

## **Interpreting Rising China and Its Impact on World Politics**

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### **Abstract**

The study aims to summarize and assess the various interpretations of rising China. The rise of China after the Cold War is the most debated topic in international relations and its multiple implications for global politics. Due to the rapid growth of China, it has become the world's second-largest economy. The United States, as an established hegemonic power, has concerns about the economic and as well as military advancement of rising China. This paper examines both realist and liberal perspectives regarding the rise of China. Different scholars have conflicting views about China's hegemony, or whether China may challenge the global liberal order. According to the realist perspective, China's economic growth leads to the development of military capabilities on one side. On the other side, it will become a regional hegemon and a global hegemonic power. The liberal perspective mostly focuses on the economic engagement of China with its neighboring countries as well as with the world. The article develops the concept of the grand strategy of China by engaging world nations economically through the one Belt and One Road Initiative, which can lead to

enhancing its sphere of influence. China's rise could also increase the tensions with the United States, which may cause tremendous effects on global politics. China is achieving more international responsibilities and claiming its role according to its strength and capacity.

**Keywords:** *Rise of China, Realism, Hegemony, Global community, Multilateralism*

## **1. Introduction**

China has a long history of civilization. It has been the strongest and most flourishing empire in the world throughout history. It is currently producing the world's fastest-growing economy in the last three decades, and its rise has sired many discussions. According to Joseph S. Nye, the 'rise of China is a contradiction; reemergence' is more accurate. (S. Nye, 1997-98). China has achieved remarkable growth in the twenty-first century and gained a significant role in global politics. The rising China factor has generated great discussions among political scholars, but their explanations are varied about China's rising power in every sector and its development. China's rising power as a reason for concern and a way for the clash stems from the theory of realism assumptions that the nature of the State with heavy economic growth and rise as a powerful country certainly take advantage of the anarchic international structure and its capabilities to develop its military power ultimately will lead to the international conflict and confrontation. China's rising power is probably a way to change the power balance in the region considerably. The ally countries in the East Asian region may have concerns between the U.S. and Japan (Dent, 2008). The usual Hobbesian traditions of the security dilemma have generated doubtful impressions and opposing results. The rise of China as a great power has grabbed attention across the globe (Beckley, 2012, 41). There is no consensus among international political

scholars and researchers on how China will respond to the global liberal order and the future of Sino-USA relations. It is understood that the country's economic power leads to the country's military capabilities and increases the political influence within the international system. Paul Kennedy claims that modern nations can increase global influence, and hegemony lies in their productive capacity. (Kennedy, 1988, 472-480). Globalization of world politics has a significant impact on the global system and can bring major changes and reforms. The global system consists of global power structures such as international power hierarchy (Uni Polar, Bipolar, Tri-Polar, and Multipolar world), rational international actors (States), international institutions (United Nations, WTO, WHO, IMF, World Bank), and International Law. Due to globalization, international politics faces significant changes, such as economic globalization, which has brought the nations into a path of economic development that can further lead to a multipolar world. With the significant transformation in the system power structure, scholars view the multi-polarization and increase in the importance of international institutions and organizations. However, nation-states' importance in the international system cannot be ignored. The nation-states are still rational actors in global politics and structure. But several international non-state actors pose significant effects and increase their influence. Transnational corporations and international organizations have a greater role in international relations. But some international organizations pose a threat to world peace and development through terrorist activities, threatening different countries' security, and undermining the ultimate sovereignty of the nations. Due to these terror activities, the world nations fight against the common enemy and also brought new priorities and interests in countries' foreign policy. The emergence of transitional international terror groups; they are undermining global security, political stability, and sovereignty. On the

other side, international transnational or multinational corporations and economic institutions have provided different economic and developmental opportunities to the global community for increasing their economic activities and trade relations. Economic globalization is increasing interdependency among states and nations. China became a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council in the early 1970s since it actively participated in different multilateral regimes. China's active participation in the global economic institutions has strengthened its economic reforms and opening towards international trade markets in the early 1980s. China started to take a strong position in multilateralism in Asia now, and multilateralism is an integral part of its foreign policy objectives and diplomacy. It can say that China no longer avoids multilateralism in the Asian region, its participation almost in all global economic and political institutions and forums led to a great power position. China has established the most influential regional organization called Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Now, China is concerned about regional political order and is an active actor and player in global politics. Beijing has shown its confidence in the world by participating in multilateral security activities. Particularly, China is strongly opposed to any preventive measure that would interrupt or possible source of domestic instability. China has augmented its participation in multilateral organizations and struggles to start and shape its discourse or narrative on international affairs in the different regions of the world. China's presence and active role in the international multilateral regimes or organizations have been a source of hope for developing nations to maintain the balance of power. The engagement of China in multilateral organizations and diplomacy is largely embraced by the global community in general and the developing nations in particular. The undertaken theories of international politics not only be enough to understand the rise of China but also to create

