AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2024: THE CORE POINT OF FUTURE GEOPOLITICAL CHANGES

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ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** This research is focused on the ongoing Russia – Ukraine military conflict, which has already caused some significant changes in foreign policy priorities of major players of international political system.

**Objective:** The objective of this study is to investigate the impact of U.S. 2024 elections to the Russia – Ukraine military conflict outcomes with the aim of analyzing different foreign policy philosophies the two potential candidates have, that can have an effect not only on current Russo-Ukrainian conflict but on the whole global geopolitical situation in the current world.

**Theoretical Framework:** Realism as an international relations theory with the system level analysis is used to explain current global geopolitical issues.

**Method:** The issue of methodology is decided according to the necessities of tasks of this article and is mostly based on data analyses, comparison of similarities or differences and case study.

**Results and Discussion:** The current work claims that the major war on the European continent disrupts the core security arrangements which has a shattering effects of unipolar liberal order and how much will this order be changed, is mainly depended on the dedication to it by the U.S.A, European union countries and their liberal democratic allies around the globe.

**Research Implications:** the research findings contribute in raising awareness of the current Ukraine conflict and accumulate the type of knowledge that enriches the political science with theoretical and practical value.

**Keywords:** War in Ukraine, International System, U.S.A, China, Russia, Realism.

ELEIÇÕES PRESIDENCIAIS AMERICANAS 2024: O PONTO CENTRAL DAS FUTURAS MUDANÇAS GEOPOLÍTICAS

RESUMO

**Propósito:** Esta pesquisa está focada no conflito militar Rússia-Ucrânia em curso, que já causou algumas mudanças significativas nas prioridades de política externa dos principais atores do sistema político internacional.

**Objetivo:** O objetivo deste estudo é investigar o impacto das eleições dos EUA de 2024 para os resultados do conflito militar entre a Rússia e a Ucrânia com o objetivo de analisar diferentes filosofias de política externa dos dois candidatos em potencial, que podem ter um efeito não apenas no atual conflito russo-ucraniano, mas em toda a situação geopolítica global no mundo atual.

**Estrutura Teórica:** O realismo como uma teoria de relações internacionais com a análise do nível do sistema é usada para explicar questões geopolíticas globais atuais.

**Método:** A questão da metodologia é decidida de acordo com as necessidades das tarefas deste artigo e baseia-se principalmente em análises de dados, comparação de semelhanças ou diferenças e estudo de caso.

**Resultados e Discussão:** o trabalho atual afirma que a grande guerra no continente europeu perturba os acordos de segurança fundamentais, que tem um efeito devastador da ordem liberal unipolar e quanto essa ordem será

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alterada, depende principalmente da dedicação a ela por parte dos EUA, países da União Europeia e seus aliados democráticos liberais em todo o mundo.

Implicações da pesquisa: os resultados da pesquisa contribuem para aumentar a conscientização do atual conflito na Ucrânia e acumular o tipo de conhecimento que enriquece a ciência política com valor teórico e prático.

Keywords: Guerra na Ucrânia, Sistema Internacional, EUA, China, Rússia, Realismo.

ELECCIONES PRESIDENCIALES ESTADOUNIDENSES 2024: EL PUNTO CENTRAL DE LOS FUTUROS CAMBIOS GEOPOLÍTICOS

RESUMEN

Propósito: Esta investigación se centra en el actual conflicto militar entre Rusia y Ucrania, que ya ha causado algunos cambios significativos en las prioridades de política exterior de los principales actores del sistema político internacional.

Objetivo: El objetivo de este estudio es investigar el impacto de las elecciones estadounidenses de 2024 sobre los resultados del conflicto militar entre Rusia y Ucrania con el objetivo de analizar diferentes filosofías de política exterior que tienen los dos candidatos potenciales, que pueden tener un efecto no solo en el actual conflicto ruso-ucraniano, sino en toda la situación geopolítica global en el mundo actual.

