



# THE RISE OF CHINA: A THREAT TO US HEGEMONY

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## INDRODUCTION

The United States has dominated the Asia-Pacific region as a major power for more than 50 years. The United States exerted significant influence over the geopolitical and economic landscape of the region through trade and alliances. In the 1980s, the United States began to actively engage China, which marked the start of a historic shift towards market liberalisation and growth focused on commerce. Without a question, the US contributed to laying the groundwork for the many political and economic developments that took place in the East Asian region. However, China's ascent to prominence posed a serious challenge to this nation, and it is no longer a major player in the region. It suggests that a new type of organisation is being implemented in the East Asian region.

The remarkable growth of the Chinese economy in connection with the aggressive military and diplomatic build-up had a major role in the region's active transformation. A comprehensive examination of the history of international relations reveals that China's economic growth dramatically changed from the mid-1980s to the late 1990s, growing by roughly 10% a year. While expanding annually from the 1990s to 2005 at a rate of 8% to 9%. Following this, the Chinese environment had experienced annual growth rates above 11% by 2006.

This state's remarkable economic growth was a major factor in its rise to prominence. Similar tendencies have also been seen in international politics. States' economies typically grow at different rates, showing that although some countries are consistently stronger than others, others are seeing the opposite trend. According to Paul Kennedy in his book "The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers," these relative economic shifts have frequently signaled the coming of new great powers that would eventually have a substantial impact on the military/territorial order.

Among the various factors impacting China's economic growth, the leadership in Beijing integrates the relationship between economic power and geopolitical significance, which directly adds value to this nation's sustained growth.

This state's pre-planned strategic expansion has surpassed that of the United States in terms of the size of the global economy as measured by gross domestic product, both nationally and globally.

Global hegemony, defined as one state's supremacy over all others in issues of politics, economy, or military force, has proven to be the most fascinating and well-

liked topic in political science thus far. Similar to the field of politics, its goal was to examine the optimal configuration of the international system and the proper allocation of power on a worldwide scale. China and the United States have especially considered the idea of world supremacy in the context of the hegemonic struggle.

In response to China's ascent to hegemonic status, many are considering a fundamental shift in the way the world behaves.

There exist notable distinctions between the current international system and its past iterations, including the emergence of the digital economy as a platform for the prosperity of all countries. Multilateralism also had a major impact on these differences.

Since the United States and other common capitalist nations currently occupy most of the world's leadership roles, overturning a system is far more difficult than overthrowing a single state. For an overthrow to be successful, for example, a base that the entire organisation depends on and lives off would need to entirely collapse.

Such an act kept China from becoming an ornament for other interdependent countries, including the United States, in addition to drawing it into an absolutely unjustified hegemonic confrontation. Economic freedom and equal opportunity have been made possible by the predominance of liberal theory in international law. This bill created a risky situation in terms of US hegemony worldwide. Even in the present day, trade and economic activities between the US and China are nevertheless reminiscent of the Cold War. Using both new and old

administrative instruments, such as cooperative and coercive tactics, is another major challenge for the US in managing China's ascent. Globally, the great majority of developing and underdeveloped countries supported "Beijing" on economic issues and "Washington" on security issues. China has started a number of socioeconomic projects with the Belt and Road Initiative that directly support its hegemonic ambitions. These kinds of assertive Chinese ventures put pressure on the US to increase its strategic footprint abroad.

## The Chronicles of Chinese economic development

Thirteen of the world's economies started to shift toward sustainability after World War II by using certain characteristics to differentiate themselves. The ability to profit from backwardness was the most common characteristic across these economies; to put it another way, they were both importing and exporting knowledge that the rest of the world already possessed. China reacted favourably to Deng Xiaoping's 1979 implementation of this policy. Then he began exporting what people wanted and importing what the rest of the world knew. This action not only expedites their entry into the global economy, but it also leads to a rapid increase in their international commerce and dependence ratio. In any case, China produces cheap, simple toys, fabrics, and other products that are widely consumed worldwide. The majority of essential home goods are imported from China.

China has a major effect on that nation's economy; the national bureau of statistics states that China's GDP increased by 7.5% in 2014. Then, China adopted a policy that distances it from the organisation's tenets, just as other nations are currently doing. It also started enacting industrial policies, establishing state-owned businesses, and fostering a techno-nationalism

that supports the advancement and protection of technology created in the country.

Since the late 1990s, the Chinese economy has grown tremendously; annual growth rates of roughly 10% have been reported. Additionally, their GDP increased by 8% to 9% yearly from that period until 2005. After that, it increased by more than 10% to 11% in the ensuing years. In addition, in international politics, the rate at which a state's economic strength grows changes, and as a result, people are more concerned with realigning their positions in accordance with this variance.

If China continues to grow at double-digit rates in the early 21st century, it will overtake the US economy to become the largest in the world. The leadership is cognizant of the connection between economic might and geopolitical clout. They will therefore generate more GWP than the US.

A journalist named James Kaynge claims that China is expected to by 2020 overtake the US as the world's most powerful military nation.

## US-China Relations Historical Analysis

In the change from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries, the United States became one of the most powerful countries in the world. After World War II ended in the middle of the 20th century, the United States emerged victorious and began to militarily and economically rule every other nation on the planet. In 1945, the United States began to take a leading role among states in controlling world politics, establishing international organisations, and overseeing global governance, following its adoption of Britain as its global patron.

According to Paul Kennedy and other experts on international politics, the United States began to assert its global influence and shape the international order in 1945. Nonetheless, many analysts also forecast that America will eventually tumble from its current position as the dominant force in the world economy. initial term George W. Bush's initials suggested that military deterrence was a must for US policy toward China. Bush highlighted US policy toward Taiwan by calling China a "strategic competitor" and pledging US support for Taiwan's defence will be unwavering. Walter Russell Mead referred to Bush's ideology as "maximalist, bone-crushing" Jacksonism and said that "international order is a product of direct American relevance." In other words, challengers must exercise care in order to increase the stability of the system with American power.