competing ideas from the realism and liberalism points of view. It would be helpful to get a deeper understanding of this difficult idea of rising China.

## **2. Material and methods**

To analyze the rise of China, the author implements the qualitative method to assess the theme of the study. Qualitative research allows a researcher to advance an emphatic understanding of social phenomena, facilitate recognition of subjective aspects of human behavior and experiences, and develop insights into the group's lifestyles and experiences that are meaningful, reasonable, and normal to those concerned. The data has been collected mainly from secondary sources such as Books, Articles from International Journals. It also includes Journals, Newspapers, other publications, and internet sources.

## **3. International liberal order and anarchic structure**

Rising powers are likely to disturb delicate balances and undermine the global order. (Breslin,2010) The realist theory stresses the core feature of the balance of power in the region and global politics to maintain direct conflict among countries. (Thompson, 2011) John Mearsheimer, a political scientist, and originator of offensive realism said that the superpowers have the capabilities to offense militarily, and this nature cannot be changed; the other countries do not know about the hidden goals and objectives. He is clear with his argument that rising China cannot be peaceful; China will maintain the remarkable growth of its economy over the coming years. He further states that it is probably the USA and China that will be involved in serious security competition and rivalry, which can lead to possible war scenarios. (Mearsheimer, 2006). The rise of China as a competing power to America raises its

apprehensions; the realist school of international relations advocates that such a tendency will lead to the downfall of globalization as states refuse economic openness in favor of economic nationalism. (Mearsheimer, 2019) Indifference, rising China doesn't have the outcome of the collapse of globalization and reduction of economic cooperation. Although, the rising power of China and the shifting international power dynamics can have a significant impact on global politics. China's rising power does not essentially threaten globalization as an equivalent power to the United States. (Grosse et al., 2021) In today's world, the most rising countries are non-western and developing nations that support the theory of liberal institutionalism could pave the approach for regional rivalry, establishing different alliances and influences. The different narratives cannot define and distinguish reality, though the United States narrative is varying that the international liberal structure is strong. But it is said that the powerful emerging countries in general and China, in particular, could demand more strong roles rather than challenge the basic principles and deep-rooted international liberal structure. (Ikenberry, 2011) Every country is dependent on another one in this age of globalization, which rising China can incorporate into the system. Therefore it's an opportunity for China to gain more support and soft power as a peaceful nation that believes in non-hegemonic and responsible emerging power. (Wang, 2008) Following liberal integration further unites this peaceful and non-aggressive representation. The theory of liberalism offers cooperation and interdependency that further create ways for greater influential efforts and a significant role in the global political structure. China as an emerging power would claim a significant role in international politics and could expand its influence. The competition between China and the United States is more likely to be economical, but this may also lead to confrontation. The policies of the United States to contain China by creating and making alliances with

democratic countries in Asia is unlikely to succeed because the neighboring Asian countries are trading and business partners of China. (Kissinger, 2011) We can take the example of China's Belt and Road Initiative to spread its trade relations beyond the borders, and it has engaged other nations economically. The Neo-realist scholar Kenneth Waltz, the originator of defensive realism more pessimistic about the possible international cooperation. He said that the self-help system makes cooperation among countries difficult. (Waltz, 1979) Another scholar Glaser argues that the theoretical narratives ignore the importance of institutions, and self-help can be an important factor for cooperation among countries. According to him, the realist viewpoint oversees the potential for competition among states. The actual point is that cooperation and support strategies are imperative forms of self-help. (Glaser, 1995) Currently, the global structure is based on the United States' ideological narrative, which supports its national benefits to strengthen its power. Different scholars have opposing ideas and views about the international system; some say that the existing liberal structure is stronger than the earlier systems. The existing international structure is flexible and can be modified easily but is difficult to remove or change. China has not tried to change or weaken the existing international system completely. China is learning from the existing system to turn the narratives and structure in its favor and interest. The international involvement and claimed significant role has helped China's policies towards other nations. It is engaging countries with trade, business, and soft image by non-interfering in domestic politics of others. This policy has created a wider ground for fulfilling its interests through the support of other nations. (Wilson, 2009) Liao argues that China's policy is not only a participant but also an active regional actor shaping regional security multilateralism. (Liao, 2012. 105) .