Marco teórico: el realismo como teoría de las relaciones internacionales con el análisis del nivel del sistema se utiliza para explicar los problemas geopolíticos globales actuales.

Método: La cuestión de la metodología se decide de acuerdo con las necesidades de las tareas de este artículo y se basa principalmente en el análisis de datos, la comparación de similitudes o diferencias y el estudio de casos.

Resultados y discusión: el trabajo actual afirma que la gran guerra en el continente europeo interrumpe los acuerdos de seguridad centrales que tienen efectos devastadores del orden liberal unipolar y cuánto se cambiará este orden, depende principalmente de la dedicación de los EE.UU., los países de la Unión Europea y sus aliados democráticos liberales en todo el mundo.

Implicaciones de la investigación: los resultados de la investigación contribuyen a crear conciencia sobre el actual conflicto de Ucrania y acumulan el tipo de conocimiento que enriquece la ciencia política con valor teórico y práctico.

Palabras clave: Guerra en Ucrania, Sistema Internacional, EE.UU., China, Rusia, Realismo.

1 INTRODUCTION

The changes in political, economic and military fields are very fast which makes it difficult for the vast majority of the people to follow and understand fully in order to make right decisions for them and the others. Military conflicts around the world are becoming bigger and more intense. There are several countries in the current international system that can hugely contribute in stabilizing or escalating these crises because of their size, power and capabilities. War in Ukraine has triggered the kind of insecurity in Europe that had not been experienced
since the end of the Cold war. It is catalyst of the other geopolitical crises nowadays. The issue is actual, in fact ongoing and needs more light to be more understandable to the broad public not only to the politicians and decision makers; this will make it possible for the public to be more involved in the process and make the governments of their correspondent countries to be more responsible and will lead them to more careful decisions that will help to find solutions from the conflict in a way that support peaceful coexistence of countries and avoid further escalation of the war. The article is designed for any audiences around the world that are interested in international and generally in politics. It analyses mainly evolving issues but will have a lasting scientific value despite the direction the current issues are going to develop.

The main research question is as follow: how significant is the current Ukraine-Russia military conflict and how much impact can it have on the balance of power between current major players of international political system?

As the answer to this main research question the hypothesis claims that the Ukraine-Russia war is a watershed moment of the end of unipolar system run by U.S.A since the dissolution of Soviet Union and starting point of actual shaping the multipolar international political system and outcomes of it will have an important effect on further formation of the political system and the balance of power in it.

**Objective:** The main aim of this paper is to depict a broad Geopolitical picture around the Ukraine Russia military conflict and describe current consequences of the conflict and their effects/impact on the major geopolitical actors involved in it. Another important goal is to define what kind of influence can American elections and its results have on this process. Because/since the subject matter is still unfolding/evolving and can be changed in different ways the article seeks to discuss several scenarios and their possible outcomes. This will accumulate type of knowledge that is possible to be used as guidelines for reactions from a variety of audiences or will raise the awareness of the real situations and will support to finding the further solutions.

The article hires as its analytical/theoretical framework mainly the international relations’ theory of Realism because the emerging new international political system is to some extent similar to the international political system existed in 19th century dominated by the balance of power principles and “Realpolitik” that resulted at the beginning of 20th century in a global catastrophe called World War First. The current emerging international political system has some distinct characteristics from its ancestor which is for example that the escalation of local or regional conflict to the global one could lead to the use of nuclear weapons that means
the end of life on the planet Earth. So it is not easy now to behave only according to the interests of your country but needs more responsibility towards the planet, all nations share.

The issue of methodology is decided according to the necessities of tasks of this article and is mostly based on data analyses, comparison of similarities or differences and case study. The article also consists of different levels of analysis that are local, regional and system ones.

For example: all three levels of analysis are involved in the current work; the event such as presidential elections of U.S.A which is local event happening inside the country have an impact on the war in Europe that is one of the region of the global political system and by itself the outcomes of this war can have a significant influence on the process of shaping the international political system and the distribution of power in it.

