



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# China's Strategic Influence on US Foreign Relations in the Early 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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**Article History :** Submitted 20 August 2024; Reviewed 10 March 2025; Accepted 18 April 2025

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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.3126/paj.v8i1.78893>

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## ABSTRACT

The research investigates China's foreign policy impact on U.S. diplomatic relations during the start of the twenty-first century from the perspective of continuous changes in superpower relationships. China developed into an international economic and political power after many years of staying isolated, before it transformed its relationship with the United States. The noticeable economic expansion between the United States and China occurred despite sanctions that followed the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989. The research examines both the cooperative phases and competitive moments to evaluate China's role in the world system under U.S. leadership. The study incorporates data from trade statistics and secondary resources, together with qualitative and quantitative analytical approaches to assess whether China's rise opposes U.S. leadership or supports its international interests. The findings suggest that China's long-term strategic preference supports cooperation rather than competition

because it prefers to establish itself within the existing international structures. The analysis concludes that U.S.-China relations develop through complex interdependence as the two nations sustain their bilateral relationship despite their fundamental political conflicts.

**KEYWORDS:** China, economic relations, foreign policy, international relations, USA

## INTRODUCTION

China's fast rise in global impact may be due to how quickly it is modernizing. The new China's test will be how to handle its relations with the world's dominant nation, the US. This partnership has a huge effect on China's national interests. In recent years, there has been significant uncertainty in the relationship between the two countries, leading to intense debates about potential policies towards each other.

In the United States, people are discussing whether a rising China will follow international law and keep things the same or whether it will become a nationalist state that wants to change the world order.

Some argue that the US should exert pressure on China to curb its power due to its hostile nature. Most people, though, believe that if the US works with China, it can get Beijing to follow the rules of the international community (Carpenter & Dorn, 2000).

Chinese leaders are considering how China can effectively accomplish its objectives in a world where the United States holds a dominant position. They say China should base its policy on what the US wants to do with China and how power will balance between the two countries in the future. Theoretically, different acceptable ways to deal with the United States would come about if the United States had friendly or aggressive intentions and the balance of power was friendly or unfriendly (Legro, 2007).

Everyone knows that it's difficult to determine what a country's plans are for another country. Its main problems are bias, lack of knowledge, and inadequate communication. Chinese leaders and academics are never sure how to figure out what the US wants with China (Zhang, 2004). On the other hand, it is much easier to measure a country's strengths or powers. This piece argues that China's strategies towards the US should take into account the issue of power. This is the standard view of the realist movement in foreign politics. It shows how important power is when making choices about foreign policy. Given the expected shift in power between China and the US, the article poses the question, "What is China's most practical course of action to further its interests both at home and abroad?" One strategy aims to establish rivalry and competition with the United States. The other agrees that the US is the most powerful country in the world and that working with the US is good for China.

The foundation of this study was laid at least a decade earlier, but it would be critical for global, particularly Euro-American, understanding of how power relations will shift in the wake of China's ascent and the

denouement of US hegemony. We live in an era where the US-China relationship is key to defining politics, economics, and security, not just in America and China, but all over the world in the 21st century. If understood in its deep strategic and economic context, it can illuminate questions of global governance, international security and economic stability. It also helps to anticipate how a shift in the balance of power may affect the other regions of the world and the international order. This paper aims to analyze China's strategic influence on US foreign relations in the early 21st century, including the important factors that influenced this burgeoning bilateral proximity and the response of the U.S. to China's rising influence globally.

## CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

### Foreign policy

The term "foreign relations" describes the social, political, diplomatic, and economic ties and interactions that exist between other nations. It deals with the ways in which countries interact, bargain, and work together on a range of international issues. The foreign policy of a country guides the activities and relationships of that state in its interactions with other states. There are several definitions of "foreign policy," but they all agree that it refers to a nation's interactions with other nations.

According to Bojang (2018) describes it as the framework of activities formed by societies to modify the actions of other states and adapt their activities to the international climate. How well governments change other countries' behavior should be shown in foreign policy. As Modelski pointed out, the main goals of foreign policy are only those actions that aim to change the way countries act now. But foreign policy isn't just a change; it is a long-term, steady course of action (Neack, 2008). As long as they serve the greater good, both the status quo and change are detrimental (Bojang, 2018).