The rise of China begins in the global liberal order inter-weaved

domestic society models and international political economy. Its great economic development and growing evidence of its accommodation of the capitalist economy by opening to the international markets and productions. This development leads China to integrate with the international liberal order and liberal economic system. The basic norm of interdependence shows China's economy linked to the transnationalization of the Chinese political economy. (Ten Brink, 2019) In the era of globalization, China is depicting herself as a supporter of liberal globalization. In 2017 President Xi Jinping advocated during his speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos for a free market and economic globalization. President Xi welcomed the establishment of an open international economy and opposed trade protectionism. (Global Times, 2019) China was slowly incorporated into the domain of the USA from 1978, the special role played by the knowledge elites and built the networks by Ford Foundation. This foundation was founded by Sino-US knowledge elites and closely connected with globalizing Chinese elites through these knowledge networks; however, the neoliberal trends introduced in China were adapted by local elites. (Graaf, Brink & Parmar, 2020. 191-207).

The uni-polar concept is questionable in the contemporary era and the U.S. concept of a 'great Hegemon. So many beliefs ignore the basis of variety in state-society models and the legitimacy of other differences of opinions and ideas. Furthermore, it ignores mutual adaptation and learning. This kind of situation is ultimately on a slow merging or integration of China to the liberal values and institutions. (Graaf, Brink & Parmar, 2020. 191-207). China's participation in the economic, trade, and developmental activities worldwide and its commitment to U.N. multilateral frameworks have created different responses, particularly showing concerns from the United States. The narrative has been developed that the global order has been account of China's rising status



with the possible setback for an established hegemonic power U.S. Perceived rivalries between the United States and China, ranging from economy to technology, and geostrategic terrains to cyberspace, risk irrevocable consequences. (Yang, 2020. 288-305).

#### **4. Responsible power**

According to Gurtov, the rival powers China and the United States need to cooperate; the leadership of both countries soon realizes that the cooperation between the two countries will benefit their states and the international system. (Gurtov 2008) The Belt and Road initiative taken by China reflects the grand strategy that can pave the step toward a great power. Stivachtis states that China's compassionate approach to global politics is that its policies are complicated and not as much challenging but more productive approach to regional and global affairs. (Stivachtis, 2007). China pursues openness in government affairs to promote socialist political democracy. The socialist democracy and the legal system are further improved, indicating a stable and strong domestic system. While studying the ideas of realists, it can be said that the theory cannot define international cooperation among nations, such as trade and financial cooperation, and issues like health and environmental cooperation. Keohane argues that institutionalists do not expect cooperation always to prevail, but they are aware of the flexibility of interests, and they argue that interdependence creates interests in cooperation. Liberal international arrangements for trade and international finance respond to the need for policy coordination created by the fact of interdependence. (Keohane,1984) Using only one factor of economic interdependence to define the rise of China is susceptible. So still need to find a shared and common ground for mutual benefits. China's involvement in international organizations and the

encouragement of cooperation arises, ensuring all members are awarded a share of winnings, meaning that they are less likely to engage in conflict with one another. According to the Professor Wang Jisi of Peking University, China is strengthening its cultural development at the domestic level. It wishes to increase its soft power at the international level as well. China advocates or promotes the concept of global harmony proves the peaceful rise with a shared future and interests. But the concept has been interpreted differently by different scholars and nations. The promotion and strengthening of China's cultural soft power are not meant to the damaging or challenge other's soft power. (Jisi, 2010. 6649-6652) As an active beneficiary of the international economic system and globalization, China has gone through a process of recognizing and slowly acclimatizing to the ongoing global economic and political system. With the growing international influence, China's responsibilities and duties are also increasing; the developing nations expect a rising power to play a greater role and take more global responsibilities rather than engage in competition with the other countries. Both China and USA will be responsive to global views and behaviors. China is accumulating power, most possibility China regards itself as the world's leading great power and influential nation with incredible economic advancement and values. China's emerging global status and historical rich cultural values have motivated the world nations, including the United States, to the reality of "soft power as well as soft image. Now that China can presumably sense that great power status is securely within its reach, Beijing is also determined not to take any step that can damage her soft image globally. The United Nations is the most important universal institution in the global political system. As a member of the U.N. security council, China can play an important role and contribute to the reforms and establishment of a fair development model for the peace and prosperity of the world. The United States