2 U.S.A AND ITS INFLUENCE ON RESTRUCTURING THE GLOBAL BALANCE OF POWER

This article does not claim that U.S.A is a declining hegemon and because of this It will abandon its allies but it has less will and capacities for involving everywhere globally as it was in the past. This happens when in the system dominated by one superpower globally emerges other major powers with the assertions of spheres of influence and in this circumstances superpower becomes overstretched and cannot dominate everywhere as it was before. This state of overstretching and lack of capacities can be seen in U.S. inner politics during the election campaign republican candidate Donald Trump mentioned that he as leader of U.S.A would not protect its European NATO allies if they will not meet 2 percent GDP expenditure on military as an obligation according to the NATO agreement. (BBC, 2024) Before this, Joe Biden had withdrawn U.S troops from Afghanistan and now it is even debatable to how much extent does U.S.A dedicate its taxpayers’ money to support Ukraine in the war against Russia. In addition to this U.S is stretched to support its strategic ally Israel in the current war in Gaza strip where Iran is also a player against it; It is worth mentioning that another hotspot where U.S.A is involved in the process of political, financial and military support is Taiwan and aims to protect it and its technological industry of semiconductors which are considered as strategic assets in the modern race for technological superiority. (ABCNews, Peller, Lauren ; Winsor, Morgan; Hensley, Sarah Beth; Gomez, Justin;, 2024) To underline its importance Biden’s administration created a special CHIPS and Science Act to support its domestic manufacturing. (WhiteHouse, 2023) This and many other issues in different regions of the globe can be mentioned where U.S.A has interests, but it has to make necessary adaptations to the new type of international
political system which means that it will be obliged to make hard decisions where to keep its influence and create further clear priorities that will definitely rise a lot of challenges with its allies and alliances that are connected to the notion of collective security—the security basement of current liberal international order and institutions. Similar approach is developed in the article “Why America Can’t Have It All—Washington Must Choose Between Primacy and Prioritizing” published in the journal “Foreign Affairs” by Stephen Wertheim. The author claims that despite Baiden’s administrations plan to concentrate on the regions that has the most effect on U.S.’ interests and retreat from others to focus more on climate change, pandemics and managing the competition with China that is the number one challenger on the globe today. Thus, it becomes obvious that as new conflicts emerge U.S.A. is involved in the abovementioned military conflicts immediately as it was demonstrated on the example of Ukraine and Gaza strip. As he continues claims that all this was because of president Putin and Hamas decided to invade in Ukraine and Israel. (Wertheim, 2024) This can be used as an argument of supporting the claim that U.S.A is not a sole dominant power in the international political system and it has to deal with the emerging powers.

As it was clarified U.S.A have to adjusts its priorities but what are the most important ones? The importance of all the countries and regions is analyzed here according to the point of view of Geopolitics because geography always matters but also economic cultural (enemy-fried attitude towards U.S.A and the west) and military point of view and the first region under the consideration is Europe and the current major conventional war in its eastern flank in Ukraine;

