

# Reconfiguration of the Global Geopolitical Map: Challenges and Perspectives

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**Abstract:** The reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map is a topic of great relevance today due to the transformations taking place in the international arena, which are influencing relations between countries. Several factors are contributing to this reconfiguration. On one hand, there are changes in the global economy, with the rise of emerging countries such as China and India challenging the economic and political hegemony of the United States and Europe. Additionally, there is an increase in geopolitical rivalry between powers, such as the competition between the United States and China for influence in the Asia Pacific and Latin America, as well as tensions between Russia and the European Union in Eastern Europe. In light of this context, several questions arise: What are the main challenges faced by the international community in this reconfiguration of the geopolitical map? What prospects can be glimpsed for the future? What is the role of international organizations in this scenario? The objective of this study is to analyze the challenges and prospects of the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map. To do so, a documentary review was conducted using specialized databases in international relations and geopolitics. A random sample of important documents that comprehensively address the topic was selected. The findings reveal that the challenges of geopolitical reconfiguration are numerous and include the risk of regional conflicts and the threat of nuclear proliferation. Various perspectives are identified, such as the strengthening of regional alliances and the need to establish new mechanisms of international cooperation. In conclusion, the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map poses a series of challenges and prospects that must be adequately addressed by the international community. It is crucial to promote cooperation among countries and strengthen international institutions to address the challenges that arise in this new global scenario.

**Keywords:** Globalization, Multipolarity, Geopolitical Reconfiguration, Geopolitical Rivalry, International Cooperation

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## 1. Introduction

The reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map is a highly relevant topic in the international arena. According to Buzan & Lawson (2015), it refers to the changes in power relations and the geographical distribution of political, economic, cultural, and military influence on the international stage. It involves the transformation of the structures and dynamics that define interactions between state and non-state actors in the global arena [57]. This is a dynamic and ongoing process that is constantly evolving [32].

In the study of the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map, there are disagreements and gaps that require further research and understanding. Regarding the interpretation of the nature of change, there are different perspectives: a shift towards a multipolar world is observed, with multiple emerging power centers challenging the traditional dominance of superpowers [32, 35, 36]. On the other hand, it is argued that the world order remains unipolar, with one predominant superpower [76]. These divergent perspectives require a deeper analysis to better understand the dynamics of change and their implications.

While driving factors of geopolitical reconfiguration, such

as the economic rise of certain countries and the evolution of strategic alliances, are recognized, there are still gaps in research regarding the relative influence of these factors and how they interact with each other. A more detailed analysis of the economic, political, cultural, and social dynamics driving these changes and how they relate to technological and demographic transformations is needed.

Although regional impacts of geopolitical reconfiguration, such as conflicts in the Middle East or tensions in the South China Sea, have been identified Acharya, (2023), further research and understanding are still needed on how power dynamics are being redefined in different regions and how this affects regional stability and cooperation. Additionally, the global impact of these changes in terms of global governance, international trade, security, and sustainable development needs to be analyzed.

In relation to the above, evidence indicates a shift in the distribution of global power, with the rise of new powers like China and the decline of power of the United States and Western Europe [35, 36]. The implications of these changes in terms of power balance, international relations, and global decision-making need to be investigated.

In addition to global powers, significant changes have been observed in the role of key regional actors [5]. Countries such as India, Brazil, Turkey, and Iran have expanded their regional influence and played a more active role on the international stage [34, 52]. Further research is needed to understand how these new regional dynamics affect global geopolitics and generate potential conflicts of interest.

Global issues such as climate change, migration, terrorism, cybersecurity, and nuclear proliferation require effective international cooperation [69]. However, the reconfiguration of the geopolitical map has generated divisions and disagreements among global powers, making it difficult to find joint solutions. Obstacles and gaps in international cooperation to address these global challenges need to be investigated.

Geopolitical reconfiguration has exacerbated tensions and conflicts in various regions of the world. From the conflict in Ukraine to the dispute in the South China Sea, in-depth research is needed to understand the roots of these conflicts, the different interests at stake, and possible paths to peaceful resolution [45].

Rapid technological advancements and increased globalization have also transformed the geopolitical landscape. Research is needed on how digitization, robotics, artificial intelligence, and other technological advances are influencing power and the relationship between nations, as well as shaping global defense and security systems.

The fact is that understanding global geopolitical reconfiguration faces theoretical and methodological contradictions. Traditional geopolitical theories may not be sufficient to explain current changes, and an update of theoretical and methodological approaches used in geopolitical analysis is required. Based on these concerns, the objective of this article is to understand and analyze the challenges and perspectives that arise from these changes in power relations and the geographical distribution of political, economic, and military influence at the international level.

The reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map is a topic

of great importance for understanding and analyzing how political, economic, and social relations are evolving worldwide. Understanding how the geopolitical map is being reconfigured allows us to comprehend power dynamics among different international actors. The rise of new countries as global powers, such as China and India, and the decline of others, such as the United States and Europe, are changing the way global decisions are made [7, 14, 29].

Consequently, geopolitical reconfiguration has implications for the global economic order. The opening and globalization of markets have led to increased interdependence among economies of different countries [19, 77]. Perceiving how trade alliances and production networks are being reconfigured is essential to understanding how resources and economic power are distributed globally.

On the other hand, geopolitical reconfiguration is also related to security issues and international conflicts [51, 72]. Changes in power balances can lead to tensions between countries, territorial disputes, or even armed conflicts. Studying these geopolitical changes allows us to anticipate and better understand the potential challenges and risks that may arise in the field of international security.

Global geopolitical reconfiguration has a significant impact on international stability and security [9]. Changes in power relations can generate tensions and conflicts, but they can also provide opportunities for cooperation and collaboration among nations. Understanding these dynamics is important to promote international stability and security.

Changes in power relations can affect trade flows, investments, and economic policies, which can have a significant impact on the global economy [48-51]. Understanding these dynamics is important to anticipate and address the challenges and opportunities that arise in the economic sphere. Moreover, changes in power relations can affect international cooperation on global issues such as climate change, cybersecurity, and counterterrorism. Understanding these dynamics is important to promote sustainable development and address global challenges.

In conclusion, studying the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map is essential for gaining a more comprehensive and contextualized understanding of international relations and the challenges and opportunities presented on the world stage. It allows us to understand how political and economic power is being redistributed globally, identify potential conflicts, and contribute to the formulation of policies and strategies to address the challenges of the 21st century.