insisted on multilateralism and made its alliance by claiming democracy and human rights; the two rival countries (China and Russia) have stood up and provided their definition of multilateralism. The meeting between Wang Yi and Lavrov in Guilin, South China, is the most important following the Alaska dialogue between China and the USA. Experts said that the meeting and a joint statement by both countries' foreign ministers on global governance are huge setbacks to the U.S. claimed rules-based global order. It stressed all countries should determinedly defend the international system with the U.N. at its core and the global order with international law as the basis. (Sheng & Anqi, 2021). China, the permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, opposes the definitions and narratives about the international system shaped by the U.S. The increasing role of China in multilateral regimes and organizations lies where China pursues status and demonstrates that it is a responsible rising power. It is also reluctant to give too much credibility to the legitimacy of the social structure and the pertinent norms that it might prefer to adjust or displace. (Clark, 2014, 315-340). An increasing urge to promote its preferences in multilateral frameworks needs to be balanced with the risk of being perceived as advancing alternative values in conflict with the evolution of solidaristic global values.(Yang, 2020. 288-305)

## **5. The policy of peaceful development**

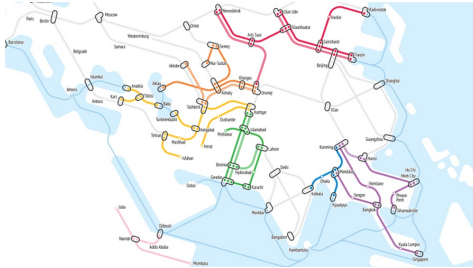
The U.S. has concerns about the significant growing role of China in the world's political system. China is the ideological adversary of western nations as well. China says as a peaceful rise' regardless of the extensive doubts and concerns about China's rising power. The doubts and fears of other countries are reasonable because China is not a democratic state. But the Chinese government officials are continuously saying that it has

no intention to disrupt the existing global structure. (Zhou, 2010) Looked with an unclear international picture by those who support the "theory of China threats," the officials in China are required to make sure that the peaceful rise means a moral and progressive figure. (Lu, 2012) In 2006, China developed five rules or principles of peaceful coexistence. "China maintains military contracts with other countries based on the 5 Doctrines of Peaceful Coexistence and expands cooperative military relations that are non-confrontational and not directed against any third party" (Dellios, 2010) 1. The rise of China as a peaceful nation is an expected approach to the country's progress and development, 2. Work for peace and improvement of the global community with the country's large growth, 3. It is strengthening Chinese innovation and capabilities, 4. Work with other nations for mutual benefits and cooperation. 5. To promote harmony in the global community and mutual progress. These five points for developing its country and world prosperity are the basic and essential principles of nation-building and Chinese foreign policy. According to a policy researcher of foreign office Wang Yajun, China does not believe in power competition and global hegemonic desires. He further said that the main objective of Chinese foreign policy is based on mutual trust, common development, and work to make a proper and stable global environment for progress and peace. (Shengnan, 2012) According to Sutter, the policy of peaceful rise has changed the behavior of the Chinese State. China knows big differences with the United States' hegemony and supremacy in different world issues. China also has concerns about the U.S. policy toward Taiwan and other serious problems in Asia that damages Chinese interests in the region. (Sutter, 2012) According to the Chinese Embassy in India, China will attempt a better life for its people and contribute to human progress through innovation and establishing friendly relations and mutually beneficial

