



The Changing Nature of Superpowers Relations under Trump 2.0

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ABSTRACT

Geopolitics is not like the cherry on the cake, and it is not as easy as having Starbucks coffee in a modern restaurant; world politics is changing more dramatically than we expect. So, geopolitics is making the future more unpredictable, like the "Black Swan Theory," which is unexpected due too the lack of evidence to decode the future intentions of nation-states. The world had already witnessed one of the geopolitical earthquakes in 1991(disintegration of the USSR), which can also be called the most prominent example of the "Black Swan Theory" given by Nassim Nicholas Taleb, a Lebanese-American essayist, mathematical statistician, former options trader, risk analyst, and aphorist. Amidst the geopolitical juggernaut in the early phases of the 21st century, everyone now perceiving the heat of civil wars, invasions, regime change, political turmoil or instabilities, border conflicts, democratic backslidings, the rise of dictators cum authoritarianism, food shortages, water scarcity, deadly pandemics like Covid-19 and Ebola, acute climatic issues and challenges, drastic decreasing fertility rates and so on. The apocalyptic maneuverability of geopolitics reveals the reality of changing global phenomena. This



article will elaborate on how foreign policies change due to the decisions made by world leaders. This article will highlight how Trumpism, or the Donald Trump era, molds global order, future implications, reactions and counter-reactions, and spillover effects in the international order. It will cover major countries, their approach to this global order, and how they could survive in a realistic world that primarily believes in statism, survival, and self-help, according to Neorealism.

Introduction

Many questions arise about strategic autonomy and state sovereignty in the face of these challenges. Trump 2.0 wants to glorify the Monroe Doctrine (The Monroe Doctrine of 1823, a United States foreign policy position that opposes European colonialism in the Western Hemisphere) by pushing others to materialize the MAGA(Make America Great Again). The Whole of America's countries are in the stage of illusion due to the strict policy cum tariff attack. USAID (United States Agency for International Development) recently entered the limelight due to illegal transactions. Nobody knows about the ghost people using this aid, and there is much confusion about how the previous administration used USAID to strengthen the political landscape. In Saudi Arabia, the Ukraine-Russia first round of peace negotiations occurred. Still, it wasn't easy to get into it due to Mr. Zelenskyy's immaturity in ending the war.

On the contrary, Russia is now in a very favorable position; three years have already More particularly, the year 2014, when the Russian Federation took control of Crimea, created a paradoxical dilemma. On 24th February 2024, the Russian military carried out a special military operation on the soil of Ukraine, detonating a possible threat from the Western-led military organization called NATO. The 2025 presidential election shocked world leaders when Donald Trump rose to power. Trump, a business tycoon and reality TV star with no prior political or military experience, has won twice for non consecutive terms. Trump's domestic and foreign policy will leave a remarkable footprint on the US administration. His way of understanding and framing political decisions makes him unique and different from other US presidents. His administration era is interesting and important to watch in order to understand geopolitics in the contemporary period. It would not be wrong to say that the US hegemony has somewhat declined in this multipolar world. Still, the USA is the world's largest economy; technological dominance, strong



military, and cultural influence play a crucial role in the global platform. A series of global shockwaves are felt due to war, inflation, COVID-19, and food shortages. This article will analyze how Trump's executive decision changes the world order. This article will cover the essential foreign policy sidelining domestic politics.

America under Trump 2.0

The Trump 2.0 version has already caused Volatility in global stock markets. The investors are currently losing hope after seeing the stock market bleeding. This resulted from President Trump's trade war, particularly with China, reverberated globally. Trump has initiated a reciprocal tariff with other countries where the USA has large trade deficits. He believes it will boost American manufacturing and create new jobs. In early 2025, President Trump invoked the International Emergency Economic Power Act (IEEPA) to implement a universal 10% tariff on all imports, effective April 5 (Jennifer Clarke, 12 May 2025). Trade wars, especially against China, Mexico, and Canada, have put barriers to US market access. China has already started to shift a few of its manufacturing industries to Laos and Vietnam, disrupting the supply chain. According to economic experts, this may lead to a rise in the prices of commodities, which may directly affect US citizens. His campaign was fueled by promises to "Make America Great Again," which has generated trust among its citizens. Now, his executive orders are raising various questions about its citizens. What role will the USA play in the coming years, and will the motto to "Make USA Great Again" remain valid?