## 2. Background of the Current Reconfiguration

Since the end of World War II, several significant changes have occurred in power relations and the distribution of influence in different regions of the world. The Cold War was one of the most important events that marked a reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map [31-33]. During this period, two dominant blocs were formed: the Western

bloc led by the United States and the Eastern bloc led by the Soviet Union. These blocs exerted significant political, economic, and military influence in different parts of the world, creating a clear division and competition for influence.

However, with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, a significant shift occurred in the global geopolitical map. The United States emerged as the sole dominant superpower in the world, and its influence extended across the globe [1, 2]. This period is known as unipolarity, where the United States had near-absolute control over global affairs. However, in recent decades, there have been significant changes in the distribution of power at the global level. New state and non-state actors have strengthened and emerged, challenging US hegemony. China, for example, has become a global economic and political power, challenging US influence in the Asian region and beyond [40, 49-51].

### 3. Theories and Approaches Used to Examine the Global Geopolitical Map

The reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map has been the subject of study for various theories and approaches that seek to explain changes and transformations in international relations. Understanding these modifications to the functioning mechanism of the global system is vital for explaining current dynamics and addressing challenges and opportunities in the global geopolitical landscape.

These studies aim to understand and explain changes and transformations in the relationships between international actors and how these changes affect the configuration of the geopolitical map. In this regard, geopolitics is a discipline that focuses on the interactions between political power and geographic space, and its goal is to analyze how location, natural resources, borders, and other geographic factors influence international relations and competition for power. Throughout history, different theories and approaches have emerged to address these issues, such as realism, constructivism, liberalism, postcolonialism, among others.

#### 3.1. Political Realism and the Complex Interdependence

Realism is a theory that argues that states are the primary actors in the international stage and that their main motivation is to maximize their power and security. According to Kenneth Waltz (1979) and John J. Mearsheimer (2001), states constantly seek to form alliances and engage in conflicts with the aim of acquiring more power and ensuring their survival in an anarchic international system.

One of the strengths of realism is its ability to offer a clear and concise explanation of geopolitical dynamics. By focusing on states' interests and power as driving forces, the realist theory can help understand the reasons behind international alliances and conflicts.

The realist perspective highlights the importance of competition among states, which can help predict and understand aggressive or protective behavior of certain international actors. This can be useful for both foreign policy

formulation and analysis of historical events.

However, some criticisms of realism include its exclusive focus on states as primary actors, which may overlook the significance of other international actors such as international organizations or transnational social movements.

Moreover, some argue that realism can be too pessimistic in its view of international politics and may not take into account other relevant factors such as interstate cooperation and the importance of international norms and rules.

The theory of *complex interdependence*, advocated by Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye (1977), emphasizes the importance of economic and transnational relations in geopolitical configuration. The argument is that in a globalized world, countries are increasingly interconnected through trade, finance, and technology. According to this perspective, any unilateral action taken by a state can have significant repercussions on other states, especially in economic terms.

In this sense, the theory of complex interdependence argues that states depend on each other in various areas such as trade, finance, security, and the environment. For example, if a state decides to implement protectionist measures that limit other countries' access to its market, it is likely to generate a similar response from those countries, which could negatively affect the economy of all parties involved.

Consequently, economic interdependence can also create incentives for cooperation among states. For example, if several countries heavily rely on a specific natural resource that is only found in one state, these countries are likely to have the need to cooperate with each other and with the resource-providing state to maintain a stable supply of that resource.

#### 3.2. Neoliberal Approach and the Constructivist Theory of Global Geopolitics

According to representatives of the neoliberal approach to global geopolitics [23-25, 31-33, 55-57, 60, 65].

- 1) Competition and private property stimulate economic efficiency. The elimination of regulations and restrictions favors innovation and investment, which in turn would drive economic growth. It argues that economic liberalization and reduced state intervention lead to economic development and, as a result, an improvement in living conditions for the population.
- 2) Supporters of the neoliberal approach argue that economic openness and the removal of trade barriers promote economic growth by allowing foreign investment and participation in international value chains. According to the neoliberal approach, the privatization of companies and public services improves their efficiency and reduces the fiscal burden for the state. Additionally, they argue that reducing public spending allows for more efficient use of resources and avoids fiscal deficits.
- 3) This approach advocates for labor flexibility, arguing that it allows for better adaptation to economic changes and promotes innovation and productivity. On the other

hand, they argue that international institutions and regimes of cooperation are fundamental for maintaining global order. They argue that these mechanisms allow for peaceful conflict resolution and the creation of common norms that benefit all countries.

The *constructivist theory of global geopolitics* argues that ideas and norms are key factors in shaping international relations [3, 19, 73]. According to this perspective, international actors interact based on their perceptions of each other and the norms that govern their behavior. For example, perceptions of threat or friendship between countries can influence how they relate and collaborate with each other.

In this realm of thought, the identities and perceptions of international actors have a significant impact on international relations. For example, how a country sees itself and how it sees itself in relation to other countries can influence its behavior in the geopolitical arena. These identities and perceptions may be based on historical, cultural, or ideological factors.

For this perspective, norms are important in international relations. These norms can determine how actors interact with each other and can regulate their behavior. For example, international norms on the use of force can influence a country's decision to intervene in another or to seek diplomatic solutions. The result is that, according to this view, perceptions and norms can contribute to the shaping of the geopolitical map. For example, perceptions of threat or friendship between countries can influence how alliances are established or foreign policy decisions are made. Similarly, international norms can influence how borders are defined and territorial agreements are established.

The critical geopolitics theory of Ó Tuathail (1996) and Dalby (2002) is an innovative and significant perspective in the field of geopolitics. This theory focuses on the analysis of manifestations of geopolitical power and how they interact with social, economic, and cultural dynamics. First, this theory recognizes that geopolitical power is not limited solely to states and national borders. Instead, it argues that geopolitical power is manifested through various forms and actors, including multinational corporations, international organizations, and social movements. This expands the conventional understanding of geopolitics, which generally focuses on the actions of states.

Additionally, critical geopolitics considers social, economic, and cultural dynamics in its analysis, recognizing that geopolitical power cannot be separated from these dimensions. For example, the economic exploitation of natural resources in a region can have implications both for power relations and for the living conditions of local inhabitants.

