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QUESTION: 01.

INTRODUCTION:

As constructivists argue that there is no specific reality but perceptions matter, Therefore Donald's Trump's Policies have been assessed as both facilitating specific peace deals and deeping global divides, with out comes often depending on the percepective of the nations involved. With respect to China, the rivalry is based on "managed uncertainity", which has serious strategic Implications for not only China and the US, but for the world as a whole.

DONALD TRUMPS AMERICA FIRST POLICY.

Donald Trumps "America First" policy prioritized national interest, workers, and the economy through protectionist trade, reduced foreign entanglements (like withdrawing from agreements like The Paris Climate Accord), and transactional diplomacy. It emphasized national sovereignty, border control; and on strong military but with less focus on nation building.

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Key Aspects of America First Policy

• Trade

Implemented Tarrifs
Regenrated deals like (NAFTA into USMCA).
Bilateral Agreements

• Foreign Relations

Shifted from traditional alliances to more transactional relationships

• Military and Security

→ Advocated for powerful military
→ Using force decisively when perceive threats

• International Agreements

→ withdrew from multinational accords
① Paris Climate Agreement
② Iran Nuclear Deal.

• Immigration and Borders

→ Implemented Stricker immigration polices.
→ travel bans
→ focusing on border security.
→ limiting entry from certain regions

GLOBAL DYNAMICS UNDER TRUMP LEADERSHIP:

The prevailing academic and expert analysis using frameworks like realism indicates that Trump's America First policy is best described as

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transactional, unpredictable, and focused on prioritizing immediate US interests over long term alliances or international norms.

1- FACILITATING PEACE OR DE-ESCALATION.

i Normalization Agreements

The Abraham Accords, which normalized relations between Israel and several Arab nations, are cited as a diplomatic success for regional stability.

ii Brokerage of Ceasefires.

The Trump administration has been involved in brokering ceasefires in regional conflicts, such as between India and Pakistan in May 2025 - Proponents view these as practical achievements for peace, leading to nominations for the Nobel peace prize.

iii Direct Negotiations.

Trump's willingness to engage in direct talks with leaders of adversial nations, bypassing the traditional diplomatic channels, was seen by some as a pragmatic way to deescalate tension. For example deals between Republic of Congo and Rawanda and between Azerbiajan

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and Armenia.

iv **Ending "Endless Wars"**
A stated goal was to end long-running US military entanglements, including the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan via a deal with the Taliban in August 2021.

2 DEEPENED DIVIDES OR INSTABILITY:

i **Undermining Multilateralism.**
The US withdrew from key international agreements such as the Paris Climate agreement and the Iran Nuclear Deal (JCPOA), and stained relations with institutions like NATO and the UN. This approach is widely interpreted as undermining collective solutions to global challenges.

ii **STRAINED ALLIANCES.**
Trump's transactional approach, including public criticism of NATO allies for insufficient defense spending, raised doubts about the credibility of US security guarantees. Due to this transactional approach the traditional Asian and European allies seek alternative

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partnership with countries Russia and China.

iii **Trade Wars disrupted global markets**

The use of tarriffs, particularly against China, Mexico, Canada, disrupted global supply chains, heightened economic tensions, and negatively impacted global GDP growth (lowered global GDP growth upto 3% estimated by IMF and OECD in 2025), leading to a more fragmented global economy.

iv **Regional Instability:**

By dismantling of USAID or withdrawl from Climate accords, USA has triggered humanitarian crises in some areas - The shut down of USAID has disrupted vital programs for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria leading to thousands of deaths in Africa and South Asia - Critical food aid, water and sanitation programmes have collapsed in conflict zones as Northern Nigeria and Rohingya Refugee camps, exacerbating malnutrition and disease risks.

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4 STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF The USA-CHINA RIVALRY:

The USA-China rivalry is the defining geopolitical dynamic of a shifting world order moving from US-led unipolar system towards a more multipolar or bipolar structure. The strategic implications of the current U.S-China rivalry are defined as a "managed uncertainity" where competition is the baseline and loss of control is the primary cost avoided by both.