Joseph (1968) said that foreign policy

is the set of actions and choices that have a big impact on how countries see each other. To effectively implement foreign policy, the country must take numerous internal actions against foreign operating companies (Bojang, 2018). To protect and advance their own national goals while working with other countries, governments must make and follow rules that govern how they act.

Foreign policy is everything a country does with the rest of the world, according to Padelford and Lincoln. According to Schmalk (2005), a country's foreign policy is how it turns its stated goals and interests into specific actions that will help it reach those goals and support its values. Using Bojang's (2018) concept, we can distinguish between the two objectives of foreign policy: first, it aids in achieving set goals, and second, it exerts pressure on national interests (Rahman & Kubra, 2022).

So, knowing what you want to achieve or what interests you have when you interact with another state or player, the strategies and plans you use to do so, and the tools your country has to handle its interactions with other countries are all parts of foreign policy.

### **Complex Interdependence**

Realism is a major theory in international relations that says power politics and national self-interest are what determine what happens in the world. This point of view sees the international system as chaotic and without a central authority. Nation-states, each pursuing their interests and sometimes characterized by their relative strength, constitute the main components of this system (Kaufman, 2005). In a chaotic society, governments are always competing for power and safety.

Hobbes had a similar view of international relations as this one. It says that economic and armed power is the main tools that countries use for foreign policy (Malcolm, 2017). Realist theory says that the main cause of stress and conflict in the world is the zero-sum power

relations between states that only care about themselves.

People often believe cooperation occurs by accident, with countries using force for strategic benefits. Realists focus on competition and violence, ignoring people, multinational companies, NGOs, and foreign institutions. The complex interdependence theory, developed by Keohane and Nye in the 1970s, suggests that non-state groups also influence global events.

It says that business, money, society, and the environment are all more connected in the global political economy. The idea is that governments can curb the use of armed force and state power by controlling this dependence and reducing conflicts through international laws and structures. Globalization impacts everyone through the decisions and actions of others (Keohane & Nye, 2001).

The concept posits that national security, typically regarded as paramount, may not hold the highest priority. A lot of people think that the military is the best tool for foreign policy, but this makes that idea less likely. It instead gives a different point of view that recognizes the complex web of cross-border ties and interdependencies in business, finance, culture, and conflict resolution that bring people together and shape their futures in a world that is becoming more globalized (Keohane & Nye, 2001).

The idea of complex interdependence has completely changed how we think about international relations. It stresses how linked state relationships are in areas other than politics and armed power. It demonstrates how market trades, private groups, cross-border movement, and economic and cultural ties all affect how the world works. This idea is more useful now that we live in a digital world, and the world is becoming more connected.

The US and China's ties are characterized by cooperation, a concept originating from liberal academic debate.

Complex interdependence refers to two-way links or interdependencies in international law that affect other countries. This concept reflects the current world events, appealing to those who appreciate complicated relationships. Jones (2001) links multiple mutual interdependencies to globalization, focusing on mutual benefit and common objectives. The study examines US-China relationships, finding more cooperative and dependent ones due to liberal and neoliberal ideologies. The study examines US-China ties within regional dynamics and global imperatives.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

There have been many scholarly articles, newsletters, journals, and books written about international ties, foreign policy, and interactions between the US and China. A short review of a few relevant and useful writings has been given, though, in relation to this subject.

Hang (2017) explores China's rise as a global powerhouse, highlighting factors like economic growth, military improvements, and soft power in Asia. The Hegemonic Cycle is used to illustrate the emergence and fall of big world powers. The author suggests the US must be prepared to collaborate with China and challenge its strength, highlighting China's growing strength and the US's role as the sole global leader.

Scott (2022) explained the significance of trade between China and the US for national security, focusing on natural resources. The Natural Security Index examines the alignment of militaries, foreign goals, and interactions between countries. It helps understand climate change and rising tensions between the US and China. The index aims to understand the fundamentals of trade and relationships involving natural resources, potentially holding significance for both countries.