This theory also emphasizes the importance of representation and narrative in geopolitics. According to Ó Tuathail (1996) and Dalby (2002), geopolitical discourses and practices of representing global spaces influence how geopolitical power is understood and negotiated. This implies that geopolitical power is not fixed or objective, but is subject to subjective interpretations and constructions.

### ***3.3. World-System Approach and the Critical Geopolitics Theory***

The reconfiguration of the geopolitical map is based on various factors, such as changes in the balance of power between countries, technological advances, political and military conflicts, economic transformations, among others. Immanuel Wallerstein's (1974) world-system approach offers a perspective for understanding how the international system is organized and how power is distributed among countries. According to this theory, the system is divided into centers and peripheries, where developed countries are the centers and exert greater control over less developed countries, which are in the periphery.

For Wallerstein (1974), the dynamics of expansion and decline of centers of power are a key element in the reconfiguration of the geopolitical map. Throughout history, different countries or regions have been hegemonic centers, such as the Roman Empire, the British Empire, or the United States today. These centers of power have exerted influence over the peripheries, imposing their political, economic, and cultural dominance.

Wallerstein (1974) argues that as the world-system evolves, centers of power may decline while new centers emerge. This may be the result of economic changes, such as the emergence of new economic powers or the transformation of the global economy. It may also be the result of political or military conflicts, and even technological changes that alter power relations between countries. The fact is that the reconfiguration of geopolitics is also influenced by technological advances, which allow for greater interconnectedness and facilitate the projection of power globally. For example, the emergence of the Internet has changed the way nations relate to each other and has created new dimensions in the struggle for power.

### ***3.4. Globalization Approach and the Chaos Theory***

According to Friedman (2006), globalization has reconfigured the global geopolitical map by making physical borders less relevant and allowing for greater mobility of people, goods, services, and ideas. This global interconnectedness has created a global network of economic interdependence, where countries can no longer operate in isolation but are linked together through supply chains, trade and financial flows, and international agreements.

One of the main drivers of this reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map is the technological revolution and the expansion of the Internet. Information and communication technologies have enabled greater connectivity and facilitated the creation and growth of global companies. They have also led to the emergence of new forms of work and collaboration, such as telecommuting and virtual teams, which have eliminated geographical barriers and allowed for greater integration and cooperation on a global level.

This global interconnectedness has also led to the formation of economic blocs and regional integration. For example, the European Union has become a geopolitical entity that has

transcended national borders and promoted cooperation and integration among its members. Similarly, countries in Latin America and Asia have established free trade agreements and created economic blocs such as the Southern Common Market (Mercosur) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), with the aim of liberalizing trade and fostering economic cooperation.

*Chaos theory* posits that disorder and instability are crucial elements in the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map. Robert D. Kaplan (2008), in his book "The Return of Marco Polo," supports this perspective and explores how the lack of governance in certain regions can have a significant impact on the global order. Therefore, according to this theory, the lack of governance in certain regions causes disorder and instability, which in turn reconfigures the global geopolitical map.

### 3.5. *Postcolonial Thought Perspective and the Regionalism Theory Regionalism Theory*

From this perspective, Said (1978) argues that colonialism and neocolonialism have been fundamental in creating the current geopolitical divisions. Colonialism, through its domination and exploitation of territories, generated artificial borders and ethnic and cultural divisions that persist to this day, triggering conflicts and tensions in regions such as Africa and the Middle East. Consequently, colonialism and neocolonialism have influenced the creation of national identities and the construction of power and inequality on a global level. Former colonial powers, such as the United Kingdom and France, have maintained significant influence in international affairs through political and economic alliances and have perpetuated relationships of exploitation and dependency with their former colonies.

Postcolonial thought highlights the importance of cultural and academic representations in the creation of knowledge and dominant perspectives. The discourses and narratives established by colonialism have perpetuated stereotypes and prejudices towards non-Western cultures, thus reinforcing existing hierarchies and inequalities.

Today, the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map is influenced both by the struggles for liberation of former colonies and the persistence of asymmetrical power relations. The rise of China as a global power and its pursuit of global influence, as well as decolonization in Africa and elsewhere, are changing geopolitical dynamics and challenging Western dominance. However, despite these changes, the postcolonial perspective argues that colonial structures and mentalities are still present and continue to influence how relationships between countries and cultures are conceptualized and treated. The fight for social justice and equality in global relations is essential to achieve a more equitable and just geopolitical reconfiguration.

Raúl Prebisch (1950) and Andre Gunder Frank (1967) are two key authors in the analysis of geopolitics from the perspective of Dependency Theory. This approach argues that unequal power relations between developed and developing countries are a determining factor in the configuration of

global geopolitics.

Both authors argue that the global capitalist system is inherently unequal and structured in a way that benefits developed countries at the expense of developing countries. According to Prebisch and Frank, this is due to the international division of labor, where developed countries specialize in the production of high value-added and technologically advanced goods, while developing countries are forced to export low-quality raw materials and agricultural products.

This division of labor creates a relationship of dependency between developed and developing countries. Developing countries become suppliers of raw materials for developed countries, who in turn sell manufactured products at higher prices. This extractive and unequal relationship perpetuates the economic dependence of developing countries, hindering their economic and social development.

Prebisch and Frank also argue that this relationship of dependency is based on the control and economic and political domination of developed countries over developing countries. Developed countries impose their will through international financial institutions and unfavorable trade agreements. In addition, they use their economic and military power to intervene and maintain the status quo in developing countries, thus ensuring their own stability and benefit.

According to Katzenstein (2005) and Hettne (2005), *regionalism* is the result of the geopolitical reconfiguration of the global map, where regional blocs emerge as important actors in the international system. These regional blocs seek to strengthen their political, economic, and security position through regional cooperation and integration. In this sense, regionalism goes beyond bilateral relations between states. It is about the creation of regional integration institutions and agreements that allow member countries to develop greater economic, political, and security cooperation. These institutions, such as the European Union, ASEAN, or the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), seek to promote trade, investment, mobility of people, and cooperation in areas such as security, environment, and education.

The emergence of regional power blocs challenges the hegemony of traditional powers and contributes to the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical order. As regional blocs gain influence and power, the international system is no longer focused solely on relations between individual states, but also on regional dynamics. This poses challenges and opportunities for traditional powers, as they must adapt to these new realities and seek ways to interact and cooperate with emerging regional blocs.