cooperation with other nations. This has become a national commitment manifest in strategies for national development and improvement made in China's action. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that China would continue to follow a peaceful development path, uphold the existing international system, and favor cooperation over confrontation while shouldering more responsibilities as the country moves closer to the world's center stage. The Belt and Road Initiative, first suggested by President Xi Jinping in 2013, aims to build a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe, Africa, and beyond. President Xi's ideas for the future are to build a community with shared interests and a common future for all nations widely accepted around the world. Today the economic imbalance and unequal development lead to the creation of non-traditional security issues and threats in global politics. These threats endanger the country's sovereignty and political instability, increasing potential international conflicts. The nations much worried about the shortage of energy and food and water resources would regenerate the competition for territories that have been less common now. The world development model requires changing the approach to development, the use of resources, population growth, and improving the rule of law. At the same time, the societal development as a whole and increase in the development production. The economic achievement is driving the growth of world economic development, and poverty elimination was recognized worldwide. The rising power of the economic competition to secure financial strength and economic dominancy can also create a sense of economic insecurity in other countries. The innovations in science and technology and educational development may lead to the powerful rising capabilities of the nation. China needs long-term peace in the international environment for its economic and social development. (Liping, 2009) At the Asian Annual Conference for 2015 held at the

Baao Forum, Xi outlined the trajectory of China's economic strategy and the security conditions that the country seeks to maintain in the future. These two critical points from President Xi's statement provide a means to think about China's future relationship with the international political system. As Xi states, "In the coming five years, China will import more than US\$10 trillion of goods, Chinese investment abroad will exceed US\$500 billion, and more than 500 million outbound visits will be made by Chinese tourists. China will stick to its basic state policy of opening up, improving its investment climate, and protecting the lawful rights and interests of investors. What China needs most is a harmonious and stable domestic environment and a peaceful international environment, the unstable global system or war runs against the fundamental interests of the Chinese people"(Xi Jinping, 2015). President Xi's speech was considerable policy-shaping with Chinese characteristics means no country can achieve its goals and interests by force. The policy continuation of Hu and Xi reflects that China is working with the multilateral structure of the world. Though China will protect the role of the State in mediating the relationship with the international economy, it will continue to reform its economic structure to meet the international market standards. President Xi also expressed that China will actively protect its sovereignty in the South China Sea; the policy also reflects the continuation of Hu Jintao's policy remarks in 2009 to take a stance on some aspects of China's foreign policy. (Farrell, 2015).

**Figure 1.** The six economic corridors of the Slik Road Economic Belt and the 21st century Maritime Silk Road could improve transportation and connect several countries



Source: World Bank

## 6. Implication on world politics

The impact of rising China on global politics has been the most debated and hot topic in the global political spheres. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, a new debate emerges globally on new emerging power. The main theoretical approaches to International Relations, the Realist school, and the Liberal approach have their narratives and interpretations regarding rising China as a great power. First, the scholars of the realist approach interpret power politics, as the nature of states seeking power, selfish, and more pessimistic about the future. This approach applies to the rise of China as a great power, most possibly to dominate world politics, extend its influence beyond the borders, and probably engage in war to achieve its national interests and goals. The nature of the powerful country is aggressive, expansionism, and world dominance ultimately leads to war. Second, the liberal approach narrative is more optimistic about the world's future; liberals believe in cooperation, economic engagement of the states, and justice. The international structure is anarchical, but there are ways for cooperation, economic

activities, and interdependency. The interpretation of rising China can be seen within international cooperation and peaceful developments. The 21st century is an era of globalization, shrinking the world markets and allowing us to reach the world easily and quickly. Globalization has changed the global shape; it has, directly and indirectly, affected every sphere of life. The international system is also affected by the free flow of information; it has reshaped the country's foreign policies, economic activities, and social spectrum of the societies. Historically, the international system was dominated by power politics, a lack of international organizations, and a multipolar world having more than two great powers at the same time. The great powers were engaged in an arms race, making alliances, and divided nations based on ideologies and influences, the realist school was dominant on the global spectrum of world politics. It is evident that the two world wars happened because of Multi-Polarity, states selfish behaviors, power politics, and an arms race with hegemonic desires. Today's world is dominated by liberal views with tremendous economic and political cooperation among nations. The establishment of international governmental and non-governmental organizations has widened cooperation and negotiations. China also endorses international cooperation, actively participating in global regimes, like the United Nations, World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Health Organization. As a rising power, China has managed its global international system to integrate itself into the world economic institutions. China is a member of the IMF and World Bank once they were considered tools of capitalism or capitalist economy. (Heng, 2017) The cooperative behavior of China indicates that the Chinese authorities are willing to cooperate and integrate with international institutions; China believes in the International system, norms, and values. (Ye, 2002) The rigidities between China and the United States intensify; it is