A Reality Check for NATO

Geopolitics is shifting its curve from geopolitics to NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), which gained momentum again by adding two new members, Finland (2023) and Sweden (2024), respectively. Other anti-Western blocks, such as SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) and BRICS, also expanded. Only a few countries support and contribute to NATO. As a result, Trump's administration signaled that it would withdraw shortly. China and Russia are leading the anti-Western block, but another vital player, India, is maintaining equal distances with this organization. But Now Geopolitics is shifting its curve from geopolitics to security. In the contemporary era, more alternative power centers have become prisoners of their mistakes and are somehow involved in a possible conflict. Mutual antagonism is rising rapidly in every corner of the globe due to the war-mongering attitude of the emerging powers. In reality, no country wants conflict, but the fear of security dilemma, being attacked, and disrupted



global governance puts questions on the state sovereignty and strategic autonomy at large, which paved the way for a fearful world order. If we take the example of the African Continent, now going through civil wars and most of the countries are still ruled by military juntas, This area has become a battleground of so-called major powers, i.e., the USA, China, and Russia. Under the presidency of India, the African Union was included as the 21st member of the G-20. Therefore, some speculations have popped up that it should address the African sentiment by bridging the North-South gaps, but the results seem dissatisfactory. However, there is a question mark: How many of the so-called superpowers are ready to address the problems of African countries, and where does America stand on this issue?

USA hegemony vs. BRICS's de-dollarization

The process of de-dollarization started between the members of BRICS countries at the Kazan declaration on the sideline of the 16th BRICS summit. On the other hand, Donald Trump's vows to put a 100% tariff against the challengers of the mighty dollar put the BRICS currency in checkmate. Over the past few years, it has expanded by adding five new members: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Two Eurasian leaders, Russia and China, led BRICS as an anti-Western block to counter the Dollar's dominant position. However, there is a lack of consensus among the leaders. Recently, over a couple of days, Trump has used tariffs as a weapon to play the great game of carrot and stick by imposing sanctions on almost every country. China hinted up to more than 245% of tariff while the small islands, like Two tiny, remote Antarctic outposts populated by penguins and seals, are among the obscure places targeted by the Trump administration's new tariffs. Heard and McDonald Islands - a territory that sits 4,000km (2,485 miles) southwest of Australia - are only accessible via a seven-day boat trip from Perth and have not been visited by humans in almost a decade. So here the crux is: whoever is going to challenge Dolarism, or whoever comes in between America and the dollar, automatically becomes the enemy of America.

US- Iran Nuclear Tango

Trump's way of dealing with Iran's nuclear program has been marked by a series of sanctions, military threats, and diplomatic overtures, which further escalate to intense tension and complex never-ending negotiations. Trump's executive order in May 2018 to withdraw the US from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) following Iran's missile program. JCPOA, or the Iran Nuclear Deal, is an agreement to limit the Iranian Nuclear program in exchange for relieving sanctions and other provisions.



The agreement was finalized in Vienna on 14 July 2015. It was done between Iran and P5 +1 together with the EU. The US, under the Trump administration, directly targeted Iran and North Korea for their active involvement in the Uranium enrichment program. After the US pulled out of JCPOA, it was further hit hard with economic sanctions on Iran. Trump is trying to compel Iran to negotiate a more comprehensive agreement. The US, under the Trump administration, demands a complete halt to Iran's Uranium enrichment program while Iran expresses complete disagreement with it and claims to continue enrichment for peaceful purposes. The people of the USA want to settle these uprising disputes through diplomatic channels over military or strict sanctions. European nations have tried to mediate and revive the JCPOA framework, but it seems unsuccessful. The US unilateral approach makes the situation more complex to resolve. In Trump's 2.0 era, he has been actively involved in making this deal successful. It will be a challenge for the Trump administration to negotiate peacefully diplomatically. A series of talks has been seen between the heads of these two states. Trump has achieved significant milestones as a business tycoon. Now it is the time to prove himself as one of the most outstanding leaders in US history by making this deal successful. Recently USA carried out an airstrike on three nuclear sites of Iran (Natanz, Isfahan and Fordow) to dismantle the Iranian nuclear program, but somehow the bunker buster bombs unable to fully detonate the whole. It will further escalate the war in between Iran and Israel, as a result the biggest and most trafficked sea route known as Strait of Hormuz will be affected more or less.