Zhang (2004) argued that China's rapid rise does not necessitate a shift in the US-China power balance. He suggested that

China should adopt a foreign policy aligned with the US's global leadership and learn to be a good leader. This approach would help China increase its global impact in line with its growing power, without becoming a nationalist country. China is increasingly interested in global problems and is showing signs of increasing interest in these areas.

Johnson (2009) highlights China's significant growth and economic growth over the past 20 years, emphasizing the need for US leaders to understand its political, economic, and security needs. China's strategic culture influences foreign and internal policies, as many Americans view China as a threat. Modern Chinese nationalism, modernization, and hope for global influence shape their geopolitical goals. These factors, along with Chinese strategic culture, theory, history, and internal factors, significantly influence China's foreign policy.

Galantucci (2015) agrees that a cheaper currency is beneficial for a country's production and basic goods businesses. However, many groups and leaders oppose laws to prevent the dollar from being too valuable compared to the Chinese yuan. Politicians avoid taking strong action on the exchange rate issue to maintain relations between the US and China. Currency bills are more likely to cause economic clashes due to trade policy and international economic regulation. A Bayesian statistical study shows that lawmakers with close ties to Chinese companies are more likely to reject these measures.

Numerous books and papers have explored the US-China relationship, focusing on political, military, and financial aspects. However, these studies have mainly focused on China's strategic influence on US foreign relations in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. This study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of China's impact on US foreign relations.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This study aims to investigate China's

strategic impact on the US foreign relations in the early twenty-first century, especially as China is gaining global influence. The specific objectives of this research include:

1. To examine China's response to the geopolitically strategic foreign affairs of the US in the 21st century, to encapsulate its global power strategies.
2. To assess whether China intends to disrupt the US-led world order or cooperate within the current global system. This leads to the consideration of China's future course of action, based in either cooperation or competition.
3. To understand how China's participation in the US-led global order could further its rise. The research also examines the impact of China's rise on regional and global security, particularly in East Asia and the wider international community.

## METHODOLOGY

The study uses secondary sources like books, scholarly journals, articles, and analytical journals to analyze China's strategic influence on US foreign relations in the early 21st century. It employs qualitative and quantitative techniques, using trade statistics and descriptive-analytical analysis.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### China-United States Relations

China's growing power and revisionism could threaten the US if it develops independently and becomes antagonistic. China's internal development will determine if growth leads to ultra-nationalism or democracy, and US domestic politics will impact China's perception (Buzan, 2010).

Realists, who shape the policies of both countries, bear some responsibility. They predicted that the emergence of China would trigger rivalries and tensions, if not a catastrophic war like the ones that occurred when Japan, Germany, and the Soviet Union rose to power (Xuetong, 2006). US policy discourse and literature suggest that

a significant portion of the US population aims to frame China as a "peer competitor" to regain focus on foreign policy. If successful, this could challenge China's peaceful economic growth. China must support the US alternative lobby, aiming to include it in the global economy and society while avoiding this constituency. However, no other major country would view a peacefully growing China as a threat (Christensen, 2006).

China's rise may not cause concern for Europe if it acts benignly and adheres to international economic rules. Russia's proximity and concerns about Chinese intentions in the Far East complicate the situation. Russia may opt to maintain a strong strategic partnership with China, rather than the US, due to their strong relationship (Wilkins, 2008). They also have a shared interest in regime security and non-intervention, as well as certain advantageous economic synergies. India is also in a difficult position because it must decide how to reconcile its growing economic links with China, its desire to remain independent of China, and some outstanding territorial disputes. Bromley (2008) suggests that if China becomes aggressive, India may prevent the US division, potentially causing diplomatic and economic consequences. The US-China relationship is crucial, making China's dependence on the US difficult.

Does the United States play a significant role in providing public goods and reducing local tensions and rivalry in East Asia, especially in Northeast Asia, as some claim (Goh, 2008)? The US presence in East Asia is a topic of debate, with some arguing it disrupts the region's self-stabilizing framework, while others argue it exacerbates divisions. The US's presence could potentially increase China's dependence on the US-led international system, while destabilizing the region could hinder China's development (Acharya, 2003).