2.1 RUSSIA UKRAINE WAR AND THE ROLE OF THE WEST IN IT

Why is War in Ukraine bigger issue than the war in Afghanistan where U.S.A. decided to intervene in 2001 with its NATO allies as a result of attack to New York “Twin Towers” to defend American interests? (DeurscheWelle, 2021) To answer this question, it is necessary to define the importance from the geopolitical and climate change/environmental perspective which can surprisingly be claimed is located in Russian arctic. First: the trade route from Asia to Europe through Arctic alongside Russian mainland needs 20 days and will be available soon due to climate change vs. south trading route, which needs 40 days. And the second: future LNG (Liquid Natural Gas) provider of the Europe and Asia and 2 trillion-dollar gold and mineral resources that by itself is enough to provide a gigantic financial support not only to economic prosperity but to the military buildup. Russian economy is extractive in its nature that
just need to take the resources from the ground and sell them abroad; these resources are in high demand in the world today and their necessities will even grow. This is one of the reason why Russia is quite resilient to the western economic sanctions since the invasion in Ukraine in February 2022. Russian arctic contains supposedly 20 percent of the world’s gas reserves that are not discovered yet. (DWDocumentary) These numbers can fluctuate a lot but they can help to see the potential strength of Russian gas industry as one of the pillar of its economy which can become war economy very fast. If western companies like “Total” that invest and help Russia with modern technologies leave their positions due to sanctions others from different countries will join it to build gas industry to exploit natural resources because they are highly profitable. In addition to this, according to the international law minimum 12 nautical miles from the costal land will be considered as the Russian waters which will be the most reliable route of travel in the arctic, providing less frozen waters than the further northern routs that somehow can be considered as the international waters. It is doubtable that the world will ever manage to agree with Russia. (UnitedNations-division for ocean affairs and the law of the sea, 1982) If Russia will not be contained in Ukraine and they will manage to exploit all the geopolitical and geo-economic assets of the arctic this will change the whole global geopolitical circumstances as we knew it before. The classical geopolitics divided countries into two categories land forces and sea forces when Russia was controlling the core of the geopolitical land and was considered together with China as the land force. Sea forces which are U.S.A west Europe and their allies in the globe such as Canada, Australia, Japan and others were always trying to contain those land forces with different kind of geopolitical strategies such as anaconda principle where Russia must be encircled by NATO countries and choked. This strategy is already reached in the European side. When Sweden joined NATO Russia became mostly isolated on the European side and will have very limited access to the seas. But the irony is that due to the climate change this king of strategy becomes irrelevant because Russia will have an opportunity to become not a chocked land county but to control the core land of the Asian continent and simultaneously become a “Sea Force” by access to the enormous sea cost and the best east-west trading route in arctic. No international organization or law will prohibit Russia to exercise this exclusive right to control the route. (Elnaby, 2024) This article argues that the Ukraine is a testing ground (in the meaning of Henry Kissinger that he articulated in his famous book “diplomacy”) of Russia to prove that it is Great power or to prove that it is a weak regional power on which international will can be established and the future of arctic will be design mostly according to other Great or super powers in the global political system. (Kissinger, 1994)
2.2 THE ROLE OF CHINA AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE INTERESTS OF U.S.A AND THE WEST IN RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

At this point it should be mentioned that the containment of Russia as it was described above will not be possible without the help of China which is another possible superpower in future next to the U.S.A. Now, the interests of China, U.S.A and the war in Ukraine: the balance of power says you must have an alliance with the weaker country to balance the stronger one. This is true, when you are weaker than the country you want to balance, but in this current case when you are U.S.A that can overcome each of them separately then what is your criterion according to which you create the alliances? Maybe in this case it is better strategy to balance the geopolitical threats then the power itself. In other words, maybe Russia is the weaker state than China economically, politically and militarily but Geopolitical, purely Geographic determinants make him bigger or at least kind of equal threat in future than China is currently in a short run (5 years). Other interest for the U.S.A is better and shorter connection to its important ally Japan. But if the interests of China and Russia are higher than common interests of China and U.S.A and Europe then the classic geopolitical union of the land forces between China and Russia is in power and the war in Ukraine will definitely lead the war fatigue in west, which appears almost to be the case currently. The analysis of the article is based not only geopolitical framework but also uses the fields such as climate change, technologies, economic data, political values and ideologies that also play a significant role in choosing the sides of alliances. In case of China, ideologically it is in confrontation with the West but the leadership are very pragmatic strategic thinkers and they have many interest with West as well as with Russia. What can be the interests of china with the west? - First of all and most important is the Taiwan issue. Since it is well known how Taiwan was created as a result of Chinese civil war, China still considers it as a part of it and intends to reunify with it. (Cooper, 2024) For peaceful reunification China needs negotiations with the west and Taiwan itself which is the liberal democracy and a very successful producer of vital, cutting edge technologies such as semiconductors that are considered to have strategic value in the modern competition for technological superiority about which detailed discussion will be offered below.

