

## RIVALRY BETWEEN CHINA, USA AND RUSSIA IN GEOPOLITICS

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**Abstract.** Today, on the world stage, there is the concept of "Cold War 2.0", which, as usual, is characterized by the confrontation between the United States and China. However, there is also a third party in this conflict, which also takes an active part in global projects - the Russian Federation. In the 21st century, three powerful powers are trying to divide the sphere of their influence on the world stage, and each of them has its own goals and methods of achievement. This article will consider both points of rivalry between powers and points of cooperation, since these two concepts are close to each other.

**Keywords:** geopolitics, Russia, USA, China, soft power, Europe, Arctic, Asia, cold war, Middle East, Africa, new technologies.

In the 1990s, Francis Fukuyama laid out his thoughts on the "end of history", there was an idea about the future of our world. Along with understanding the final point of our history as that there will be no more great discoveries and exploits, as well as outright conflicts and battles for ideas, the idea of a world that will be preoccupied with mundane economic and technological ideas has been put forward. Assessing the current situation in the world, and analyzing the speeches of scientists from all over the world, and in this case, it should be mentioned the experts' opinions from China, Russia and the United States, concerning to their thoughts with a big confidence there must be said that today's world is one hundred percent rivalry not of ideas, but of economies and new technologies.

For a quarter of a century, the whole world was under the universal domination of the largest one and only power that created trends for the whole world and shaped "tastes" and desires, the Pax Americana system has served as an aid to the globalization of international relations and the development of new technologies.

The great powers' rivalry is just as common phenomenon in international relations and politics that has determined its development over several millennium, as a war that is the main way to resolve interstate conflicts. It is clear fact that this can be caused by the revolutionary behavior of one part that is the most powerful states or simply by the objective growth of its power, which causes fear for other parties. In this vein, the growth of China's opportunities in global arena becomes the main reason of countries' fears as Russia or Europe and in this case the United States has an open desire to decline the growth of awakening dragon. Both the PRC and the USA clearly know what the "Thucydides trap" is, moreover the parties understand that a determinism is not in a history line. However, it is essential that the one part's power growth increases the other one's fear and at any

case both countries seem ready to fall into this trap. In one hand understanding that today's possibility of hot war is unlikely, there is no doubts of coming-in cold war.

According to the timeline relations between these countries, there are more positive sides in Russian and Chinese relations rather than in American-Chinese. In the second half of XX century relations between America and Russia sharply declined, and both of them were in worrying about competition between each other. Meanwhile, in the far east there was a "sleeping beauty" which was awoken for that moment and in a position of "a little brother", China learned and owned all high technologies from both hegemonies of the that time. While eastern friend was refining its position, Russia having collapse of Soviet Union and internal conflicts, lost its position and America ruled over the world and global processes. Analyzing the Pax Americana, there were clear problems of it which the main one was not the exclusive position of the hegemonic power as the selfishness of its elite and the narrowness of the agenda that this elite has formed. When Russia decided that the country had enough strength to return to the big game of powers, and the United States noticed that China was beating them in the economic field and could become serious competition in the technological sphere, then the sovereign world - pax - ended.

Nowadays, American-Chinese rivalry put into emphasis the following problems of economics, financial, technological, including military technologies. The main competence is occurred between economical models, financial institutions and technological platforms, as well as between orders of the day and future reflections that both sides offer. Geopolitics are the solving factors but they enrich with new observations as geo-economics, geo-financial and geo-technological.

The World today and relationships between superpowers like these "trio" is the actual topic of modern geopolitics. The reason is following: the US has modern economic, scientific and technological potential, as well as China has enormous demographic resources, the leading position in economic is also in Chinese side, and in comparison Russia has the largest territory, that consists of vast reserves of useful fossils and powerful nuclear missile potential.

Analyzing each country's modern geopolitics, the United States still has the need to maintain its leadership throughout the world, even if it has to use military force for achieving the goal. This idea is presented in the Fourth Annual Report on the State of Defense as a military strategy of the US, and the main goals presented as expanding the area of the military presence around the world.

The PRC, same like the US, has interests around the world. In the ideas of China the important role takes both neighboring states and also the strategically important regions. As well as Russia is based on the policy of equality with the key world powers, which implies multipolarity in world relations. In the 21st century the PRC has become the most important strategic partner for Russia. Moreover, there is left no place in the World, where is no Chinese presence for the moment.