China's peaceful ascension strategy requires fostering positive relationships



with its neighbors, including Taiwan, to prevent military confrontations. Taiwan is a dangerous hotspot, and forcibly annexing it would have severe consequences for China's political and economic status. Handling the Taiwan issue under pressure would mean abandoning this peaceful rising policy (Buzan, 2010).

China's departure from US-China ties was influenced by Reagan's anti-Soviet stance, perceived US lack of aid, and China's disillusionment with US policies. Despite differences, both countries prioritize economic growth and view the US stabilizing influence as a security concern (Hummel, 1991).

### **China's Perception of US Power**

Though many believe China will soon be able to compete with the US, no one in China doubts that the nation can compete with the US today. This optimistic view of power relations between China and the US is based on a variety of things.

The Marxist-Leninist theory of international relations has significantly influenced China's perspective on world events, revealing the uneven development among major nations and the potential for states to overtake stronger ones (Lenin, 2015).

Several Western experts in contemporary international affairs likewise hold this view of power dynamics (Lal, 1998). Global power disparity can trigger a power transition, where a less powerful rival state gains strength, weakening the dominant hegemonic state, as per Gilpin (1981).

Paul Kennedy, a Western historian, argues that hegemonic states often expand global influence through alliances or military action, disregarding their internal infrastructure and economy, leading to weakening domestic support systems (Kennedy, 1987).

In the 1980s, the US's economic collapse and the subsequent ascent of Japan and Europe supported theories of imperialistic

decline and uneven development, contrasting with other global powers (Thurow, 1992). Academics, journalists, and politicians in the US disagree with this approach, citing cultural and economic issues like a poor school system, broken families, crime, social discontent, and debt as contributing factors (Starr, 1988).

China's rapid economic growth, fueled by economic reforms, has maintained a growth rate above 8 percent for the past 20 years, ranking third in the IMF in 1994. If sustained, China could surpass Japan's struggling economy (Zhang, 2004).

In the 1990s, academics and Chinese officials believed the end of the Cold War marked the beginning of a multipolar world order. The Asia-Pacific region experienced a new global order, with China, the US, Japan, Russia, and the EU as balancing powers, resulting in a world of multiple power centers (Xuecheng & Jidong (2000).

Chinese academics debate the extent of American dominance, with mixed feelings. Wang Jisi believes the US's power is comprehensive, but Lin Limin, a Chinese military expert, argues that American influence is limited. Limin refers to the current system as an "asymmetric multipolar system," with smaller, powerful states countering the US. He believes the asymmetric system is a phase of transition towards a fully multipolar system (Zhang, 2004).

### **China's Reaction to US Hegemony**

China should approach the US with the belief that the US will be stronger than it, and can choose to remain neutral or challenge US dominance, according to a Chinese political scientist (Deng, 2001). Chinese magazine Strategy and Management discusses China's uncertainty about American dominance, arguing it could harm its national interests and jeopardize its economic and military security through involvement in Western-run global systems (Wenhui & Hui, 2001).

A Chinese expert suggests that China cannot resist American dominance and

can only achieve its goals by aligning with and participating in US-led international systems (Yinhong & Dexing, 2001). A US-trained professor critiques the optimistic view of cooperation, arguing it overlooks China's national security threat from US hostility towards Beijing. Supporters focus on cooperation and concession, ignoring the threat of American unipolar dominance (Ruizhuang, 2001).

### **A plan for working together**

China must adjust its policies to account for the fact that the US will likely remain the leading power in the 21st century. This policy is reasonable. According to international political realists, the balance of power dictates diplomatic strategies. Most countries have wisely decided to follow the United States' example, as pointed out in a special issue of *The Economist* focused on American influence. As an explanation for the lack of worldwide opposition to American hegemony, the magazine mentions that "it's rather better to be on America's side" (Zhang, 2004).

The US-China engagement policy aims to help China integrate into the global system, granting it more global influence in exchange for compliance with the status quo, and ensuring China follows US-maintained international political and economic systems.

