex.

a- Competition of resources and Multipolarity;

With the rise of China, the neighboring states of China feel insecure. There is an ongoing competition of resources between states. For example in the South China Sea, it is the competition of resources which is the source of tensions among the party states. In the Middle East also there is an ongoing competition for resources among U.S. and China. Central Asia is also a center stage for competition.

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b- Economic Competition and Multipolarity;

With the rise of China, there is an ongoing competition between U.S. and China which resulted in a trade war between the two. U.S. is a world's largest economy of the GDP size of approximately \$26 trillion. And, China is the \$20 trillion economy just second to U.S. which is concerning for U.S. and hence both are indulged into an ongoing trade war. Ranging from military competition to technological competition there is the economic competition between both which can result into serious repercussion.

4. Geopolitical flashpoints and Multipolarity;

"Whoever controls the seas will control the world."

Alfred Thayer Mahan.

On this multipolar world, it is not just about the economic, resources or military might. But, geo-politics is the main hot pot for the global powers. Whether

it be Taiwan, ^{strait} South China Sea, The Indian Ocean particularly the Malacca Strait - all are sensitive narrow sea ways that can impact the global trade and can influence the other states. Naval routes are so important in the contemporary world. For example 70 percent of Chinese trade passes through Strait of Malacca which is under huge influence of U.S. And that is one of many reasons China is seeking for alternatives in the form of BRI and South China Sea developments.

Conclusion:

With the end of the Cold war, U.S has always enjoyed the global supremacy. But now with the rising BRICS economies particularly China, the hegemony of U.S. is threatened because China is now rising and playing leadership roles. Because of tensions between already superpower and emerging superpower, Both are indulged in economic, technological, military and alliances competition. But as the realist paradigm suggest war is inevitable in order to restore the disturbed balance of Power.