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"The Emerging Multipolarity
threatens to create new
war zones"

OUTLINE:

A. Introduction

B. Emerging Multipolarity threatens
to create new war zones:

- (1) Emerging Multipolarity rises
threats of economic/trade
wars. (Tariffs and non-Tariff barriers)

Case in Point: US-China

Trade War.

- (2) Emergence of multiple poles
creates disputes over ^{mineral} resources

Case in Point: South

China Sea (Taiwan and
China)

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(3) The threat of energy (oil and gas) warfare increases due to emerging multipolarity.

Case in Point: Russia

sanctioned post Ukraine invasion; 35% price slash.

(4) The use of cyber-space to create propaganda is wide-spread at present.

Case in Point: India used

EU's cyberspace to propagate against Pakistan.
(EU Disinfo Lab)

(5) Financial sanctions are used as tools of war (economic) in era of emerging multipolarity.

Case in point: Iran

sanctioned by IAEA.

(6) Emerging multipolarity rises the chances of technological warfare between countries/poles.

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Case in Point: Japan and US [Electric Vehicle Technology]

(7) Environmental threats increase the probability of emission warfare.

Case in Point: China's Three Ganges Dam and US concerns.

(8) Multipolarity induces chances of infrastructural warfare.

Case in Point: CPEC vs BBW.

(9) Emerging poles compete to attain global influence / mass support.

Case in Point: student Exchange Programms, Work Visas etc. (currency)

(10) The threat of ethnic conflicts increases due to emerging multipolarity.

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Case in Point: Balkanization
(rise of NSAs - HTS, BLA, ISKP)

(ii) Multiple poles extend naval presence in the oceans creating instability.

Case in Point: Indo-Pacific
{ String of Pearls vs
Necklace of Diamonds }

C. Emerging Multipolarity and new war zones - a misperceived narrative:

(1) Extension of conventional weapons by arch rivals:

Case in Point: MI-Complex vs Russian Weapon Export.
(stealth technology)

(2) Historical conflicts of bipolarity are still intact.

Case in Point: NATO Expansion issue. (Sweden joined 2024)

D. Conclusion

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"War is the extension of politics" stated the realist scholar Machiavelli. Contemporary global political realm witnesses the rise of multiple power centres in various domains. Man's lust for power and quench for extension of possessions fuels the ashes of conflict and chaos. In the past, where potential enemies fought against each other in case of bipolarity, or the unity power stood against all odds, the perception of threat was vivid. Lines today, have been blurred out by disturbances penetrating ahead of just state boundaries and borders. New war zones lie in other areas like trade. States quarrel over mineral or energy resources. Powerful states utilize the cyberspace to propage against a revisionist power. Warfare is conducted by imposition of financial sanctions on any state that threatens hegemonic

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agendas. States also compete over technological supremacy. War could also be waged in the environmental context. It is pertinent that the emergence of multiple power centres pose a threat of economic, technological, environmental war zones.

Economic capabilities define power potential of a state. When a country experiences economic stability, it is likely to rise as a superpower. Multipolarity instigates economic trade war among powerful countries. This is mainly done because wealth is an essential arena of power acquisition. If a greater power hinders the economic rise of a comparatively weaker one; it can maintain its status quo. The recent US-China Trade war is an example. US blocked Chinese imports and banned Huawei, Xi etc to balance its current account

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deficit. Though lesser violence is involved, much harm is inflicted in an economic war zone.

Global waters are replete with essential minerals. These are valuable mineral reserves. With the rise of various poles in the world, the competition for such minerals, present mainly under-sea increases. Present-day politics are operating on coercive diplomatics tactics which pose a threat of war.

Taiwan and China are engulfed in one such dispute in the South-China Sea. This is one of those war zones where USA is actively backing Taiwan. The war zone is motivated by abundance of copper, iron and other mineral reserves on the islands. Such triggering scenarios indicate danger.

The rise of multiple power centres is essentially linked to the conflict over energy resources. This is

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because oil and gas are essential for any country to flourish economically and militarily. The potential chances for conflict over these energy sources also increase with the emerging multipolar world order. In order to suppress a competing power, the more powerful state utilizes force or authority to crush the weaker's energy trade. The United States has practiced this very concept with Russia after it invaded Ukraine in 2021. The latter's exports fell to bare minimum because European market banned it. There is possibility of crippling the powers of one rising state to maintain the status quo.

The internet provides a diverse battle-field to numerous power centres. States in an attempt to derogate the policies or modus operandi of an opponent government, initiate cyber warfare. This type of

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This type of war creates widespread impact; making masses believe what the hegemon wants them to.