### **American Engagement Strategy**

American foreign policy towards China is crucial as it addresses the growing threat of a rising power overthrowing its rule, as the current hegemon faces the challenge of gaining more power (Tammen et al., 2012). The hegemon represents power that maintains the current order. A new power can be a conservative state with narrow goals or a revolutionary state seeking to change the world order for more power. The latter seeks to replace the current system.

There are two main options for the status quo power, based on what the

growing power wants to do: engage or control (Schweller, 1999). If the growing power's goal is seen as new, the power that currently controls the situation must use a lockdown plan to keep the challenger's strength and impact in check. This balance can be reached by making deals with other countries that feel threatened by the rising power, or it can be reached by making its position stronger.

The involvement strategy is a potential solution to a rising power threat, potentially calming tensions and reducing war risks. It benefits the economy by reducing the current power's spending on balancing growth. However, the strategy requires the rising power to meet its goals, recognize valid interests, and share international leadership (Schweller, 1999).

To succeed, the current power must acknowledge the rising power's interests and demonstrate understanding of their need for more power. Mutual agreement between the two sides can resolve conflicts, fostering future cooperation. Regular cooperation improves understanding and trust, leading to the peaceful resolution of differences in the long term.

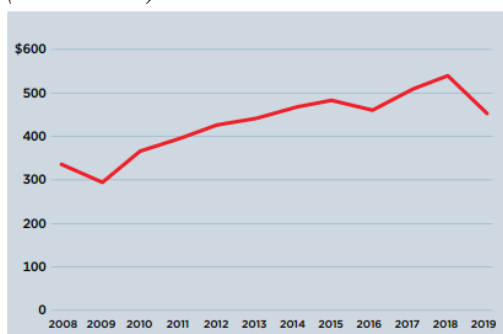
The last two projects are a step back from shared world leadership, as the status quo power needs guidance to fit in with the current order. The rising power must align with the existing system to enhance its influence, while maintaining military strength and forming agreements with other countries to deter potential threats.

The US's relationship with China demonstrates a desire to connect, despite experts arguing that China is a reactionary state with limited goals, potentially influencing the world order (Ross, 2005). The US should respect China's interests and encourage its involvement in the global order through shared international leadership, recognizing its potential to make global peace easier and share the cost of US leadership (Zhang, 2004).

## The Chinese Strategy of Aiming at the US and US Interests in Economic Coercion

**Figure 1**

*US Imports of Chinese Goods, in billions (2008–2019)*



*Note.* USITC Data web, (US International Trade Commission, 2020). (Rosenberg et al., 2020).

China has used economic coercive tactics against the US in recent years, primarily through tariffs. Since 2018, the Trump administration has implemented tariffs on 66.6% of Chinese shipments to the US, while the Chinese trade ministry levied tariffs on 60.3% of American exports to China. China's informal, coercive measures remain its primary tool for shaping policies and maintaining plausible deniability.

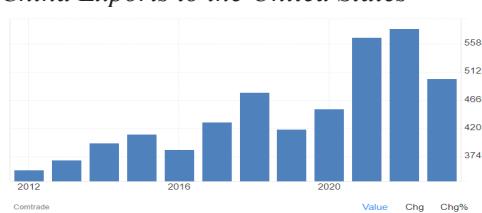
China threatens American tech businesses relying on Chinese market access to intimidate them. The US has added Huawei to the Entity List, causing concern among major companies like Microsoft, Dell, and Samsung. The US has addressed this issue through public remarks, regulatory standards, and outreach. During his October 2018 talk at the Hudson Institute, Vice President Mike Pence said that "China threatened to deny a business license for a major U.S. corporation if they refused to speak out against our administration's policies" (Rosenberg et al., 2020).

China's reactionary attitude and dependence on American money and technology may explain its persistent targeting of the US. In recent years, China has grown its national interests and used economic pressure more frequently and in complex ways (Rosenberg et al., 2020).