1 GEOPOLITICAL AND ALLIANCE SHIFTS:

The rivalry is fundamentally reshaping international security architectures and regional dynamics.

① Pacific-Centric Order

Global power is shifting from The Atlantic to the Pacific with the U.S. "National Security strategy" reclassifying China as an "economic rival" rather than a systemic ideological threats.

② Alliance strains:

US allies like Japan, South Korea, and Australia are increasingly "hedging" investing in their own defence and multilateral groupings (e.g QUAD) to avoid being caught in a potential U.S-China grand bargain.

(3) Regional Balancing

Nations in South Asia and Southeast Asia are resisting binary choices. For instance ASEAN members like Indonesia have joined BRICS to maintain strategic autonomy. However, Philiphines remain's a central flashpoint due to its defense ties with the USA.

2. TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC FRAGMENTATION.

Technological and economic fragmentation is no longer a theoritical risk, but a structural reality of the U.S China rivalry. This process, often termed "managed decoupling or bifurcation" has moved beyond simple trade tariffs to the creation of two distinct, often incompatible global ecosystems.

(1) Incompatible systems and Chip War Stalemate

Policy driven decoupling has solidified into separate standards for **Artificial Intelligence (AI) advanced semiconductors, and data governance**. While US restricts access to advanced semiconductor equipment, China has achieved significant milestones in domestic 7nm chip production and energy-efficient AI Models reducing its vulnerability to western Sanctions.

② Global GDP Drag

The IMF and other researchers warn that this economic separation could reduce longterm global GDP by as much as 7% if technological ecosystem remain fully incompatible.

③ Slowing Global innovation cycles

Restricting the flow of talent and "Cross pollination" of ideas between US and China is slowing global innovation cycles and increasing research and Developing costs as firms must develop localized versions of products for both markets.

④ Erosion of Multilateralism

Global institutions like the WTO are struggling to function as the rivalry drives a shift towards "unilateralism" and "minilateral" defence and tech alliances (e.g AUKUS vs BRICS+)

⑤ "Polycrisis" Multiplier

Trade and tech tensions are now viewed as part of a "polycrisis" where security, climate and energy shocks amplify one another, making international cooperation on global issues like climate change increasingly difficult

3 Escalation RISKS AND STRATEGIC STABILITY:

Both powers are enhancing their military and nuclear capibilities while engaging in frequent shows of force in hotspots like the Taiwan Strait. Analysts warn that this increases the risk of miscalculations or accidental escalation, even as both governments publically assert a desire to avoid direct conflict

5 CONCLUSION:

In Summary, the assessment of Trump's foreign policy is highly contested. The global dynamics under Trump have fostered a more transactional and less institutionally based international relations environment. This approach has led to specific, short-team agreements viewed as peaceful by some, while simultaneously eroding the trust in alliances and multilateral cooperation, thereby deeping divisions within the international community. Moreover the rivalry with China is accelerating the shift in the world order, increasing competition and potentially leading to a more unstable geopolitical Landscape.

QUESTION #02

INTRODUCTION:

The global fallout of the Trump adminis-tration's tarrif policies represents a decisive shift towards protectionism characterized by the highest U.S tariff rates since 1935, averaging 16.8%. These policies have fundamentally altered international economic relations replacing multilateral cooperation with strategic bilateralism and economic nationalism.

GLOBAL FALL OUT OF TRUMP'S TARRIFF POLICIES.

1- Stagnant Global Growth

The cumultative effect of trade disintegaration and policy uncertainity is projected to reduce global GDP by approximately 1% in 2026. The World Bank expects global growth to hover below 2.5%, significantly below historical norms.

2- Persistent Inflation

In the USA, tarrifs have added roughly 1% of point to Inflation, with core percentage projected to remain stuck around 2.5% through 2026. Studies indicate US consumers now shoulder approximately 67% of the total tariff burden.

