

IRII 2024

Question Number 4

Recent relationship between the US China seems prey to Thycidides trap . . . . .

Answer Number 4:

1

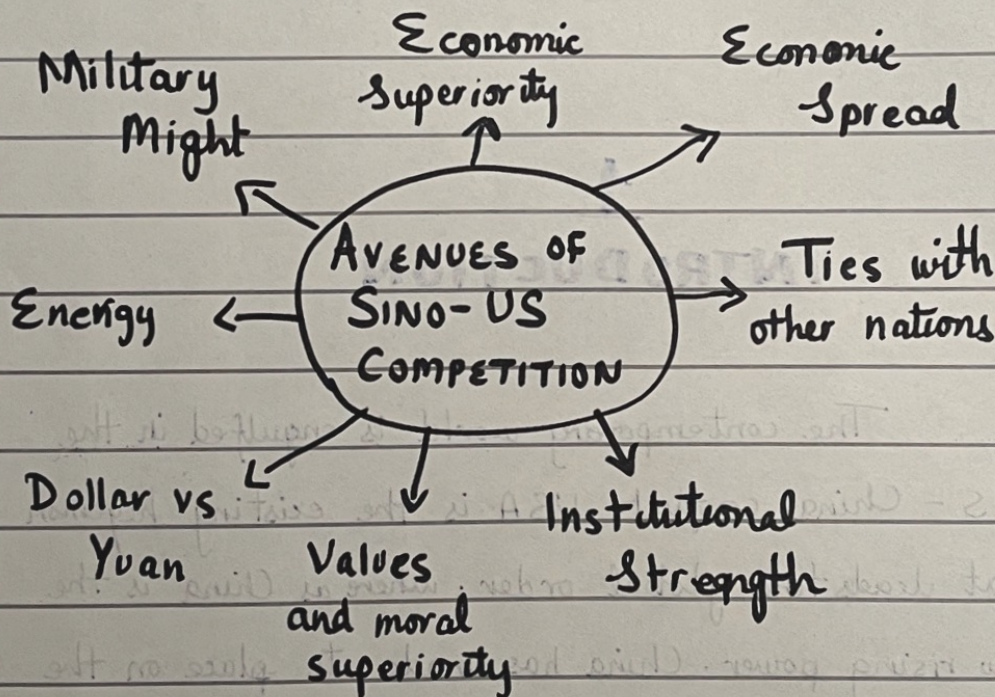
## INTRODUCTION

The contemporary world is engulfed in the US - China conflict. USA is the existing hegemon that leads the global order; where as China is the new rising power. China has made its place on the world stage by extreme economic growth and focus on raising its' strature. The conflict now arises when Americans react to their expectation of power shift and when China actively tries to reach that position. This situation is said to be a Thycidides Trap because both parties can not escape the situation they are in, and continue to work towards their goal.

2

## THE CONFLICT BETWEEN US AND CHINA

The conflict between these two nations is spread on various fronts.



3

## Thycidides Trap AND ITS CONTEMPORARY APPLICATION

Thycidides trap originates from the Greece history of Athens and Sparta. The term has recently resurfaced

in international debates relating to academia and international relations. The phenomenon explain that a rising power aims to reach the top and the power at the top tries to stop it. It is a trap like situation because both are stuck in a loop to achieve what they are trying to. The phenomenon also entails at par effort of both parties. Currently the US China situation can be viewed from the same perspective.

## 4

### **FUTURE OF SINO-US CONFLICT: ESCAPING THE TRAP DOES NOT SEEM INEVITABLE**

#### **4.1 THE CONFLICT IS THE EMBODIMENT OF A REALIST POINT OF VIEW REGARDING POWER STRUGGLE**

This conflict is a clear case for a realist perspective on power struggle. Both states are now stuck in an iterative loop of beating the other in any possible sphere. Like any 5th generation warfare, the conflict has completely flamed a

competition in every sphere; may it be economy, technology, military, culture etc.

#### 4.2 MILITARY BUILD UP IN SOUTH CHINA SEA TO ATTAIN BALANCE OF POWER.

The US alone has 700+ naval and military bases around the globe, outside its own territory. This has alarmed China which is exponentially increasing its military presence in the south China sea. This ensures regarding the intentions of both regarding each other.

#### 4.3 CHINA HAS STARTED ESTABLISHING INSTITUTIONAL POWERESS TO COUNTER USA

A feature of USA's strong hold its strong grip over institutions. China seems to realise that it must counter on all fronts to raise up the status of the world leader. However this instance explains the escalating nature of conflict.

China's ambitions can be viewed in the creation of the NDB and regularization of international organizations that China has a strong hold over.

#### 4.4 US TRYING TO CREATE COMPETITORS TO COUNTER BRI

BRI appears to China's groundbreaking road to economic success, trade security and relations with other countries. US government has been trying to launch multiple programs to counter it. The creation of 'Bring Back Better World' or G7 collaboration depicts the situation which America faces right now.

#### 4.5 USA HEAVILY INVESTING ON DEVELOPING A REGIONAL ALLIANCE NAMELY INDIA

USA and India friendship is a new entry in the global arena, however post Modi, the Indian foreign policy has changed. India now has almost an open defence alliance with the West. USA is investing in the new affair primarily to counter

Chinese influence in the region. COMSASA, EMOA are just a few examples of increasing US-India ties.

#### 4.6 BOTH COUNTER EACH OTHERS SOCIAL WORK AND HUMANITARIAN ASPECT

(1) US attacks China and blames China for not practicing human rights

Despite USA's own oxymoronic actions, US raises human rights concerns quite often with China. Where it takes the position of China being a cruel entity.

(2) China takes a similar dig with the 'You Bomb, We Build' education campaign in Iraq

China has also recently started a campaign to counter US malignment. China uses the war crimes and unfair warfare card again US. Recently in Iraq, China started an education campaign with the

tag line "You Bomb. We Build"

#### 4.7 PRACTICAL ALLIANCE SYSTEM HAS BEGUN WHICH MEANS NO GOING BACK

The Chinese String of Pearls countered by the Diamond necklace is a formal indication of alliance buildup. Although it is not the same as the cold war. However it still indicates the global spread of this issue.

#### 4.8 CHINA'S EVEN HIGHER AIMS FOR THE FUTURE

"We aim to be the world's greatest army  
by 2050"

- Xi Jinping

China has no plans of curtailing its competition instead it plans to do the quite opposite. An increase in any form ensures the Thucydides Trap.

## 4.9 OPPOSING SIDES IN EVERY MAJOR CONFLICT RIGHT NOW

USA's Side      China's Side

Ukraine      vs      Russia

KSA      vs      Iran

Israel vs Palestine / Iran / Lebanon

## 5

## CONCLUSION

The USA China conflict has begun and is in its full bloom. It does not seem that either of the countries would like to take a step back in this trap. US continues to make policies to contain China's growth, while China continues to make policies that help it climb up the ladder. The continuation of this conflict on various fronts is inevitable.