## China Exports to the United States

**Figure 2**

*China Exports to the United States*



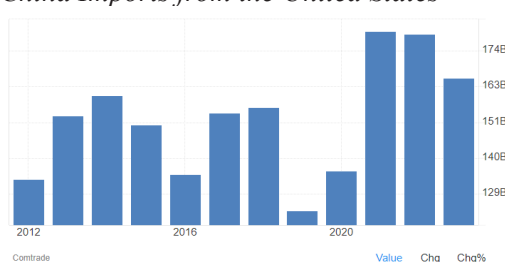
*Note.* Trading Economics, (2025a).

In 2023, the United States received commodities from China valued at US\$501.22 billion, according to the UN COMTRADE database that monitors international commerce. The last revision of China exports to US occurred in March 2025 (Trading Economics, 2025a).

## China Imports from the United States

**Figure 3**

*China Imports from the United States*



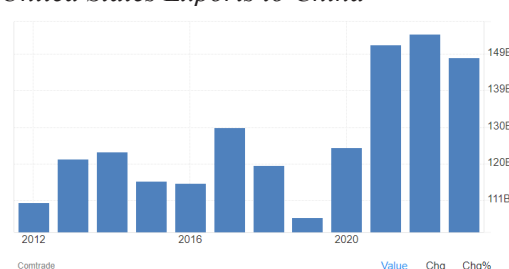
*Note.* Trading Economics, (2025b).

According to the UN COMTRADE database on foreign trade, China bought US\$165.16 billion worth of goods from the US in 2023. In March 2025, there have been changes made to the data, history picture, or information about US imports into China (Trading Economics, 2025b).

## United States Exports to China

**Figure 4**

*United States Exports to China*





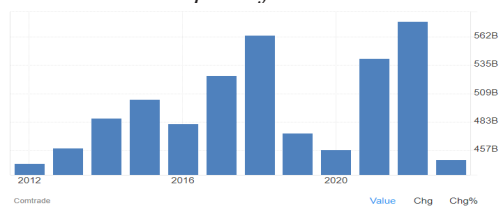
*Note.* Trading Economics, (2025c).

The US sent 147.81 billion USD in exports to China in 2023, according to the UN COMTRADE database of international trade. The last revision of US exports to China occurred in March 2025 (Trading Economics, 2025c).

### United States Imports from China

**Figure 5**

*United States Imports from China*



*Note.* Trading Economics, (2025d).

A report from UN COMTRADE says that China sold US\$448.02 billion worth of goods to the US in 2023. In March 2025, the most recent data, history charts, and figures on Chinese goods brought into the US were made public (Trading Economics, 2025d).

### The Challenge to US-China Relations

American companies seek alternatives to China due to rising Chinese nationalism and business regulations. China's secret plan to become a technological power involves incorporating malware into components sold to American and allied organizations.

The public, Congress, and businesses support American sanctions against China's intellectual property rights violations, despite disagreements over Trump's handling of trade and investment restrictions. The trade war between China and the US has strained US IT companies' relationships with Chinese suppliers, despite efforts to diversify. The complexity of China's industrial base makes it challenging for American companies to find equivalent suppliers, making it difficult to find alternatives (Cronin, 2019).

### Common Interests

China and the US maintain cordial relations, contributing to world peace. Both

superpowers have permanent UN Security Council seats, and their common interests remain unchanged. China has collaborated with the US on Cambodia and the Persian Gulf crisis, demonstrating its international influence. However, the Persian Gulf War's repercussions could linger, making it crucial to maintain open communication and participate in international consultations like the one between the US and China.

China hopes for stability on the Korean peninsula and praises progress and high-level dialogue between the two Korean governments. It hopes for disarmament and troop withdrawal. China has engaged in trade and non-official contacts with South Korea, leading to the establishment of trade representative offices. Preliminary talks for diplomatic relations between North Korea and Japan are positive developments (Wenpu, 1991).

China's foreign policy aims to create a peaceful global environment and strengthen relations with neighboring countries. By 1989, ties between the Soviet Union and China improved in Northeast Asia, benefiting regional stability and establishing equal standing with Mongolia.