John Mearsheimer's belief that the United States ought to halt China's ascent aligns with President Bush's original realistic pessimistic viewpoint, which cherishes unchallenged dominance and fears Chinese expansion. The events of September 11, 2001, however, significantly changed the dynamics of US-China ties by changing the US security environment. Overnight, realistic hope materialised, and China became a key ally, security collaborator, and friend in the war against terrorism. The global financial crisis that struck in 2008 and 2009 could be seen as a turning point in this process.

It proved China's might politically and economically, especially in light of the events in the US and Europe. China's expansion gained momentum following the crisis, and between 2014 and 2015, it became a net exporter of capital. The main goals of state-led exports from the capital were to secure the supply of raw materials and energy, as well as to search for market opportunities and control over technological assets.

Not only is the current US-China trade war the product of economic tension, but it can also be seen as the outcome of the two nations' Cold War-era competition for supremacy in the world economy. While there are some similarities between the Cold War and the Cold War between the US and the USSR, this is definitely not a Cold War parody.

As most of us are probably aware, during the Cold War, all military, financial, and strategic ties between the two opposing sides were severed.

Their inclinations were left uncovered. It is noteworthy that China and the United States currently have similar interests in a number of sectors, which helps to explain why the two nations' rivalry is so complicated. For this reason, "harmony" comes after "cold" to represent this facet of the current US- China relationship.

## Chinese Growth in the World's Eyes

The world's most perplexing development to date has been China's rise to prominence. We might say that China is a country fighting for a spot among the Superpowers. It is progressing swiftly and showing off its achievements to the rest of the world, particularly the West, which considers itself to be powerful. China's economy is rising, and we might claim that it has already positively impacted East Asia by spending to improve the region. Based on the prevailing circumstances, it is reasonable to infer that China is poised for greatness in the future and could emerge as the world's most powerful and influential nation. However, the public's primary concern is whether the US is in danger from this.

China devotes a sizeable amount of its budget to its armed forces, which are the largest and most technologically sophisticated in the world, in order to preserve and strengthen their military might. Modern military supplies and equipment are coming into China from across the border. China is predicted to deploy 200 land- based intercontinental long-range rockets with warheads and treble its nuclear arsenal within the next ten years. In addition, China is capable of launching rockets half a world's distance, supersonic rockets for transportation, advanced robots, and hypersonic armaments. The study group Global Organization for Essential Studies reports that China began purchasing more ships and submarines in 2014 than the navies of Germany, India, Spain, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom were currently using.

## Threat Evaluation in US-China Relations

The cornerstone of the US attempt to establish hegemony is its overwhelming military might, for which it spends more on its armed forces than all other countries combined. The United States has superior control over common areas, the sea, the air, and highways, according to 2003's R. Posen Researchers. This decision was issued because, according to US intelligence, China only had 10% of the world's total GDP at the time, whereas the US has 23%. Stated differently, the United States alone beat China by 13%.

China is conscious that its ambitions to expand its influence provide one of the largest threats to the United States, given the substantial influence it has had on the former. Even if there isn't an actual armed conflict, cyberattacks have caused tensions between them to worsen to the point where there are now cold conflicts. Intelligence operations and external pressure have also contributed to this development.

The hottest topic in the world right now is how China is evolving and growing in importance on a daily basis. One of the areas that China's ascent is threatening is Latin America; their relationship extends beyond trade to encompass political and military ties as well. China's rapid expansion is helping too many Asian countries because it has altered their trading patterns, which they can now exploit. Due to the lower labor expenses per hour in China than in the region and the benefits of buying inexpensive Chinese goods over those made locally, China has developed into a significant exporter to Latin America.

Above all, it is because of this that ties between China and Latin America have grown over the past several years. China has made large stock market investments in Latin America, demonstrating its supremacy in this region. This is one of the main reasons why China and the United States are currently at odds over who controls Latin America, which presents a serious threat to American hegemony.

The United States will not allow anyone to overshadow them, so they are taking serious action against that issue. A few examples of the ways that China is currently posing a threat to American hegemony are the OBOR Initiative, the AIIB's establishment, and Beijing's "Made in China 2025" strategy. They are forging alliances and fortifying their relations with other countries, such as Australia, Japan, India, and others. Because they are thought to be too close to China, they are also attempting to sabotage China's programs by attacking its financial institutions, including the Asia Development Bank, the World Bank, and the IMF.

## Conclusion

This statement provides a succinct analysis of how the emergence of China's state posed a serious threat to US hegemony. However, this country no longer plays a significant role in this region and faced a great threat as a result of China's ascent to power. In the authoritative dispute between China and the US, the topic of global hegemony has been discussed in public. Through union

association and exchange, in particular, the United States exerted significant influence over the regional international and financial arrangement. China's assertive efforts in its crucial global expansion put pressure on the US.

States usually develop financially at different rates, indicating that certain nations are steadily becoming more powerful while others are becoming less so in relation to one another. Many have questioned if there has been a significant change in the state of world affairs as a result of China's financial involvement in a number of projects that openly promote the country's increasing domination. One such project is China's rise to a position of global dominance.

Following that, in 2006, it was found that the Chinese economy was growing at a rate exceeding 11% annually. China's impressive financial development has increased recognition for its rise to prominence in the global economy. This state's pre-planned major developments outperformed the US as the world's greatest economy (measured by total national production) both domestically and

internationally. For example, losing would require the basis upon which the entire group depends to fall completely apart and survive.