The Rise of Three 'H' in the Middle East

Trump already hinted at making Gaza the Riviera of the Middle East. West Asia is acting like a boiling pot due to the power tussle between state and non-state actors. Meanwhile, another front has been opened now for Putin in Syria amid the separatist militia groups that took over the second-largest ancient city known as Aleppo, and Damascus has also fallen into the hands of Ahmed-al-Sharaa. On one front, Russia, Iran, and Syria are fighting with Israel, Turkish, and the USA-backed militias in this region and they are also providing indirect ground support to the three radical groups. It can also be called the three Hs'-Hezbollah, Hamas, and Houthi. The doomsday clock ticks every second and reminds the world community how much closer to the apocalypse of the world. The Iranian nuclear program gained momentum, and Russia used a middle-range intercontinental strategic non-nuclear warhead with the capacity of MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicles) on Ukrainian soil, again raising the threat of future nuclear catastrophe. The so-called breadbasket of Europe is now on the brink of war, and post Nord Stream Pipeline sabotage halted the cheap gas transportation to the European countries from Russia. Mr. Trump's "Drill, Baby, Drill" campaign. Last but not least, the move was probably



intended as a curtain raiser for President Trump's high-profile state visit to the Kingdom with Al-Saud wishing headlines screaming of blood. Just when you had your surfeit of to be seen as heeding Mr. Trump's call for and gore, come the drumbeats of lower oil prices to help contain U.S. a new conflict. However, in this domestic inflation, despite his higher new one, the belligerents do not swap import tariffs, hurting consumers with bullets but barrels. However, this incipient defense guarantees a nuclear agreement conflict is shaping to be a "mother of all and over \$100 billion in American battles." Perhaps with more universal weapon sales lined up, the Saudis have more impact than the destruction, with much to gain from the U.S. President's momentum.

In Asian Context

In the context of Asia, it is now in the brink of democratic decline, a strong democratic country like South Korea recently imposed martial law. Still, it was lifted somehow because of the heavy pressure from the ordinary people and the opposition parties. The Indo-China region always remains in the limelight due to aggressive Chinese moves, such as salami slicing, wolf warrior diplomacy, debt trap policy, etc. On the contrary, recent border settlements between China and India raise the question of Chinese assertiveness towards the , Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Aksai-China, Xinxiang, Myanmar, Srilanka, Pakistan, Hong Kong, Vladivostok, Indo-Pacific or Asia Pacific, South China Sea and Taiwan through expanding its presence by making up artificial islands located in the Spratly, which are made up of islands, islets, submerged reefs, and other maritime features. This area became a zone of turmoil in the 18th century; when the French wanted to dominate the South China Sea, Japan expanded its arm throughout the region with the policy of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere(1940). The Philippines also claimed this region as freedom. On the other hand, Formosa(Now Taiwan) under Chiang-Kai-Shek came forward with an imaginary 11-dash line, and to counter this, Mao Zedong claimed over the South-China Sea through the nine-dash line. Still, this area became a Zone of turmoil—the Bangladesh government, under the chief advisor of the interim government, Noble laureate Prof. Muhammed Yunus, fearsome anti-Indian and pro-Chinese steps that raised tension. The Trump administration wants to revisit the security arrangements, especially to strengthen the QUAD .Through the Quad America and Trump wants contain the Chinese, whatsoever it serves the interest of not only those 4 countries rather rest of the countries sharing their boundaries with this region. Bangladeshi government now drifting its stands towards North yards. As a result, India also temporarily suspended the export of ready-made garments to India to counter Bangladesh port restrictions on the export of Indian Yarn via land ports. It seems to be a democratic decline in Bangladesh after the ousting of Sheikh Hasina.