Japan aims to boost its political influence in global affairs by leveraging its robust economy, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. After a bloody war, diplomatic relations between Japan and China were re-established in 1972. China aims to strengthen and prosper China-Japan relations, and Japan is preparing to relax sanctions on China ahead of other major Western countries.

China and Southeast Asian states have collaborated in international politics, with China re-establishing diplomatic relations with Indonesia and Singapore in 1990. Regular visits have increased mutual understanding and trust, with several South Asian countries having friendly ties with China. China's friendly neighborliness program is crucial for preserving peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Despite generally cordial diplomatic

ties in the Asia-Pacific region, stabilizing factors remain, with disarmament a gradual and time-consuming task. China and the US share common interests, and more consulting is needed for constructive attempts, requiring normal interactions (Wenpu, 1991).

### **China's Strategies to Become More Influential Worldwide**

#### **Taking on the Role of Leader**

China can leverage the U.S. engagement policy to enhance global influence, but it must formally join the international system, recognize the U.S.'s hegemonic status, demand the U.S. step aside, and demonstrate its non-revolutionary intentions to reassure the U.S.

The United States is recognizing China's growing global power and leadership role, which could benefit China by promoting mutual tolerance and cooperation. China must take the initiative to expand its global influence, recognizing the US's leadership role and seeking to increase its influence abroad, rather than waiting for acknowledgment.

China should increase its involvement in regional and international structures, including joining the G-8, a club of the world's most powerful nations. Membership in this restricted organization would boost China's global standing and elevate its position. China's rapidly growing power makes its membership more meritorious than junior members like Canada and Italy. Analysts speculate about China's potential involvement in the G-8, potentially assuming a new position among these superpowers (Zhang, 2004).

China needs to enhance its leadership in international institutions, as it has historically acted passively and lacks the drive and competence to take the lead. China's insufficient involvement in the UN Security Council and lack of negotiation skills are also highlighted (Lampton, 2001).

China has the potential to improve its leadership in global financial organizations

and contribute to regional economic challenges, but has not significantly participated in these activities. Similar to Britain, Japan, and France, China needs more proactive leadership (Lincoln, 2003).

China should focus on enhancing its preparedness, confidence, and skill in utilizing its resources, taking on more leadership roles, and involving itself in regional and foreign groups.

#### **Changing American Views of China**

China must increase its influence in the US to reassure the US that it won't pose a threat to American global hegemony. By changing Americans' perceptions of China, China can learn from Taiwan's effective foreign lobbying efforts in the US.

China must effectively interact with the US Congress to change American perceptions of China. Mastering the American political system is crucial. The newest crop of Chinese experts in the US, working for government-linked think tanks, has extensive knowledge of the US political processes and structures (Zhang, 2004).

China has been actively following foreign policy in global events, focusing on Asia-Pacific issues and North Korea's weapons program. It founded the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in 2000 and initiated collaborative projects with ASEAN, signing the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement and working with South Korea and Japan.

The China Institute of International Relations, in collaboration with the Chinese Foreign Ministry, reports an increasing openness, participation, and creativity in Chinese foreign policy thinking (Zongze, 2003). American experts report China's heightened nimbleness and engagement, marking a significant departure from over a decade of passivity (Fravel & Medeiros, 2003). Robert Sutter argues that Chinese leaders are increasingly confident in China's power and influence, despite being wary of the U.S. superpower and other regional states (Sutter, 2003).

### **China could be Reevaluating this Fundamental Strategic Analysis of the US under Xi**

Under Xi's leadership, China may be rethinking its basic strategic assessment of the United States. His words and actions suggest a reevaluation along these lines: trust in China's increasing economic and military power; a focus on China's ability to rely on its resources; ambitions to expand China's role in Asia and the world; rising concern over US efforts to stymie China's revitalization; confidence in China's ability to weather US tensions and disputes (particularly considering China's global connections and profile); and diminishing faith in China's ability or deserve to rely so much on the United States.

China's attitude towards the US has remained largely unchanged, with Xi avoiding direct confrontation with Trump. Scholars believe the principle of "dou er bu puo" (struggle but not break) should guide the US-China relationship. China has changed its strategy from stagnation to pursuing foreign objectives using Chinese capabilities, avoiding confrontation with superpowers like the US (Medeiros, 2019).