Regionalism can also have implications for global governance. As regional blocs gain influence, they can exert greater weight in decision-making at the global level. This can lead to the creation of new norms, rules, and mechanisms of global governance that take into account the perspectives and concerns of regional blocs.

The *theory of multipolarism* argues that the world is moving towards a system in which multiple actors, rather than one or

two dominant states, share global power [10, 65]. This can manifest itself in the emergence of new powers, such as China and India, as well as in the reaffirmation of emerging powers, such as Russia and Brazil.

In a multipolar system, competition between these powers can intensify, both in economic and geopolitical terms, which can generate conflicts and tensions. This approach contrasts with the theory of unipolarism, which argues that the United States is the only global superpower and dominant in all aspects of global power. Multipolarism questions this notion and suggests that power is more distributed among several actors, which can lead to a more dynamic balance of power.

The theory of multipolarism also highlights the importance of alliances and international relations in this new system of power. Countries will seek to form strategic coalitions and alliances to strengthen their position and address common challenges and threats. This can have significant implications for diplomacy and international politics, as countries will be forced to interact and negotiate with a wider range of actors.

However, multipolarism also poses challenges and risks. Competition between powers can lead to conflicts and tensions, either through economic competition or geopolitical influence. In addition, the lack of a dominant superpower can make decision-making and problem-solving at the global level more difficult, as there is no actor with enough power and authority to impose its will.

### 3.6. Hegemony Theory and the Transition of Power Model

One of the theories that has been widely discussed is the theory of hegemony. According to this theory, changes in the global geopolitical map are due to the struggle for hegemony between different countries or groups of countries. The author Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, in their work "Empire" (2000), argue that the decline of US hegemony and the emergence of a new global order are shaping geopolitical reconfiguration (Friedman, 2021).

The theory of hegemony is based on the idea that there is an unequal power relationship between different countries or groups of countries. According to this theory, a hegemonic country has the ability to establish the rules and norms of the international system, as well as influence the politics, economy, and culture of other countries. However, over time, the hegemony of a country may decline and a new order led by another power may emerge.

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri (2000) argue in their work "Empire" that US hegemony is in decline and that we are witnessing the formation of a new global order. According to the authors, the system of domination of classical imperialism based on conquest and colonization has given way to a new type of domination, the "empire". This new system is characterized by economic and political domination through globalization and interdependence between countries.

According to Hardt and Negri, (2000) the empire is based on the logic of global capitalism, where power is exercised in a diffuse and decentralized way. In this sense, they argue that the sovereignty of nation-states has been eroded and has given way to new forms of transnational power, such as

multinational corporations and international financial institutions. In their work, Hardt and Negri analyze how the struggle for hegemony develops in the global arena, and how the emergence of new actors and social movements is questioning and challenging the order imposed by imperialism. According to the authors, the struggle against empire domination must be based on a perspective of emancipation and liberation, where greater participation and democracy in decision-making are promoted.

One theory that attempts to explain this process is the *Transition of Power Model*, which argues that the world is transitioning from a unipolar system, led by the United States, to a multipolar system with a greater distribution of power among major powers. This theory is based on the argument that China and Russia are catching up to the United States in terms of economic, military, and technological power [33-35, 45].

### 3.7. Clash of Civilizations Theory and the Global Governance Theory

Another theory, known as the Clash of Civilizations Theory, argues that the world is entering a new era of conflict between civilizations. This theory is based on the argument that cultural and religious differences between civilizations will lead to inevitable conflicts [31].

A third theory, known as the Global Governance Theory, argues that the world is transitioning from a nation-state based governance system to a global governance system. This theory is based on the argument that global challenges such as climate change, terrorism, and nuclear proliferation require the cooperation of all countries in the world [2, 11, 25].

It is important to note that these theories are not mutually exclusive. It is possible that the world is experiencing a combination of these processes. The reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map is a complex and dynamic process that will have a significant impact on the future of the world. The challenges and prospects arising from this process are still uncertain, but are likely to include increased competition among major powers, the rise of nationalism and populism, and the need to address global challenges. Additionally, classical geopolitics has also influenced the understanding of these changes. Authors like Halford J. Mackinder, in his article "The Geographical Pivot of History" (1904), have highlighted the importance of geographical location and control of natural resources in understanding the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map.

## 4. Importance of Understanding Power Dynamics, Alliances, and Conflicts in the Geopolitical Map

The importance of understanding power dynamics, alliances, and conflicts in the global geopolitical map is derived from the examination. These elements are fundamental to understanding international relations and the processes that shape the world order [36]. It allows for the

identification of key actors and understanding how they interact with each other. This involves analyzing established global powers as well as emerging ones, as well as regional and non-state actors that play a significant role in global geopolitics [57].

Alliances are another crucial aspect to consider. The relationships between countries and regional blocs can have a significant impact on shaping the geopolitical map. Alliances can arise from common interests, power balance, or strategic needs, and they can influence the stability or instability of a region or even the international system as a whole [9].

Geopolitical conflicts have the potential to generate significant tensions and challenges. These conflicts can arise from territorial disputes, ideological differences, competition for natural resources, or historical rivalries, among other factors [62]. Understanding these conflicts and their implications is essential for anticipating and addressing possible political, economic, and security consequences that may arise.

#### 4.1. Current Challenges

The current challenges in global geopolitical reconfiguration are complex and varied. These challenges include [2, 5, 6, 13, 15, 21, 25, 31, 35, 61, 70, 75]:

