



Central Rimland: Chessboard for China-US Cold War

Abdul Muhaymin Farooq¹, Dr. Anwar Ali², Dr. Bilal Bin Liaqat³ & Dr. Ghulam Mustafa⁴

¹ M.Phil. Scholar, Department of Political Science, University of Punjab Lahore

² Assistant Professor (OPS), Department of Political Science, Government College University Faisalabad

³ Assistant Professor (OPS), Department of International Relations, Government College University Faisalabad

⁴ Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, Government College University Faisalabad.

Correspondence: ghulammustafa@gcuf.edu.pk

Abstract

The aims of this research is to explain the US's interest to preserve its hegemony, as well to which length it may lead to achieve interest through strategic maneuvering in the Central Rimland region The Central Rimland region has emerged as flashpoint for the strategic and political maneuvering with the emergence of china as economic power in the East. This article discloses the dynamics of the Rimland introduced and used by the Halford Mackinder in his geopolitical theories highlighting the significance of the heartland and the Rimland encompass the Eastern Europe, Middle East and Central Asia. US containment policies towards Rimland to counter China's rise illuminate the reminiscence and the complexities of the new Cold War. This article probes the developments and the implications of this maneuvering guided by US-China rivalry. It raises the question regarding reliable credibility of India and the intensity of instability in result of the US strategic maneuvering and United States' Anti-China China Neighboring Allies. Further, this article aims to foster severe concerns regarding South Asian Third World or developing states about United States obnoxious conspiratorial face in order to meet its interests. This article begot through secondary data collection, drawing from a range of scholarly articles, books, policy documents, and reputable news sources as well editorials.

Keywords

Central Rimland, Cold War, Hegemony, Economic Rivalry

Introduction

Resurgence of US-China rivalry in contemporary geopolitical and geostrategic landscape stirs the recollections of Cold War. The struggle for global hegemony, economic power and strategic realignment depicts new cold war (Goldstein, 2020). The Central Rimland region expectedly would be the fair place of this cold war. The concept of Rimland was first introduced by the Halford Mackinder referring the region surrounding heartland which, later on, was discussed by Nicholas Spykman in 1944 highlighting the importance of Rimland region encompassing the coastal area of Eurasia (Astarita & Marconi, 2023). The Central Rimland Region includes particularly South Asia and Middle East lead to the East of Mediterranean Sea where both titans are interestingly engaged in clash for dominance and strategic influence (Fan, 2021).

US engaged in multiple unusual activities such as military alliances, strategic maneuvering, increasing military presence and economic cooperation with regional states (Layne, 2018). On the other hand, china has not still taking any such step of containing US or policy which can ignite any conflict between both states. Although, China has made aware US of not China's involvement in any cold war or interest to be global hegemonic power (Wu, 2021). Despite all that US is engaged in self-declared cold war announced by the National Security Council of United States. US has been preserving it hegemony in the global politics as its vital interest, the emerging china is posing a threat to US hegemonic status. In response to this US is engaged in the South China Sea as well increasing

interest on the geopolitical and geostrategic of the Central Rimland (Ross, The Problem With the Pivot: Obama's New Asia Policy Is Unnecessary and Counterproductive, 2012). As US is increasing its involvement in Central Rimland region is also raising concerns about putting stability of this region at stake without any doubt of US going to any length to protect and preserve its vital interest, preserving hegemony is one of them.

Research Question

How United States policy of containing China during self-proclaimed new cold war is destabilizing the region as well to which extent India would be reliable for US to ally with for successful execution of containment policy and what are the implications of US policy on the developing nations?

Literature Review

In his article "Will China's Rise Lead to War? Why Realism Does Not Mean Pessimism" Charles Glaser depicts the rise of china as new participant of global world order through the lens of both liberalist and realist. On the one end, liberals optimistically argue that china will rise to power peacefully because current global order is characterized by the politics and economics. While realists articulate emerging China as hegemonic state and designer of international order which may lead to the event analogous to the Cold War claiming that the structural forces are weak enough that they can't lead both states any event sort of Cold War known as optimistic approach. China's ascent would depend more on how both states (US and China) strategically compete each other than pressure of international world order. Conflict can be avoided if United States adjust itself according to shift in international world order and not get engaged in any conflict. Structural Realism argues that states' action are determined by the international system where a minor increase in a state's force can threaten other state's security bringing it in defensive or offensive mode as well with the case of goals and interests. The world might face another event analogous to Cold War. The only way to avoid such event lies in United States' withdrawal from alliances in Asia and Africa. United States evacuation from Asia and Europe would not decide the hegemony of China. United States allies, in the same time might also rise as military as well economic power at the same time.

Robert D. Kaplan's "Asia's Cauldron: The South China Sea and the End of a Stable Pacific" published in 2014 sparked a new debate on geopolitical and geostrategic tensions arose in the Asia-Pacific region. Kaplan argues that South China Sea, rich in resources and cardinal maritime routes has become strategic flash point of potential conflicts. Theories of international relations affirm these conflicts as dominance driven conflicts regarding china's economic expansion and establishing regional hegemony. South China Sea may call for the end of post-cold war peaceful era with nationalistic oomph, militarization, economic expansion and regional influence designing confrontational environment. United States' policy "String of Pearls" motivated by Kaplan's Analysis broadcasts china's militarization and trade maritime routes encircling Indian Ocean. Kaplan article assessed China's maneuvering as defensive as well expansion to access resources and trade routes challenging United States presence in the region. Transition from China's passive influence to active control in the region is escalating tension with neighboring states including United States who has been promoting navigational exemption. Nations in South East Asia despite economic interdependence, depict China as security threat resulting in new security alliances and strategic cooperation. Consequently, Multi-polarity competition in global politics may assert a potential conflict abandoning complex interdependence thrived with economic cooperation.