Key points of cooperation and rivalry in the geopolitics between Beijing, Washington and Moscow is the dominant role in the Eurasian continent. The clearest example of this, is the project "One Belt - One Road", which strengthens

the connection between continental Europe and the PRC. In the frame of this project China is targeting to create its own economic and financial infrastructure in Central and Eastern European countries. Everything was nice but the problem for these countries is under the terms for participation, as these countries have to take loans from Chinese banks for paying off Chinese contractors, so automatically they become Chinese debtors. Secondly, the EU will build better economic relations with the PRC and Russia, taking into account its own interests. However, this will make nervous their partner by NATO – America. For the United States, Europe is a priority in the geopolitical alignment of forces and its main military foothold in Eurasia. A powerful military-political instrument of the United States - NATO gives Washington the opportunity to exert political and military pressure on countries located both in Europe and in Eurasia, where Russia has been chosen as the strategic adversary of the United States, and China in Asia Pacific. Recent years, America tries to tied up any relations between the countries of the continent and Russia, American policy pays attention in the economic, scientific and technical spheres and putting pressure on other states in order to induce them to limit cooperation with Moscow.

Modern rivalry between these "trio" in the Arctic region, therefore, each side has its own strategy for achieving goals. Taking into account the PRC's strategy in this region, there should be noticed that the country is acting cautiously, since few international actors are interested in one of the largest economic states in the world gaining access to Arctic resources. Beijing's ambition stems from the growing strategic importance of the region, where economic gain is the main theme of China's strategy. The PRC is interested in expanding the rights to navigation and the possibility of free passage along the Northern Sea Route, as well as in the freedom to conduct economic activities on the Spitsbergen archipelago for mining. It is worth noting that the largest amounts of China are invested in the field of logistics and energy production. Doing this it is clear that China creates own infrastructure in the place, building up its technological and human potential. However, the unresolved division of the boundaries of the Arctic shelf imposes restrictions on the strengthening of China's presence in the Arctic region [1].

Meanwhile the United States insists on the "internationalization" of the Northwest Passage and the Northern Sea Route, in addition, it seeks to gain additional territory extending 965 km from Alaska to the North Pole, which will allow the United States to bypass Russia, China, and Canada in total area.

Nowadays, America is building up its military capabilities in the Arctic. On the territory of Alaska there are naval, army and air force bases, and 54 other military facilities. It is necessary to pay attention to the fact that in order to repel ICBM strikes from Russia, the United States constantly maintains a task force in high latitudes of three to four cruisers and four to six destroyers (at least 1000 interceptor missiles), which is enough to partially guarantee the security of the United States from attacks from the north.

China, which seeks to get out of the American control of energy supplies to the country from the oil-producing states of the Arab world, it can become a potential ally of Russia in the development of the resources of the Arctic region.

An alternative to dependence on the export of energy resources from these countries is the development of energy supplies from Russia, including the Arctic. The Russian Federation can assist the PRC in conducting research in the Arctic and in the development of a fleet designed to sail in northern latitudes. In turn, it is interested in financial investments from China to develop the infrastructure of its northern territories.

The geopolitical rivalry of these countries also exists in the Asia-Pacific region, Central Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa. Each of the above regions is very important for each side of this triangle, for a number of reasons.

In the Asia-Pacific region, each side is looking for its economic benefits and an additional market for cooperation, given the fast-growing economy of the "Asian Tigers", which each of the four countries wants to attract for cooperation, and China's interest in this region is actualized by its geographic location, and taking leading positions in Indo - Pacific region. For Washington, the region is important in basing its missiles, and thereby maintaining control over the region in its own hands. In this regard, since last year, talks began about the need to create a new treaty to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world and to involve China in this process.