3- Household Costs.

In 2026, the average U.S household is projected to face a tax hike of approximately $1500 to 1600 to these measures.

3 RESHAPING DYNAMICS BETWEEN MAJOR ECONOMIES

1- US.China Strategic Decoupling.

By raising US tariffs to their highest levels since the 1930s (averaging nearly 17%). These policies have forced a strategic decoupling between the U.S and China, pushing global trade to through "middle man" countries like Mexico and Vietnam. The connector nations were used to bypass a 10% reciprocal tariff baseline. Furthermore, the restrictions of America on advanced semiconductors have forced China to prioritize "technological sovereignity" under its 15th Five year plan, thus splitting the world into two incompatible ~~an~~ technological and supply chain ecosystem

2) Allies and Transactionalism

The U.S has used tariff threats as leverage against allies. For instance, ~~India~~ U.S has leveyed 25% tariffs on India over siding Russian in Ukranian War. Similarly Japan pledged $550 billion in FDI to secure a 15% baseline tariff rate, while EU has been forced to negotiate industrial tariff cuts and soften digital regulations to avoid steel and aluminum duties.

~~3) Diversification for Third W~~

3) Emergence of diverse Markets.

Tarriffs have not revived U.S. manufacturing but have instead diverted sourcing to Vietnam, Mexico, India and Malaysia. Emerging markets with large trade surpluses, like Mexico & Vietnam, are facing increased U.S pressure but may gain from reshoring as the U.S distances itself from China.

4- Vulnerability of Developing Economies.

Smaller, open economies particularly in SouthEast Asia, have been disproportionately affected. Many relay heavily on access on the US markets and face significant Challenges from sudden tariff increases and supply chain disruptions, with limited capacity to retaliate effectively

4. ANTICIPATED LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES:

1- EROSION OF RULES BASED ORDER

Unilateral tariff hikes, often justified by national security, have undermined the stability of agreements like the USMCA and the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework

2- Financial Instability Across globe

Increased U.S debt and trade tensions have led to the U.S dollar suffering its steepest annual decline in eight years by early 2026. Due to market volatility investors hedge against currency debasement and geopolitical risk through assets like gold.

3) FRAGMENTATION OF SUPPLY CHAINS

Due to high tariffs the supply Chain is fragmented and dismantled. The global production model is shifting from "off shoring" to "near shoring" and "friends shoring". To mitigate tarriff risks, companies are rerouting production to regions like ASEAN, though at significant cost and operational inefficiency.

4) ECONOMIC NATIONALISM AND EMERGING OF GEOPOLITICAL BLOCS

Trump's policies have accelerated an era of economic nationalism where countries prioritize self-sufficiency. This has reinforced the economic decoupling between the U.S and ~~the~~ China and may lead to the hardening of rival economic blocks (e.g the BRICS bloc exploring alternative trade frameworks, deeping global polarization.

5. PERSISTENT INFLATION AND REDUCED GROWTH

Economic models consistently project that tariffs lead to higher consumer and producer prices, acting as a tax on domestic households and businesses. In the U.S, tariffs have added roughly 1% point to Inflation and average U.S household is projected to face an annual cost of approximately 1600$ in 2026 due to these measures (World Bank reports)

CONCLUSION:

In short, the tariff policies of Trump administration show a deliberate shift from liberal economic policies towards protectionism, characterized by high tariff rates and restriction on trade with China on certain products. This move not only impact the economy of the US but also sets long term consequences for the world in the form of persistant Inflation, reduced growth, financial Instability and fragmentation of supply chains. These moves of Trump administration also reshaped by the economic dynamics between US and China and between the US and its other allies characterize by decoupled economy and transactionalism respectively. Last but not the least, such economic nationalism seems to leading towards geopolitical blocks i-e The US, China, BRICKS etc.