- 1) Geopolitical reconfiguration is also related to economic competition among major powers. China is positioning itself as a global economic power, threatening the traditional economic hegemony of the United States and Europe, which is generating tensions and competition between the two powers. This has become evident in areas such as trade, technology, and security. This is giving rise to trade conflicts and economic rivalries that affect the geopolitical balance.
- 2) With the rise of new global powers like China and India, the traditional geopolitical map, dominated by the United States and Western Europe, is changing. This poses challenges in terms of establishing new international relations and power balance.
- 3) The changing geopolitical map is generating tensions and conflicts in different regions. For example, the rivalry between China and the United States in the South China Sea, or the competition between Russia and the United States in Eastern Europe. The rivalry between China and the United States in Latin America is also notable. These conflicts can have regional and global consequences in terms of security and stability.
- 4) As the geopolitical map is reconfigured, alliances and international relations also change. For example, some countries may seek new alliances to counterbalance the power of emerging powers. This can affect the dynamics of international relations and complicate decision-making and international cooperation.
- 5) The reconfiguration of the geopolitical map also implies changes in global governance dynamics. For example, international institutions established during the last century, such as the UN and IMF, may not adequately reflect the new global power balance. This can pose challenges in terms of decision-making and global regulation.
- 6) The rise of nationalist and populist sentiments worldwide is hindering international cooperation. These sentiments are often associated with rejection of globalization and international agreements.
- 7) As emerging powers increase their influence, competition for natural resources such as energy, water, and minerals intensifies. This can generate tensions and conflicts in different regions of the world.
- 8) Geopolitical reconfiguration can destabilize entire regions, especially when there are changes in power balance or territorial disputes. This can lead to armed conflicts, mass migrations, and humanitarian crises.
- 9) With increasing digital interconnectedness, cybersecurity becomes a critical challenge. State and non-state actors can use cybercrime, cyber espionage, and cyber attacks to gain strategic advantages and compromise national security.
- 10) Geopolitical reconfiguration can create power vacuums and destabilize regions, which can be exploited by terrorist and extremist groups. These actors can take advantage of divisions and tensions to promote their agenda and threaten global security.
- 11) Climate change, terrorism, and nuclear proliferation are challenges that require the cooperation of all countries in the world. International cooperation to address this global challenge can be hindered by geopolitical rivalries and a lack of willingness to engage in international agreements.
- 12) Geopolitical reconfiguration has uneven impacts on different countries and regions, exacerbating inequality and poverty. Lack of access to resources and opportunities generates social and economic tensions, as well as challenges in terms of migration and sustainable development.

These challenges require effective international cooperation and a multilateral approach to comprehensively address them. Understanding these challenges is crucial for developing strategies and policies that promote stability, security, and sustainable development in the constantly changing global geopolitical scenario.

#### 4.2. Geopolitical Actors

The different geopolitical actors in this context are [3, 73, 69, 66, 52]:

- 1) The major powers: United States, China, Russia, the European Union, India, and Japan. These countries have the greatest power and capacity to influence the international system.
- 2) Regional powers: Countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Turkey, Indonesia, and South Africa. These countries have significant regional power, but their global influence is limited.
- 3) Non-state actors: International organizations, multinational companies, terrorist groups, and armed groups. These actors are playing an increasingly

important role in international politics.

#### **4.3. Interests of Geopolitical Actors**

The interests of the different geopolitical actors in this context are varied. They include:

- 1) For major powers: To maintain or increase their global power and influence.
- 2) For regional powers: To achieve greater recognition and international respect.
- 3) For non-state actors: To achieve their political, economic, or social objectives.

#### **4.4. Examples of Current Challenges**

Examples of current challenges in global geopolitical reconfiguration include [17, 42]:

- 1) The war in Ukraine: The war in Ukraine is an example of how competition between major powers can lead to instability and conflict.
- 2) The climate crisis: The climate crisis is a global challenge that requires the cooperation of all countries in the world. The reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map could make it difficult to reach agreements on policies to address the climate crisis.
- 3) The war between Israel and Gaza, which began on May 10, 2023, is generating international tensions. The war has caused the death of hundreds of people, mostly civilians, and has displaced thousands of people.

International tensions are being generated for the following reasons:

- 1) Disproportionate use of force by Israel: Israel has used disproportionate force in its offensive against Gaza, causing a high number of civilian casualties. This has been condemned by the international community, which has called on Israel to end the violence.
- 2) U.S. support for Israel: The United States has supported Israel in the war, providing weapons and military assistance. This support has been criticized by some countries, who believe that the United States is failing to fulfill its international obligations.
- 3) Rejection of the recognition of a Palestinian state: Israel has rejected the recognition of a Palestinian state, which has been criticized by many countries who see this as an obstacle to peace in the region.

International tensions are manifesting in the following ways:

- 1) Criticism of Israel by the international community: The international community, including the UN, the European Union, and Arab countries, has condemned the disproportionate use of force by Israel and has called on Israel to end the violence.
- 2) Sanctions against Israel: Countries such as Norway and Switzerland have announced sanctions against Israel in response to the war.
- 3) Support for the Palestinian cause: The conflict has generated increased support for the Palestinian cause, both in the Arab world and in the Western world.

4) International tensions could have the following consequences:

- 5) Escalation of the Israel-Palestine conflict: The war could escalate the Israel-Palestine conflict, making it more difficult to find a peaceful solution.
- 6) Erosion of support for Israel in the international community: The disproportionate use of force by Israel could erode support for Israel in the international community, making cooperation between Israel and other countries more difficult.
- 7) Increase in terrorism: The conflict could increase terrorism in the region, as it could serve as motivation for terrorist groups.

It is important to find a peaceful solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict to prevent further escalation of international tensions.

Changes in power relations and political alliances in different regions of the world can have a significant impact on politics and stability at both national and international levels. These changes can be driven by a variety of factors, such as changes in the global economy, internal conflicts, evolution of political ideologies, and geopolitical rivalries.

Firstly, changes in power relations can affect the balance of power between different countries or regions. For example, if a country loses power relative to others, this can lead to a reconfiguration of existing political alliances and the emergence of new alliances. This can lead to tensions and conflicts in international relations, as well as changes in national policies and strategies.

Changes in power relations and political alliances can affect the balance of power within a particular country or region. For example, if a political leader or party loses power, this can lead to significant changes in internal policies and political alliances within the country. These changes can have repercussions on political stability and internal governance.

In some cases, changes in power relations and political alliances can lead to the emergence of new leaders or political movements. For example, the rise of populist leaders in different regions of the world, such as Donald Trump in the United States, Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, and Narendra Modi in India, has been witnessed. These leaders have challenged traditional political structures and have altered existing power relations and political alliances.

On the other hand, changes in power relations and political alliances also have an impact on human rights and democracy. In some cases, new political leaders have undermined human rights and weakened democratic institutions in the name of consolidating power. This has resulted in human rights violations, political repression, and a weakening of democratic checks and balances.

## **5. Role of Emerging Powers and Their Influence on Power Redistribution**

Emerging powers play an important role in the

redistribution of power on a global level. These powers are countries that have experienced rapid economic growth and have acquired greater influence in global affairs. One-way in which emerging powers influence power redistribution is through their participation in international organizations and multilateral forums. These countries seek to increase their representation and voice in these spaces, which in turn affects decision-making and power distribution among international actors.