Discussing about the Central Asian region, there is an understanding the neighborhood and the fact that for China, our region plays a strategically important role in ensuring national security. This region acts as a kind of deep rear for the country and a pillar in the face of Beijing's increasingly alarming reorientation of the US military focus on the Asia-Pacific region, where their competition is growing. In addition, China's justified concern about the West's activation in relation to Central Asia is noticeable. Therefore, in this region, the PRC is developing broad economic cooperation and investing significant money in the implementation of projects significant for the countries of the region, pushing the elite of the region to rapprochement with China [2]. A significant role in the Chinese project financing in Asia is played by loans, which are provided at low interest rates but without fail they imply the involvement of Chinese materials, equipment and labor to carry out the work. The economic presence of the PRC in Kazakhstan is noticeable with the naked eye, through the same SCO, Beijing legitimized its voice in the affairs of the entire region. And through the same "soft power" policy, China's humanitarian influence on the region is noticeable, for example, through the Confucius Institutes and the issuance of teaching grants to the universities of the Middle Kingdom. Observing this situation, Washington can apply the familiar algorithm of the "color revolution" to destabilize the power in the region, as the recent fall events in neighboring Kyrgyzstan demonstrated. Neighboring Russia has strong ties with the Central Asian governments, and confidence in the "positive mood" towards the Russian Federation in the region still prevails in comparison with the other two.

With the Middle East, our overseas "friend" has ambiguous, sometimes spoiled, sometimes very dense, just like Russia has long-standing ties with the region, but the Celestial Empire is still ahead. At the moment, China's influence is growing with an increase in energy supplies through the Indian Ocean and the

Strait of Malacca. Moreover, as part of its strategy of "harmonious world" in the Middle East, China purposefully uses a set of active measures: signing free trade contracts, providing interest-free loans for economic projects, paying off debts of the countries of the region to China, etc .; covering an active media with the humanitarian mission of the Celestial Empire and diplomatic assistance to the states of the Middle East; promoting the Chinese language and Chinese culture to the countries of the Arab world; using the Chinese diaspora to solve economic and political problems in the region. By implementing these tasks, the PRC is taking steps to oust the United States from the region's markets. Now many Arab countries consider China is not only as a reliable partner, but also as an alternative to the United States in the Middle East, for which China is successfully working to form the image of a "friendly and responsible power" in the region. The role of Moscow has also been rehabilitated in the region, and after Russia's peacekeeping actions, the status of one of the leaders in the region is again growing, leaving behind Washington, which is accustomed to solving international problems by "humanitarian bombing".

Discussion of the interests of Moscow, Washington and Beijing in Latin America should start by mentioning their natural resources, for example, there are 35% of the world's hydropower reserves, 27% of coal, 24% of oil, 8% of gas, 5% of uranium and 25% of timber. Paying attention to the above figures, it is easy to understand their desire to "cooperate" with the region. It is important for Washington to fully control the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In Latin America, the United States recreated the 4th Operational Fleet to control the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans off the coast of Central and South America [3].

"One Belt - One Road" has reached the people of Africa, as part of this initiative, the PRC is implementing infrastructure projects. In the coming years, the PRC will invest \$ 60 billion in the development of African countries. The PRC has opened its naval base in Djibouti. The fact that China has written off 33 African countries of debts has strengthened the position of the PRC on the continent. The PRC provides affordable loans to African countries in exchange for contracts with Chinese corporations; to maintain humanitarian and other contacts, Beijing has formed 51 embassies on the continent. The countries of the African continent, possessing significant reserves of oil, rare non-ferrous metals and precious metals, have long been a source of these resources for the United States due to the underdevelopment of many states in the region, where the elite is bought cheaply by Washington. Roughly 25% of the oil imported into the United States is of African origin, and Washington is also seeking to control promising oil fields in Nigeria, Sudan and Ethiopia. The main countries of the United States' interests are connected with Egypt, Nigeria, Angola and South Africa. In addition, Africa for the United States is an endless flow of migrants to Europe. By controlling the flow of migrants, Washington puts pressure on the European Union, which makes European countries more accommodating. It is clear that the United States will make every effort to squeeze the main competitor out of the region – China [4].



Concluding this article, there are priority approaches of China, the United States and Russia in their struggle in the spheres of geopolitics.

Firstly, the United States, China and Russia retain different approaches to geopolitics. The United States sees the modern world from the standpoint of maintaining monopolarity and perceives itself as a superpower spreading its values throughout the world. Both China and Russia consider a multipolar world, along with the United States, there are other centers of power: united Europe, Japan, India, etc. At the same time, Moscow's geopolitical interests lie in the integration of the Russian Federation into the world community for the modernization of the Russian economy, where the main threat to its geopolitical interests lies in the prospect of isolation of the Russian Federation from the Western community.