considered that the basic reason for the tension is the possible transition of power in the global structure. One powerful State can replace the established powerful hegemon in the international system. The rise of China has a history of consecutive economic growth that paves the journey for global power. Its major investments in important technologies and developing infrastructure have created a strong position for geo-economic influence in the global community. Beijing is expanding Belt and Road Initiative to bring different countries into its sphere of influence. The United States has several concerns that mostly come from its hegemonic status in global politics; America and the western world are the ideological adversary of China and its incompatibility with the western value system. For these reasons, America has concerns and tries to persuade her western allies about China's rising power of its ideological orientation that threatens both the United States hegemonic status and the global system. From a Realist point of view, China has to achieve its interest and respect. The notion of nationalism might drive China into a course of clash with America if the U.S. declines to accommodate and share the global leadership with China as a rising power. The United States often hesitates, and the relationship between the two global powers is shifting from conflict to confrontation, competition, and conflict but rarely with cooperation. The trade and economic issues and other disputes between China and the U.S. are likely to resurface again. If these tensions become more intense, there is a possibility of a new 'Cold War between the east and the West. This time the cold war will not limit ideological expansion even though it will create intense disputes among other countries and economic imbalances. The developing will have no third choice either to be with USA or China. For the last two to three years U.S. and China have sought to limit each other's influence in the global economic and political system. We cannot expect that China and the United States

tensions will cause a decline in net global integration. China is a regional influencer might be it will use strategic policies with economic relations on bilateral or multilateral levels. (Breslin, 2009) China has gained an active role in international politics as the sole member of the U.N. Security Council from Asia. China has never encouraged war against any country and believes in negotiations and table talks to resolve global and regional issues. Regarding the issues in the South China Sea and the one-China policy, China will not compromise any foreign interference in its sphere of influence. The power transition may not be possible so easily in the contemporary world; the international power spectrum is different from those in the past. The United States, as an established superpower by having a global reach and a significant influence in Asian regions, will not allow any rising power to challenge its hegemony across the globe. The rising power will benefit the world economy by helping to create a big world market and will assist in the field of science and technology. Economic growth will stimulate by new inventions and an increase in investments. Historically China has shown a complete leap in the economy and political spheres. Rising China needs to be interpreted as an optimistic narrative rather than a pessimistic one because China is the biggest market and has increased development in science and technological fields. The growing influence of China's economic role in the international political economy may lead to designing a new international economic order. The tensions between China and the USA on trade and economic superiority show that both countries have different approaches to the global economic crisis. The inclusive reforms of the international economic institutions such as the IMF and World Bank called China raised questions and showed the different approaches toward financial institutions. (Lee, 2010 Asiafoundation.org) It is difficult to come to China and USA on an agreement on current trade disputes and issues. China has widened its

market on a global and regional level and enhanced its influence by providing big market and regional production networks. China may not engage in global conflicts and may try to resolve issues through negotiations through bilateral and multilateral means. Still, it can also sense the status of global power and influence. Under the shadow of the Belt and Road initiative, China has expanded its business, trade cooperation, and influence across the world from Asia, Africa, and Europe. Currently, the European countries have engaged in trade relations, indicating that the nations are interdependent. Liberal school seems dominant in International Relations in today's world. The liberal scholars encourage the nations to engage with other nations economically, having trade relations to avoid any sort of military conflict with each other. China uses bilateral and multilateral platforms to increase trade relations and economic influence to achieve its economic objectives and national interests. The soft image of China in mainly developing nations of Asia and Africa is positive and increasing in other parts of the world. China is the fastest developing country globally. The China Communist Party leads it; the dominant thought in the West is that rising China can disturb the ongoing international system and may challenge the liberal order. The realist school dominant scholars argue the power transition cannot be peaceful the ultimate Sino-USA confrontation cannot be avoided. Although the scholars agreed on the importance of revisionist intentions in the transition of power, as evidence, some power transitions have been peaceful in history (Fravel 2010, 505-532). For example, in the 21st century, the power transition between the United Kingdom and the United States. China has adopted consistent foreign policies with the status quo, not revisionist purposes (Kang, 2007).