Furthermore, emerging powers also influence power redistribution through their growing economic power. These countries are becoming key players in the global economy and are challenging the dominance of traditional economies. As their economic influence increases, so does their ability to influence global policies and power redistribution. Another important role of emerging powers is their ability to challenge the established international order. These countries are seeking ways to gain greater influence and participation in the international system, and this can lead to changes in the dynamics of global power.

Emerging powers such as China, India, Brazil, Russia, and South Africa have gained importance in the global economy and international politics in recent decades. Their role in power redistribution has become increasingly significant as they challenge the hegemony of Western countries and redefine the world order.

In economic terms, these emerging powers are driving global growth and changing the dynamics of international trade. China, for example, has become the world's second-largest economy and has been a key driver of economic growth in Asia and worldwide. China has challenged the dominance of the United States in areas such as trade and technology, leading to a redistribution of power in these areas. India has also experienced significant economic growth in recent decades and is expected to become the world's third-largest economy by 2030.

In political terms, these emerging powers are challenging the hegemony of Western countries and redefining the world order. They have formed international organizations such as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and the G20, which allow them to have greater influence in global decision-making. They have also challenged the influence of Western countries in international organizations such as the UN and IMF.

Emerging powers are playing an increasingly important role in power redistribution in the world. Their growing economic and political influence is changing the balance of global power and redefining the world order. It is likely that these emerging powers will continue to challenge the hegemony of Western countries in the coming years and have an increasingly significant role in global politics and economics.

## 6. Exploration of Perspectives: Possible Scenarios

The reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map is a

complex and dynamic process that is being driven by a series of factors, including globalization, technological change, the rise of new powers, and the decline of old ones. Based on these factors, it is possible to identify a series of future scenarios for the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map.

### 6.1. Scenario 1: The Emergence of China as a Global Superpower

One of the most discussed future perspectives in the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map is the rise of China as a global superpower. This scenario is based on China's unprecedented economic growth in recent decades, its geopolitical influence in Asia and Latin America, and its ability to compete with the United States in terms of economic and military power.

Graham Allison argues in his book "Destined for War" (2017) that China's rise could lead to a military confrontation with the United States, similar to the rivalry that existed between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. According to Allison, the competition for economic and military dominance between the two countries could lead to war unless steps are taken to prevent it.

On the other hand, authors like Kishore Mahbubani in his book "Has China Won?" (2020) argue that China is adopting a more cooperative approach in its international relations, seeking global leadership through economic cooperation and diplomacy rather than direct confrontation with the United States. According to Mahbubani, the key to avoiding conflicts between the two superpowers lies in both countries' ability to adapt to the new geopolitical reality.

### 6.2. Scenario 2: The Resurgence of Russia

Another possible scenario in the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map is the resurgence of Russia as a global power. Despite economic difficulties and tensions with the West, Russia has been able to maintain a relevant role in world politics, especially through its involvement in regional conflicts such as Syria and Ukraine.

Authors like Timothy J. Colton in his book "Russia: What Everyone Needs to Know" (2016) argue that Russia is seeking to regain its status as a global power, using its influence in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to increase its geopolitical power. Colton suggests that, although Russia faces internal and external challenges, its long-term strategy is to remain a counterbalance to the dominant power of the West.

However, other authors like Michael Kofman in his article "Russia's New Model Army" (2017) argue that Russia's ability to maintain its relevant role in global geopolitics is limited. According to Kofman, Russia faces demographic, economic, and technological challenges that hinder its rise as a global power. Additionally, NATO expansion and tensions with Europe and the United States limit its ability to significantly influence global politics.

The reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map is a complex and dynamic topic that involves evaluating various

scenarios and future perspectives. The following are some possible configurations and relevant literature to support these ideas.

### 6.3. Scenario 3: Multipolarity

Experts suggest that the world is moving towards a multipolar system, where various regional powers compete for influence and power. This scenario implies a more distributed balance of power. In this scenario, a set of powers, such as the United States, China, the European Union, India, Russia, and Brazil, would share global leadership. According to Robert Kagan (2021) in his book "The Return of History and the End of Dreams," this multipolar configuration could lead to increased rivalry and conflicts among these powers. This scenario would be the most complex, as it would require cooperation among different powers to avoid conflicts.

### 6.4. Scenario 4: Regional Fragmentation

Analysts suggest that the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map could lead to increased regional fragmentation. For example, Samuel Huntington (2023) in his book "The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order" argues that cultural and religious identities will play a significant role in shaping future geopolitical alliances. This could lead to increased polarization and conflicts between different regions of the world.

#### *Scenario 5: Global Governance*

Another possible scenario is a greater emphasis on global governance and multilateral cooperation. Authors like Joseph Nye (2011) in his book "The Future of Power" argue that global challenges such as climate change, cybersecurity, and, in the author's opinion, events like the COVID-19 pandemic require increased cooperation among states. In this scenario, international institutions would be strengthened, and joint solutions to global problems would be sought.

## 7. Future Perspectives

It is difficult to predict with certainty which of these scenarios will materialize in the future. However, it is possible to identify a series of trends that could influence the evolution of the global geopolitical map.

### 7.1. Trend 1: The Rise of China

The rise of China is one of the main factors driving the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map. China is an emerging power with great economic, military, and technological potential. China's rise is challenging the global leadership of the United States and generating new tensions in the international system.

China's rise as a global power is a widely discussed topic in academic and geopolitical literature. Among the authors who have addressed this issue is Graham Allison, a professor and author of the book "Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides's Trap?" (2017), where he argues that the conflict between China and the United States is inevitable due

to the rivalry between an emerging power and an established power. Another relevant author is David Shambaugh, who in his book "China's Future" (2016) offers a vision of the challenges that China will face on its path to global leadership, including economic, political, and social challenges.

In addition, Elizabeth C. Economy's book, "The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State" (2018), examines the consolidation of President Xi Jinping's power and the implications of his leadership for China's domestic and foreign policy. As for the tensions generated by China's rise, some authors focus on the rivalry between China and the United States. For example, Hugh White, in his book "The China Choice: Why America Should Share Power" (2012), proposes the idea that the United States and China should share hegemonic power in the international system to avoid a war between the two powers.