Bangladesh indirectly supports Pakistan and China in the name of national security and strategic autonomy. The demography is sentiment toward Islamic Fundamentalism. According to Hegel, history repeats itself, but Karl Marx added another phrase, saying that history repeats itself, first as tragedy and second as farce. So, between the two countries, it is happening. Look at the incident of Dhanmondi, the residential place of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who sacrificed himself and his family and was assassinated by security personnel; his dream contribution seems to be outdated. The people of Bangladesh are no longer ready to accept and remember their past glory whatsoever the Muktibhani, the Indian army, and the Soviet Union did to liberate East Pakistan from the clutches of cruelty by West Pakistan. Now, the interim government has to think about India's contribution repeatedly. On the other hand, an election is required immediately because the current government is abandoning democratic values and misleading the sentiments of the people. So, an election is a way to bring back a democratically elected leader in Bangladesh to make the region politically stable. Donald Trump's administration maintains a status quo for the Bangladesh row. Some speculation is also rising due to the American interest in Saint Martin's Island, But Bangladesh denied the deal. Somehow, it fuelled up to get Sheikh Hasina out of power. What has been seen in Pakistan- Bangladesh eating food on the same plate. As a result, the Indo-Pak countries and India, by Operation Sindoor as a response to the Pahalgam attack, triggered further nuclear escalation. Finally, Donald Trump intervened and discussed the future implications of the nuclear conflict. So a ceasefire was declared, However, Trump took it as an advantage to showcase his ability to stop war.

Trump era also showcased the rough face of tacit diplomatic failure in Bangladesh countries. India's temporary abeyance of the Indus water treaty somehow altered Pakistan's water sovereignty. It has the upper hand in the rivers of the Indus River system. However, according to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Demographic scholars are arguing over India's strategic pause. Still, according to this treaty, no country has the exclusive power to expel or suspend unilaterally. On the other side, the Prime Minister of India said, "Water & Blood cannot flow side by side, "which symbolizes that Indo-Pak relations still move through the status quo principle. Operations carried out by both the countries (Operation Sindoor by India and Operation. It seems to be Pakistan's nuclear blackmail somehow countered by India with the just quotation, "Terror and talks cannot go together; terror and trade cannot go together; water and blood cannot flow together."



Politics of Regionalism over the Arctic

Rapid militarization over the Arctic by multiple alternative power centers undermines the Ottawa Declaration of 1996, and some study reveals that the next battleground will be the Arctic Region. Most powerful countries are now eyeing over this region mainly for two areas. Firstly, It will help to create and navigate a new transactional cum transport line; secondly, The untapped natural resources like rare earth materials, natural gas, and petroleum. However, it seems to be impossible without the complete melting of the ice glaciers. Somehow, we are witnessing severe climatic maneuverability due to climate change; at the same time, climate change and its spillover effect upon the Arctic may be pushed up for many opportunities in front of greedy countries. As we have seen, the geopolitical race is going on between countries to legalize their respective claims to grasp some of the untapped resources, e.g., America wants to buy Greenland from Denmark to have full access to the glaciers. On the other hand, Russians are on the way to breaking the iceberg by using the giant icebreaker. The COP-29 was hosted by one of the Global South countries. Still, the Baku declaration became half a success because the Western countries agreed to provide \$300 MN for climate mitigation, which is likely the tip of the iceberg. Countries must address how to protect Mother Earth by the principle of "National Interest with International Responsibility." The Prime Minister of India has rightly said that "this is not the era of war," which elucidates that the time has come to show sensitivity and maturity and improve understanding of "Just Peace."

Conclusion

However, the apocalyptic nature of this maneuverability also highlighted risks. The erosion of trust in institutions, heightened polarization, and the unpredictability of policy shifts strained global cooperation on existential issues like climate change and pandemics. The Trumpian era exposed the limits of flexibility in a hyper-connected world, where rapid maneuvers could destabilize as much as they innovate.

In conclusion, the Trumpian era serves as a case study in the dynamic interplay of chaos and adaptation in world politics. It revealed global systems' resilience and vulnerabilities, demonstrating how a single actor can catalyze profound shifts. As the world moves forward, the lessons of this period—about the power of disruption, the importance of adaptability, and the need for robust multilateral frameworks—will remain critical in navigating an increasingly complex and maneuverable geopolitical landscape.



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