Furthermore, the theories of economic interdependence, the scholars view that it would be wide-scale consequences for China if it adapts

aggressive foreign policy, particularly it will damage to its economic development, and lost trade and investment. China cannot adjust an aggressive foreign policy because of economic interdependence, and participation in the global order that has facilitated its emergence. (Kirshner, 2008. Zhu, 2008). Aggressive foreign policy would damage economic development and trigger the establishment of an alliance of countries to contain the aggressive policies, which can undermine China's grand strategy of reassurance. (Goldstein, 2005) China has extended its economic and diplomatic relations with other countries by establishing a new financial institution Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. It has the position to deliver the goods and products with a huge amount of investment through the Belt and Road Initiative. With the growing influence of China in the region so some countries have been concerned with its lack of economic balance, technological supremacy, and dominant foreign policy practices. (Haenle, 2020) Most developing nations look toward China to fulfill their financial needs and trade relations. China has established itself as financially oriented, and cooperative and avoids interference in other's domestic affairs. On the other side, China will maintain the "One China" policy and maintain its superiority in the South China Sea. China is obtaining power and influence through the failure of the states to pay back loans. Developing nations or states need funds and economic stability to enhance their capabilities and protect their interests. The IMF offers loans to developing countries but has some unwanted adjustment programs. China offers loans without any structural adjustment programs. The economic engagement strategy with other states is likely to be more fruitful for China's international influence. (Kassab, 2020).

To some extent, China uses its economic power to increase its influence over developing nations. It has increased its capability to push aside the United States and strengthen its international position as a great

power. Playing the great power game, China is dominating international relations. (Kassab, 2020. 507-538) China believes in confidence measures and partnership diplomacy; China thinks that it is an integral part of the global power structure, and the international community should treat her as part of the system but not an outsider. The global community recognizes China as a non-challenging and non-aggressive international power, China can create a new source for interstate relations within the international system that will also pave the way for the goal of China's dream, and then China will be able to formulate the global economic and security mechanisms accordingly. (Popovic & Stevic, 2021).

The argument behind the possible war between the US and rising China comes from the realist school of thought. The American renowned realist scholar Graham Allison is a strong proponent of possible war between the US and China stated in his book 'Destined for War: Can American and China Escape Thucydides's Trap. He further explains the argument that the war is inevitable because an ascending power (China) and existing power (USA) history says, when the ascending power rise to challenge the hegemony of an established power then the war is inevitable. (Allison, 2017). Although several scholars are advocating the possible clash between these two great powers here I quote the main arguments of Realist Scholar John Mearsheimer stated in his article 'The Inevitable Rivalry' America, China and the Tragedy of Great power Politics' he criticized the liberal's strategy after the end of the cold war for engaging China with the US and resting of the world and gradually China became powerful by developing technology and economy. He stated further that this strategy was a flawed strategy adopted by liberals to bring change to the political system in China. (Mearsheimer 2021) Realist argument by containing a powerful China through power ultimately paves the way for a clash between USA and China. By

assessing these arguments it can be said that the arguments are not entirely true. The USA as an established power may not be unaware of a rising power. I will quote another argument here written by Wang Jisi 'The Plot against China: how Beijing sees the new Washington consensus' published in August 2021. The argument developed by Wang Jisi that the relations between China and America were the basis of two things, the one-China policy, and two political orders, the one-China policy is the cornerstone of relations between these two countries. He further says that Americans agreed that the US will not interfere in the internal matters of China and that the US will respect China's internal order (CCP). On the other hand, China agreed that China will accept the global leadership of the USA and China will support the US-shaped global liberal order or structure. Furthermore, he developed the argument that America has not fulfilled its commitment, and right from the very beginning, at the end of the cold war the US began to interfere in the internal affairs of China and put sanctions.