### **DISCUSSION AND LIMITATIONS**

The US-China relationship needs improvement, with the two countries focusing on strengthening investment and trade links, maximizing cross-sector cooperation, and fostering economic diversification. This will lead to increased job creation, access to new markets, and knowledge transfer.

The global economy is undergoing significant changes due to intense competition between the US and China, growing markets, increased services trade, and reorganization of multinational firms' supply chains.

The US and China are entering a new competitive arena with their reliable allies, vying for the natural resource flow. They may also mediate US-China diplomatic relations or use unique resources to their

advantage. Investments in renewable energy and semiconductors could diminish oil-rich regions' value, elevating nations producing rare earth elements like lithium.

The US administration should prioritize diplomacy over firepower for long-term strategic competition, as hard power may not protect resources in unstable regions, and investing in lethality is crucial. The Pentagon is investing significantly in long-term strategic competition with "near peers," requiring more investment in various areas.

On the other side, China is mostly relying on its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to spend heavily on public perception and economic ties. By investing in and taking a stake in major infrastructure projects throughout the world, Beijing is re-establishing its economic and geopolitical influence via the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Reduced trade ties can negatively impact economic development and national security, leading to violence and market efficiency issues. However, a free, open, and transparent marketplace can help businesses and consumers adapt to climate change. The research suggests strengthening diplomatic connections, increasing trade and economic cooperation, promoting cultural exchange programs, expanding educational ties, cooperating on regional and global issues, and participating in sports diplomacy. By the end of the 21st century, this research aims to provide a more complete picture of Sino-US ties' global setting.

### **CONCLUSION**

This article discusses many approaches that China may use in its fight against US global hegemony. It argues that the competitive approach is counterproductive to China's national interests. For the strategy to work, China's strength has to surpass the US's in the medium to long run. The United States will maintain its position as a global hegemon for another half-century or more because it is not experiencing a decline in comparison to other developing countries.

Consequently, competing with the US will not benefit China's interests.

Instead, China would do better if it recognized American dominance and collaborated with the United States to further its interests. The argument here is that working together is the best course of action since the way the US is now dealing with China makes it easier for China to expand its global influence. As part of its engagement policy, the United States is trying to convince China that, by accepting the current global order, it can further its objectives. To achieve this goal, the engagement strategy seeks to accommodate China's legitimate interests while simultaneously strengthening China's involvement in global leadership.

China must actively participate in global governance, prioritize the G-8 group, and engage with regional and international organizations. China should intensify efforts to tackle economic and security problems globally and regionally. It should also enhance its efforts to influence American perceptions, changing its image from a threat to a responsible power.

Through its activities with ASEAN, China has recently demonstrated that it is a proactive and confident leader in regional and international organizations. China thinks that it is more effective to actively participate in the existing global political and economic systems to advance its national interests and influence in international affairs than to attempt to topple these systems from the outside. Other countries, especially the United States, only reinforce this view when they acknowledge China's growing prominence. Deng Xiaoping emphasized the need to improve Sino-American relations (Johnson, 2009). With a better understanding of each other's strategic cultures, the world's most populous country, China, and the strongest industrialized nation, the United States, could respect and comprehend one another.

Policymakers in both countries need to understand that China's growing global

influence is not, in itself, an existential threat to the United States but instead a potential opportunity for joint leadership in global governance. For the US, the challenge that lies ahead is to engage with China, in a manner that works to stabilize, and provide economic growth and security, especially in important areas in the world like East Asia, to this changing power dynamic.

China and the US must engage in dialogue to reduce conflict, build trust, and promote détente. They should focus on shared interests like climate change, trade liberalization, and conflict resolution in the Asia-Pacific. The US should be flexible to China's demands and recognize the importance of constructive human engagement for a stable world. This will help balance their views and contribute positively to global architecture.

#### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

I declare that this manuscript is originally produced by me.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has contributed valuable information and advice, both directly and indirectly, during my work on this paper.

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