### 7.2. Trend 2: Fragmentation of the International Order

The international order based on US hegemony is in decline. This decline is being driven by a series of factors, including the loss of legitimacy of the United States, the rise of new powers, and the increasing fragmentation of the international system. The fragmentation of the international order refers to the weakening and diminishing of US hegemonic influence in the international system. This trend is being driven by a combination of political, economic, and social factors [76, 2, 50, 56, 36].

One key factor contributing to the fragmentation of the international order is the loss of legitimacy of the United States. For several years, US foreign policy has been subject to criticism and controversy, leading to a decrease in trust and support for the country. From the invasion of Iraq in 2003 to the restrictive immigration policies of the Trump administration, the United States has been perceived as a unilateral actor with little regard for international norms and values.

Furthermore, the rise of new powers such as China and Russia has weakened US hegemony. These countries are actively challenging US leadership and seeking to increase their influence in the international system. China, for example, has increased its economic and diplomatic power by establishing trade and investment agreements worldwide. Russia, on the other hand, has used its influence in regional conflicts such as Ukraine and Syria to undermine the position of the United States.

The increase in fragmentation is also due to the weakening of international institutions. Organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have lost the ability to resolve conflicts and promote compliance with international norms. This is partly due to the lack of consensus among member countries and the growing trend towards unilateralism and protectionism.

This fragmentation of the international order has significant implications for global stability and balance. The lack of clear leadership and competition among different actors can lead to regional conflicts and geopolitical tensions. Furthermore, the lack of effective institutions to address global issues such as climate change, terrorism, and economic inequality hinders the collective resolution of these challenges.

### 7.3. Trend 3: The Rise of Regional Power

Regions are playing an increasingly important role in the international system. Regions are developing their own institutions and mechanisms of cooperation, which is challenging the power of major powers. In this sense, the rise of regional power is a trend that has been observed in recent years in the international system. This trend is developing in different parts of the world, such as Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Africa [61, 51, 7].

In Europe, for example, the European Union has managed to establish its own institutions, such as the European Commission and the European Parliament, which have acquired considerable power in decision-making and policy implementation in member states. Additionally, the European Union has established cooperation mechanisms, such as the single market and the monetary union, which have strengthened its global influence.

In Latin America, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is another example of a regional institution that is gaining power. This organization includes the participation of all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and aims to promote integration and cooperation in the region. Additionally, CELAC has established a cooperative relationship with the European Union, demonstrating its growing influence in the international arena.

In Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is another example of a regional organization that is gaining power. ASEAN is composed of ten member countries and aims to promote peace, stability, and development in the region. Additionally, ASEAN has established free trade agreements with other regions, such as the European Union and China, demonstrating its growing economic influence.

In Africa, the African Union is another regional organization that is gaining power. The African Union aims to promote integration and cooperation among African countries, and has established its own institutions, such as the African Union Commission and the Pan-African Parliament. Additionally, the African Union has played a key role in conflict resolution in the region, demonstrating its growing influence in the security field.

It is important to note that these scenarios are just some of the possible future configurations of the global geopolitical map, and there are diverse perspectives and opinions on the matter.

## 8. Key Drivers of Change and Their Potential Impact on the Global Balance of Power

There are several key drivers of change in the reconfiguration of global geopolitics that can have a significant impact on the balance of power worldwide. Some of these key drivers include [37, 21, 5, 75, 55]:

1. The rapid economic growth of countries like China, India, and other developing nations is shifting the global economic balance of power. These emerging economies are gaining influence and power, which can alter the

geopolitical dynamics as they challenge the traditional dominance of developed economies.

2. Demographic changes, such as population growth and migration, can have a significant impact on geopolitics. Population growth in regions like Asia and Africa is leading to a shift in power balance towards these areas. Additionally, the aging population in developed countries like the United States and Europe is impacting their global influence. Increasing population in certain regions can change the balance of power in those areas, while massive migration can alter geopolitical dynamics and create tensions between different countries.
3. Technological advancements and the growing importance of cyberspace are changing the way states interact and compete with each other. Capabilities in areas such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and military technology can influence the global balance of power and geopolitical relations. Technological advancements are changing the way geopolitics is conducted. The digital revolution has enabled greater connectivity and facilitated the dissemination of information and access to resources. This has led to a shift in the exercise of power, with non-state actors like tech companies playing an increasingly important role in global politics.
4. Climate change and the scarcity of natural resources such as water and fossil fuels can have a significant impact on geopolitics. The struggle for resources can generate tensions and conflicts between countries, and the impact of climate change in terms of migration and security can alter the global balance of power. Climate change and the scarcity of natural resources are leading to increased competition among countries for access to these resources. This is changing alliances and international relations as countries seek to secure their access to vital resources.
5. Political and social changes, such as popular protests, nationalist movements, and shifts in international politics, can also alter global geopolitics. These changes can lead to the emergence of new actors or the weakening of traditional actors, which can affect the global balance of power.
6. The impact of these key drivers on the global balance of power can be varied and complex. It can lead to changes in international alliances and partnerships, the emergence of new global leaders or the decline of old leaders, and shifts in power dynamics in different regions of the world. Overall, the reconfiguration of global geopolitics and its impact on the global balance of power is a complex and evolving process.

Lastly, changes in international relations are driving the reconfiguration of global geopolitics. The weakening of international institutions and the rise of nationalism are leading to a shift in the way international relations are conducted. Additionally, rivalry between major powers like the United States and China is changing the dynamics of power in the international system. Key drivers of change and

their potential impact on the global balance of power

There are several key drivers of change in the reconfiguration of global geopolitics that can have a significant impact on the balance of power worldwide. Some of these key drivers include [75, 54, 38, 21, 5]:

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## 9. Opportunities and Challenges That May Arise from a New Geopolitical Configuration

A new geopolitical configuration can present both opportunities and challenges for the countries and actors involved. Some examples are mentioned below:

A new geopolitical configuration can open up new trade and investment opportunities. For example, the opening of new markets, the creation of strategic alliances, or the adoption of favorable economic policies can boost the economic growth of countries. According to the National Intelligence Council's "Global Trends 2030" report, economic growth in developing and emerging countries could generate new opportunities for cooperation and development.

Changes in geopolitical configuration can pose security challenges. For example, the emergence of new actors or the reconfiguration of alliances can generate tensions and conflicts. According to Saul Cohen's book "Geopolitics: A World View from the Space" (2011), security challenges may include competition for natural resources, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and ethnic or religious conflicts.