China also have interests in the arctic region and is competitor not only with the west but with Russia. In this case west can offer it the support involve in extracting the untapped arctic energy resources that are not yet divided but this is an issue of the future and is quite vague in a short term. So in a short term the active issue for China is Taiwan and it expressed the will to reunify with it (DWDocumentary, 2023). But as it was indicated above Taiwan
produces vital technologies for the west and for the world nowadays. For U.S.A, Taiwan is more geopolitically important right now because of its chips’ manufacturing than because of its geographical location which is also very important by itself to deter China not to become a regional hegemon. China itself is determined to regain control on Taiwan which is located in the first chain of islands surrounding China. But how long will Taiwan be in the vital strategic interests of U.S.A as it is now? U.S.A, European Union and China all started their own programs of chip manufacturing development after the supply crises of semiconductors arose in 2020 during Covid pandemic. Right now Europe and U.S.A are in advantageous position for chip manufacturing development on their soils because they have great ally Taiwan which produces 90% of chips made globally. So the technology dissemination from Taiwan’s TSMC (Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company) to the west will be possible and it will accelerate the mass production of chips in the west in a short run in 5-10 years. Calculation of the events in a short middle and long run and comparison to each other helps research process to discover clearer and more detailed picture of the interests of current or future major powers. And this is very true for this case: for China taking the control over Taiwan is important in a short run but not essential one, which would impose an existential threat to it, if it did not manage to do so. But for U.S.A and the West in short term until they boost their own industries it is vital and they will be willing to risk a war against China to protect its essential interests in a short term. So what happens in a medium and long run? When John Mearsheimer was asked in a famous interview about Taiwan how can U.S.A defend It without involving in a world war III against China he answered what should be U.S.’ strategy in that case in a long run:” well what you want to do is you want to make sure that you deter from invading Taiwan, you want to avoid a war, you and I are in a complete agreement on that we don't want a war but we want to contain China, we do not want to let China dominate Asia.” (Mearsheimer, 2023) With this he has just declared the long term goal for U.S.A in Taiwan. As a realist scientist he articulated in clear details how this deterrence should be built against China to reach the long term goal of U.S.A. The war is not what U.S.A wants, it needs to build up forces there together with its allies in the region that are Japan, South Korea, Philippines, Australia and others: “best strategy for deterrence is you win China loses, second best strategy is a stalemate nobody wins, third best strategy is they win but they pay a God awful price and the fourth possibility which you don't want is they win quickly.” (Mearsheimer, 2023) This will provide more assurances for U.S allies and they will engaged more in the military defense to share the burden with U.S.A. (Pedrason et al., 2024) Similar thing can be done with Russia where victory will not be easy but if U.S.A stays supportive together with its European allies they will manage to deter Russia
in its borders. Russia is more or less out of the technological competition with the West or China, lacking capacities and with the current brain drain after the invasion in Ukraine it will be out of game quite some time. Medium and long terms are where Russia can be a formidable force for the West and this is when the abovementioned Russian arctic comes into play and answers why the war in Ukraine is more important than the war in Afghanistan where trillions of dollars were spent and why U.S.A and the collective West need to stick with it? Russia is not technologically very developed but its strength comes from other fields, particularly from its reach natural resources where Oil and gas revenues are on top. Except of natural resources Russia has the military industrial complex that has proved its effectiveness in mass production during the ongoing military operation in Ukraine as president Putin calls it, which in fact is first major conventional war on European continent since world war II (Radina Gigova, Rhea Mogul, CNN, 2022). Ukraine’s resistance is remarkable in this conflict and the military situation will be reviewed in more details below; but now the focus is on international political system and on the interests of its main players: if Russia with its abovementioned characteristics is given more time through the negotiation agreement or cutting off the support to Ukraine, it will be able to rebuild its military infrastructure, recruit and train more men, survive financially and build up more funds in 5-6 years for further military objectives. This will cause bigger compromises from the West in future. This is quite obvious because when there exists current liberal international world order dominated by the U.S.A. and the West everything is divided in favor to them; so in case of emerging powers in the international political system like Russia and China that seek to revise the spheres of influence and spread theirs as much as they can, on whose expense is it going to happen? - Yes on the expense of established powers. The question here is not whether U.S.A and the West have to share some influence with China and Russia or others, but how much, where and in what way do they have to give away? It is in West’s interest to retreat as less as possible. When the West is mentioned it is understood that inside it exists some different interests from country to country but they as group do share high degree of common strategic interests that are quite comprehensive and characterized with high degree of cohesion too. But it is not the goal of this article to find out that degree of cohesion. Instead the research and analyses of the current work seeks to describe the interests of the great powers of the international political system now.