Regional powers are generally involved in such practices to extend their control over a large area. Recently, Disinfo Lab of EU has published a report about Indian involvement in propagandist activities against Pakistan with the EU's cyberspace. It is a contemporary method with far-reaching impact.

The imposition of various sanctions limits the growth curve of any emerging power. With rising trend of multipolarity, new threat of financial sanctions has evolved.

The status quo powers, in an attempt to demoralise any agenda or interest against their idea, sanction the other party. The intensity and method varies upon the status of disharmony of agendas.

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between the both. Recently, the IAEA has imposed sanctions on Iran for its secret proliferation of nuclear weapons. The country is banned from major trade regions due to its ideological bias with the US. Such tendencies prove that you could destroy without a weapon.

International market is characterized by technological advances. States are leaving no stone unturned to excel in weapon, gadget or even nuclear technology. The rise of multiple poles creates a potent threat of technological warfare. States compete to be at the top of technology in a certain domain. Such amoral entities compete on brutal conditions. Japan, the tech hub of the globe, faces tough competition from the States on electric vehicle technology. US has banned hybrid car

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imports from Japan to protect its infant industry. This new war zone is a dormant volcano that could trigger any moment.

Environment and

Green spaces is the new buzz of international arena. The rise of mere poly-states in central power results in emission warfare. Powerful states compete each other in an attempt to protect their environment, no matter what adverse implications others face due to it. There is an on-going issue with Chinese construction of Three Gorges Dam; a master-stroke to expand its control over global water supplies. The US is partially threatened due to disruptions in the water table as well as tectonic plate movements. Such deadly implications of such practices.

Power capabilities are

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displayed through infrastructure development across regions. The emergence of multipolarity creates a threat of violent competition in infrastructural domain. Rising poles attempt to engage maximum countries in their infrastructure projects, while the already affluent are catching behind. China, for example, initiated a mega-infrastructure development project Belt and Road Initiative to gain momentum. Western powers tried to counter it with B3K1. Such projects are not limited to infrastructure but form alliances and are attempt to soft Imperialism.

Global Politics has been marred by competition for influence. The dominant power has always maintained a certain amount of control over global norms, media, culture and academia. In the unipolar era, US dominated all such areas

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by its comprehensively developed policies. With the rise of multipolarity, Confucius Institutes are developing; deals in Yuan challenge the Dollar hegemony and flaws in western culture create space for others to fill the gap. Instead of just the US-AID or Full Bright, Erasmus Mundus and Daad Scholarships are now widely available. All such actions are an attempt to gain public support.

The creation of new power centres increases violent groups. This could result in Balkanization of states to counter their influence. Currently, Non-State Actors are everywhere. They have well-settled roots in multiple countries that provide material and financial support. This threat of ethnic discords and disintegration of states based on nationalism increases with emerging multipolarity.

Such groups gain support of a rising super-power in a bid against another powerful. Such a scenario results in rise of actors like AQ, HTS or ISKP.

Global security is endangered by such drastic emergences.

Multiple power centres search for new domains of exposing might. Poles may look for seas to exert their presence in non-traditional manner. China, for instance, has ended-up forming an energy ring within the Indo-Pacific. It has no naval presence but controls major choke-points. The Indian policy of Necklace of Diamonds counters this influence. This leads to instability at the major traderroutes because the region becomes a potential war zone.

However, the phenomena of broadening war zones to non-conventional arenas is not

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tightly bound to multipolarity. Even in case of a bipolar or unipolar world systems states extend their capabilities in a particular field to remain relevant.

Regardless of global diversification, the arms race in the conventional weapons remains centre of focus for powers. Arch rivals are till date investing more and more to advance their weapons. All notions of Balance of Power and conventional war tactics are applicable. USA for instance, extends its conventional weapons to run the most successful MI-complex or be merchant of death. Russia seconds with its military exports just behind it. The battle zone is the same too; Eastern Europe. NATO Expansion and countering Russian presence lie at core of the agenda.

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In a nutshell, the rise of multiple power centres in the world creates diversified means and zones of war. States no longer limit themselves to conventional weapon advances but project their might in new areas. Financial sanctions are utilized as a tool to halt or isolate enemy. Competition in technological advancement triggers conflict and war. Environmental damage through emission warfare also remains a relatively new tact of war between poles. Powerful states fight over global influence and infrastructure advancements. The threat of ethnic discords also increases when multiple powers rise to core. War zones are no longer limited to the land or sea but ports and harbours. All poles must join hands or abide by a power-sharing agreement to avoid chaos and conflict.