A new geopolitical configuration can foster cooperation among countries. For example, the formation of regional blocs or the creation of international organizations can facilitate the resolution of common problems and promote sustainable development. According to Colin Flint's book "Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations" (2012), cooperation on issues such as climate change, food security, or poverty reduction can be opportunities for countries in a new geopolitical configuration.

The new geopolitical configuration can pose environmental challenges. For example, the increasing demand for natural resources or the expansion of economic activities can have a negative impact on the environment. According to the World Development Report 2019: The Changing Nature of Work by the World Bank, environmental challenges may include ecosystem degradation, climate change, and natural resource scarcity.

The role of international and regional organizations in the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map has been critical, yet they still face challenges in fulfilling their roles.

International and regional organizations play an important role in shaping global relations and governance. These organizations, such as the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization of American States, and the

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, among others, aim to promote peace, stability, and cooperation among countries.

In the context of the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map, these organizations face new challenges. One of the main challenges is the growing polarization and the emergence of regional conflicts. The increasing tensions between world powers, such as the United States and China, and territorial disputes in different regions, such as the South China Sea and the conflict in Ukraine, test the ability of these organizations to mediate and resolve conflicts.

In addition, international and regional organizations must also adapt to changes in the global economy and the emergence of new actors. The rise of emerging economies, such as China, India, and Brazil, poses challenges in terms of representation and decision-making in these organizations. The reform of international institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, has become an important topic of debate to ensure greater inclusion and representation of these new actors.

Strategies to face the challenges and seize the opportunities that arise in this geopolitical reconfiguration:

1. Facing the challenges and seizing the opportunities of geopolitical reconfiguration requires solid approaches and strategies.
2. In the face of geopolitical reconfiguration, it is important for countries to seek to diversify their alliances and international relationships. This involves establishing links with different international actors, both traditional and emerging, to avoid excessive dependence on a single country or economic bloc.
3. Strengthening diplomatic ties and collaboration between different countries and regional blocs is essential. This includes participation in international organizations and multilateral agreements to address common problems such as climate change, international trade, refugees, and global security.
4. Diversifying alliances and opening up to new markets is important to avoid relying exclusively on one alliance or market. Instead, countries should seek to establish relationships with different countries and regions to avoid excessive dependence on a single power or geographical area. This will allow for the exploitation of economic and trade growth opportunities.
5. Facing the challenges and seizing the opportunities of geopolitical reconfiguration may involve strengthening regional integration. This includes promoting trade and cooperation agreements between countries in the same region, which can help counter external pressures and better exploit economic and political opportunities.
6. In a context of geopolitical reconfiguration, it is important for countries to promote innovation and technological development as a strategy to maintain competitiveness. This involves investing in research and development, promoting talent formation in key areas, and fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors in innovation projects.
7. In the face of the challenges and opportunities of geopolitical reconfiguration, it is important to strengthen education and citizenship training on global issues. This involves promoting education that fosters understanding of cultural diversity, respect for human rights, and awareness of global challenges, preparing individuals to face changes and seize emerging opportunities.
8. It is important to develop a strong and resilient economy that can withstand the negative impacts of geopolitical changes, such as trade wars or financial crises. This includes diversifying sources of income, fostering innovation, and promoting investment in infrastructure.
9. Instead of adopting isolationist or nationalist positions, it is important to promote multilateralism and regional leadership to address challenges and seize opportunities. This includes strengthening regional organizations such as the European Union, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
10. In the face of geopolitical reconfiguration, it is necessary to strengthen multilateralism as a mechanism to address global challenges. This involves supporting and strengthening international organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the World Health Organization (WHO), promoting dialogue and cooperation between countries to address common challenges such as climate change, poverty, or security.
11. Geopolitical reconfiguration may also require greater attention to economic diplomacy. This involves using foreign policy and international relations to promote the country's economic interests, seeking investment, trade, and cooperation opportunities in different regions of the world.

## 10. Conclusions

In conclusion, the reconfiguration of the global geopolitical map presents a series of challenges and perspectives that must be considered in the realm of power relations and the geographical distribution of political, economic, and military influence at the international level. It is important to pay attention to the role of powers such as China, Russia, Japan, and the United States in regional and global scenarios:

At the global level:

- 1) A multipolar world is emerging, with China and the United States as the main economic and political powers.
- 2) Russia seeks to counterbalance NATO by expanding its influence.
- 3) China displaces the United States as the main global superpower.
- 4) Russia and China form a strategic alliance.
- 5) The United States maintains global primacy by relying on alliances with Europe, Japan, and emerging countries. China faces economic slowdown.

In Latin America:

- 1) Economic cooperation with China continues while preserving democratic values and ties with the United States.
- 2) China displaces U.S. influence through control of key resources and debt accumulation by countries.
- 3) Regional Latin American integration and multilateralism are strengthened, with diversification of international partners.

In the Middle East:

- 1) U.S. influence persists through alliances with regional powers. Russia and China seek greater prominence.
- 2) Russia displaces the United States as the main military partner of key countries such as Iran and Syria.
- 3) Arab countries find a beneficial balance between ties with the United States, China, and Russia.

These are just some possible scenarios, which will be determined by how different actors manage the impending geopolitical tensions. Uncertainty is high in 21st-century geopolitics.

One possible future scenario considering the geopolitical role of China, Russia, Japan, and the United States could be:

- 1) China consolidates its position as the main global economic power and seeks to project greater military power, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. It advances its commercial integration initiatives such as the Belt and Road.
- 2) The United States, while maintaining its global influence, must accept a multipolar world where it needs the cooperation of powers like Japan and Europe to counterbalance China. Its focus is more on the Asia-Pacific region, trying to contain China.
- 3) Russia aligns itself more closely with the China-Iran axis, creating a situation of greater tension with Europe and the United States. It intensifies its military power, particularly nuclear weapons. It leverages its energy reserves to have geopolitical influence.
- 4) Japan takes on a more active role in alliance with the United States, expanding its military capabilities to protect its sovereignty against China. It also seeks greater autonomy by diversifying economic relations with Southeast Asia.

In Latin America, China partially displaces U.S. influence, becoming the main trading and investing partner. However, most countries maintain close ties with Washington.

In the Middle East, Russia increases its military presence by supporting authoritarian regimes. China also gains economic influence by taking advantage of the relative decline of the United States in the region. Thus, the scenario is marked by growing geopolitical tension among major powers in a new era of complex multipolarity.

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## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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