To sum up the case of Russia and connect it to China, U.S.A and West, the picture is quite interesting: in a short run if the U.S.A and its allies support Ukraine as much as necessary and until it takes as president Joe Biden once stated victory of Ukraine or at least favorable outcomes for it and the West seems more likely, because in this case it is less expected that
Russia alone with its successes on the battle field and with the rate of losses for achieving them will survive in a 2-3 years’ time. (VOA News, 2023) Russia did not get quick victory (neither Ukraine) and it’s a good achievement for Ukraine; Ukraine and the West do a dissent job not to escalate the war beyond the conventional one and it is kind of stalemate on the battle field with the slight advances of Russia, none of the side willing to give up. One of the article named” Ukraine’s Victory at Sea—How Kyiv Subdued the Russian Fleet—and What It Will Need to Build on Naval Success” reviews the war deeply and finds out that stalemate exist on the ground frontline but Ukraine has considerable success on the sea since it sunk almost 20 percent of Russia’s Black sea fleet and made them retreat from a big part of west black sea. This is a considerable achievement because after this retreat Ukraine was able to resume the grain export. (Cancian, 2024) Russia was not able to create air dominance in Ukraine and lost many aircrafts, helicopters and other air vehicles, on the other hand Ukraine managed to establish a very successful drone programs and its drones are successfully hitting different military targets on the ground, in the air and at sea. But Russia’s northern fleet is untouched yet as on surface ships as well all its submarine fleet. (Colin Wall, Njord Wegge, Center for strategic & international studies, 2023) This means that despite Russian loses of technic, weapons and manpower on the battlefield in Ukraine it still remains as strong player in the arctic circle that has untouched and not yet divided natural resources that will be more exposed and accessible due to climate change in the near future that can be divided in between the arctic players. West cannot deal well with the strong Russia during the division of arctic and Ukraine is the place where it can weaken Russia and decrease its ambitions in the arctic that is becoming one of the center of future geopolitical activities;

2.3 REALIZING THE INTERESTS OF U.S.A IN UKRAINE

Why should U.S.A. protect Ukraine until it takes? – Because geopolitically speaking Europe has more importance for U.S.A now than during the cold war and Europe is meant in the geography as it is today Including Ukraine for several reasons: first Russia is emerging power and as it was mentioned above has the potential to threaten other ex-soviet European countries to become its satellites again as it was in past, because the resources it had in past are even more crucial now that will make it richer and stronger again.