## **7. Conclusion**

As the world's most rapidly growing economy, China is playing an increasingly important role in world affairs with increasing political weight and strategic significance. This focused pursuit of economic power has not reduced but considerably improved Beijing's strategic role in world affairs. The modern strategy and peaceful development approach might indeed be proven as a win-win situation for China and its neighbors. Due to the scope and speed of Chinese economic growth, the economic challenge also has great political and strategic implications.(Zhao and Liu, 2007) The analysis specifies the 'peaceful development as a grand strategy. The culture of China encompasses conflicting concepts about the use of force in global politics, such as

Confucianism emphasizing the rule of humanity and benevolence; Daoism stresses following the natural way of moderation and harmony.(Ames and Rosemont Jr, 1999). The repercussion is that in explaining China's rise, these two theories must be analyzed in combination with each other, not in opposition to each other. Indeed, “the complex correlations between power and interest defy analytic capture by any paradigm” though, this is insufficient. Combining both theories will lead to a more inclusive and correct clarification of emerging China. Besides, advocates of these theories use history to describe and understand present, or future discourse, assumptions incline to be too simple-minded. They have been agreeable to adjusting characteristics of their economic design that are comparable to the U.S. economy and have engaged in international diplomacy and economic cooperation. The initiative of Belt and Road seems to be China’s drive to economic development and connection to the world communities, which ultimately can lead to China’s global influence. China emphasizes common economic interests and better international or global governance. The initiative has drawn the world's attention to China, and several countries have continued to show interest in being part of this Belt and Road program. The new concept of common destiny has been endorsed by the United Nations in support of development within developing countries, particularly in the African region and Asia, as a shared future and shared humanity. (Abbas, 2020) Some scholars of international relations argue that China is not satisfied with the globally established status quo dominated by the U.S. and its European allies. (Gu et al., 2019, He 2016, Wang, 2015) Belt and Road Initiative is also perceived as a strategy to dominate the global structure.(Igbal et al, 2019, Zhao et al, 2019). BRI is also perceived as a policy of restructuring power globally to accept China's position as a global power. (Gu et al., 2019) Therefore, international status quo powers are

more reluctant to recognize this program Belt and Road. Currently, the United States is an established superpower, and it prides itself on being the hegemonic power in the anarchic international structure. The United States sees China as a global competitor for its hegemony that the country can challenge or disrupt the prevailing global order, the same as other great powers consider China more realistically as a global competitor for their existing positions. Realist scholars or pessimists claim that rising China will expand its influence beyond the borders. The success and failure of BRI depend on the capabilities and capacities of the host countries in the enforcement and successful monitoring of the projects. It depends on the hosting nations and countries to exercise their power to negotiate according to the mutual interests and beneficial outcomes of the investments. The countries should formulate favorable policies and strategies for promoting trade, facilitation, and sustainable infrastructure. It should also focus on human development. China emphasizes that emerging powers should be treated equally compared to developed countries in global governance. In simple words, China wants to increase its influence in world affairs according to its growing economic strength. The influence of the United States is changing in world politics because the sole superpower got a new and potential competitor. China's growing influence and strong holding economy are proof of a new competing power in global politics. Jim O says that the fastest-growing Chinese economy could surpass the United States by 2027. (Ahmed, 2011) Usually, in an international structure, states are involved in power politics. The influence and role of China in international political issues are increasing. China has been engaging in diplomacy since the mid-1990s significantly. Since then, China's position has grown strong in different regional and international issues. Its foreign policy is a more practical and pragmatic approach to international and global security problems. Although, China stated that it



is engaged economically with other nations and desires a greater global harmonious world. It has desires for a harmonious community with a shared future and cooperation. But the realist assumptions stress the expansion of state power, capabilities, and influence. Trade and economic disputes are more likely to reappear between China and the U.S if these issues become more extreme, they will surely impact world political dynamics.

Here I will again quote the realist argument and critic on liberals by saying that the liberals wanted to collapse the political order of China by engaging China in a trade liberalization with the US and the rest of the world. But the liberals have failed to weaken the internal political system, and even the system gradually became more powerful and widely accepted by the people of China. The entire American approach and engagement with China were to weaken the political order within China. America always supported some groups against China to create internal instability to undermine the political system. China says that we are not going to expand the political ideology to the rest of the world, China engages economically through business with other nations. On the other side, the US-led western order expands and propagates its values to implement its system in other nations. In this case, China resists and will not accept any other value system, it is the need of the era that the western system should accommodate some non-western values as well. On this point, the understanding between US and China must be mutual and moderate, the US cannot ignore entirely the existence of other nations and their values. If both countries do not create a mutual understanding then there will be possible disruption between the US and China and will have tremendous effects on global politics and no one will win.

## Notes

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