Secondly, the entire world continues to be in the area of American interests, the foundation of which is the economic, financial and military might of the United States. The geopolitics of Washington proceeds from the need to preserve the unconditional leadership of the United States on the planet, using military force, if necessary. This ensures US superiority over Russia in Europe, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. Russia, on the other hand, retains its influence in Central Asia and develops its strategy in the Arctic, gradually returning to other regions of the world. [5] To counteract this, the United States pursues the following strategic goals with respect to the Russian Federation: maintaining the existing sanctions; weakening of RF; preventing the buildup of its military power and eliminating Russia's influence on world events.

Thirdly, the geopolitics of the United States is leading to changes in the perception of global leadership on the planet. The relative equality of the level of approval by the world community of the actions of the participants in the "strategic triangle" (the actions of China are supported by 34% of the world's population, the United States - 31%, Russia - 30%) indicates that the competition between Russia and China is growing in the world, on the one hand, and The United States, on the other hand, not only in the sphere of economy and military power, but also in the role of their "soft power" for winning international opinion.

Fourth, in its development, China is striving to consolidate its economic leadership in the 21st century. Leadership is based on the integration of the Chinese economy into the world economy on market principles. the main obstacle to the realization of China's ambitions is the dual perception of the PRC by the West. From the point of view of the economy, China is perceived by the world market community as "their own," and from the point of view of politics, it is "alien," maintaining the CCP's monopoly in the political sphere.

Fifth, the facts of the aggravated confrontation between the United States and China testifies to the emergence of several fundamentally new moments in relations between these countries: close trade and economic ties and huge volumes of trade are no longer a guarantee of preventing the US-China disagreements from escalating into an acute conflict, right up to total confrontation. where trade disputes become levers of political pressure; China's status in relations with the United States is changing - from a competing partner it is being transferred to the category of geopolitical rivals, the confrontation with which in the economic

sphere can spread to other spheres. But despite strained relations, the United States depends on China in a number of key areas, ranging from cheap consumer goods to huge credit obligations, and China depends on the continued ability of US consumers to buy its goods, as well as on modern American technologies in key areas. economy of the PRC regions.

Rapidly developing China, which was able to break in such a short time from an outsider to a leader, leads to one, but very true idea that in the near future the whole world needs to learn Chinese! And Beijing, as everyone can see, is doing everything possible for coming it for real.

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## ГЕОПОЛИТИКАДАҒЫ ҚЫТАЙ, АҚШ ЖӘНЕ РЕСЕЙІҢ БӘСЕКЕЛЕСТІГІ

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**Андатпа.** Бүгінгі таңда әлемдік аренада «Суық соғыс 2.0» тұжырымдамасы бар, ол әдеттегідей АҚШ пен Қытай арасындағы қарама-қайшылықпен сипатталады. Алайда, бұл қақтығыста жаһандық жобаларға белсенді қатысатын үшінші тарап та бар - Ресей Федерациясы. ХХІ ғасырда үш қуатты держава әлемдік аренадағы ықпал ету саласын бөлуге тырысады және олардың әрқайсысының өзіндік мақсаттары мен жетістіктерге жету әдістері бар. Бұл мақалада күштер арасындағы бәсекелестік және ынтымақтастық нүктелері қарастырылады, өйткені бұл екі ұғым бір-біріне жақын.

**Тірек сөздер:** геосаясат, Ресей, АҚШ, Қытай, жұмсақ күш, Еуропа, Арктика, Азия, суық соғыс, Таяу Шығыс, Африка, жаңа технологиялар.

## СОПЕРНИЧЕСТВО КИТАЯ, США И РОССИИ В ГЕОПОЛИТИКЕ

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**Аннотация.** На сегодняшний день, на мировой арене существует понятие «холодной войны 2.0», которая как обычно характеризуется противостоянием США и КНР. Однако, в данном конфликте так же существует и третья сторона, которая так же принимает активное участие в глобальных проектах – РФ. В ХХІ веке три могущественные державы пытаются поделить сферу своих влияний на мировой арене, и каждый из них имеет собственные цели и методы достижений. В данной статье будут рассмотрены как пункты соперничества держав, так и пункты сотрудничества, так как именно эти два понятия находятся близко к друг другу.

**Ключевые слова:** геополитика, Россия, США, Китай, мягкая сила, Европа, Арктика, Азия, холодная война, Ближний Восток, Африка, новые технологии.

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