Second reason, which is new and not properly assessed: during the cold war Soviet Union and China were socialist communist countries with planned and closed economies and with small foreign investments available and they proved wrong to outlast economically
western democracies based on capitalist economies. But it is not the case now; China and Russia are both open economies with a lot of investments available from all over the world not only from western democracies, because of the natural resources in Russia’s case and cheap labour in China’s case. Yes, China is still a communist country but it proved to be able to build an interesting, successful symbiosis of planned and capitalist economies, that managed to pull out large part of its citizens from poverty. (Dorn, 2023) Also it could support to build a formidable military force and what is the most interesting China is a manufacturing and Technological giant just a little bit behind the U.S.A closing the technological gap quickly. Why does all this matter? – if current political system and its major powers is compared to the international political system during the cold war and its major powers, it has some different characteristics from the one in the past. During the cold war main rivalry was between Soviet Union and U.S.A (together with The West) China was weaker than Soviet Union and was far behind in technological supremacy against the west. Now China is the big brother and main rival of U.S.A and the West with very developed high tech and modernized economy that seems more durable to outlast them than the Soviet Union’s closed communist economy in the cold war time. So from this fact can be concluded that time does not work for the West and it is time of decisive moves to deter the newcomers that came to stay for a long time.

3 CONCLUSIONS

According to Balance of Power theory which says that if you are trying balancing your competitor that is the strongest country in the political system then you need to create alliance with other countries to create a balance in the political system that is the situation when there exist two or more equal powers which are not risking the war against each-other because they are not sure in victory. But when you are the current United States of America that is considered economically politically and militarily the strongest country in the current international/global political system the alliance of Russia and China - that are weaker countries than the U.S.A – seems more natural to create the type of balance of power mentioned above. As research showed, the current political system is becoming more and more driven by national interests then by the liberal order, based on the liberal international institutions, so the above mentioned “natural alliance” cannot be undermined because there is not more significant clash of interests between Russia and China than between Russia and the West (U.S.A and its allies); vice versa China and Russia are emerging powers against current international political order and its hegemon U.S.A and it is their common interest to unite as much as possible. China and U.S.A
are nearly equal great powers and Russia is considerably behind them in economic, military and technological development. So according to realism Russia will seek the alliance with China because it is weaker now than U.S.A and They have more common interests with each other than with U.S.A.

During the cold war there was a case when Henry Kissinger as a foreign minister of U.S.A managed to improve relationships with China but not so much that China totally abandoned Russia as a partner and become ally of U.S.A. To compare the situation: at that time U.S.A and Soviet Union were the superpowers on the same level at least militarily when allegedly U.S.A was economically and technologically superior. Right now situation is quite different: U.S.A is a little bit ahead of China, economically, militarily and technologically but the gap is closing fast and it is different state than when the Soviet Union was a competitor of U.S.A (because of the technology and economy); in addition to this the international political system is different. During the cold war political system was bipolar and stable more or less, now it is the end of unipolar and beginning of multipolar political system. This means that it is more complicated and less stable. Other than that current multipolar system is not the same as it was in 19th century for example when several strong empires and countries divided the world in their sphere of influence and were ready to engage in the war with anyone threatening it. Nowadays any conflict between major powers can easily escalate into a world war III, in a global war with such a devastating consequences that can cease the existence of any type of life on planet earth. The technological advancement made all this possible which means that not only existential threats stops the global wars but technologies shaped the whole global economy and created highly intertwined political system of countries and especially the major powers that have the capacity of producing such a cutting edge technologies. So the war is much more expansive and devastating nowadays then it was in 19th century or earlier and this is true when the talk is about even the conventional war without using the nuclear, biological or other weapons of mass destruction. All that being sad can be concluded that today we have multipolar, highly interdependent truly global political system, that was the result of achievements in transportation and communication systems network developed in 20th and 21st centuries. So the current multipolar international political system is being divided by the great powers that are different culturally, religiously and have different values from the current liberal international values which means that the division is not only geographical event, but it changes the cultural and value systems on that territories. So Ukraine, Taiwan and other hotspots are the places where it is being decided what shape will the world have in future that was absent in Afghanistan war which was the attempt to conduct preemptive measures to stop security...
challenges coming from terrorism. Now the West is on defense mode in Ukraine that is more important case than the war in Afghanistan and U.S.A was hesitating whether to allocate additional aid packages that are financially much smaller than the amount of money spent in Afghanistan war. All this seems to be miscalculation and ill-practice of drawing priorities that if continued will effect negatively on Ukraine and the West in general.

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