The article "The U.S-China New Cold War" written by Vinod Khobragade and Avneet Kumar Nim confer a sight on new cold war, contemporary intercourse is characterized by the economic supremacy, power endowment and technological advancement instead of direct confrontation as in the Us-Soviet Cold War. According to experts, new cold war shares multiple similarities with 20th century Cold War which was division of global influence and ideological differences with the china's penetration in the global economy. This factor complicates the new cold war requiring new approaches to address the subject of new cold war. Economics and technology underpin the new cold war. These domains are reshaping the new power dynamics which were not at the time of the 20th century. Experts emphasize that rising power challenge current power but economic interdependence may resist the conflict maintaining peace and international order. New cold war has reshaped geopolitics particularly indo-pacific region.

The article "Reading Spykman in Beijing: The Rimland Theory and the Belt and Road Initiative" written by Claudia Astarita and Matteo Marconi in 2023 unfolded the resurrection of

classical theories as in order to decode china's strategic vision reflected in Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). A realist strategist, Nicholas Spykman emphasized the Rimland peripheral areas of Eurasia hold more importance than that of heartland earlier proposed by Halford Mackinder in order to secure global dominance. Nicolas Spykman's heartland theory was the core for formulating the United States' policy to counter Soviet expansion. The effectiveness of this idea has contemporary subject in Belt and Road Initiative which has shifted the paradigm in the global politics. China's this strategy endower aims to increase inter-continental trade and economic cooperation as well its geopolitical influence while stated objectives of boosting economic activities and fostering cultural exchange. Critic views it as death trap policy to control inter-continental logistic hubs. Analysis of BRI with lens of Rimland theory, china is creating buffer zone to expand its influence to it from reminiscent US cold war containment policy. China's approach towards Central Rimland states has stimulated both US and India to practice counterweigh policies. The application of Rimland theory provide strategic framework to access BRI's impacts and challenges in the multipolar world.

Efforts to Contain Infant Communist China

US-China relations earlier to 1970 portray a reflection of scruple, ideological heterogeneity, and strategic hostility smelling cold war biasness. Early 19th century engagements were also characterized by the trade and missionary activities. United States strategic cooperation increased with china during world war II fighting against Japanese imperialism. This war time alliance changes into rivalry when Chinese Civil War lead Chinese Communist Party lead to victory and china became a communist state in 1949 (Graver, 1997). US policy makers took emergence of Communist China as its grave misfortune while they were striving to fence Socialist USSR. United States went through every inch for almost two decades to destabilize, disrupt newly established communist state and government. United States also refused to recognize Communist China and establish diplomatic relations with Chinese Communist Government. Although United States established alliance to contain Communist China which includes establishment of U.S. alliances with Japan, South Korea, and the Nationalist government of the ROC on Taiwan. The United States singed also the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO) that included Thailand, the Philippines, and South Vietnam as well ANZUS Treaty that articulates Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.

United States took fall of china to a communism as USSR's strategic move to rule Asia by spreading communism depicting "domino affect" idea get importance and catch audience at that time (Tucker, 2016). United States skepticism began turning into conviction when both China and USSR backed up war between South Korea and North Korea. Both states provided a helping hand to North Korea countering South Korea backed by United States. Sending thousands of troops on behalf of China to fight against United States regarding North Korea intensified animosity between both China and United States when United States Army reached to the Yalu River fighting against North Korea (Steuck, 1995). China's support to North Korea in Korean War led United States to constitute policy of containment against China. China became a prey to United States' diplomatic and economic quarantine. China's policy to assert itself in developing world through alliances and revolutionary movements proved US isolation policy not more than chewing the rag (Zhao, 2004).

China-USSR incision of 1960s and 1970s revamped the dynamics of China-US relations. Mao Zedong and Nikita Khrushchev's strategic and ideological dissonance became a bone of contention between allied communist powers. This rift was the call for United States' shots to get best of it. United States policymaker made best of this rift for the advantage of the West (Westad, 2017).

China's nuclear proliferation and the North Vietnam War applesauced US's policies in Southeast Asia during the mid-1960s. US perceived China's expansion of nuclear capability as alley cats for its inclinations in the venue, bringing about leviathan stress. (Zhai, 2000). The United States and China engaged in careful diplomacy to offset Soviet hostility and detoxing international isolation. President Nixon's visit to China in 1972 was remarkable for monumental transition in U.S.-China relations, moving from confrontation to a more pragmatic and strategic cooperation, emphasizing magnitude of strategic cooperation in reshaping the Cold War Era (Ross, 1993).

Strategic Realignment

China-US courtship starts from 1969 when cold war was in its full swing and United States needs an ally just on Russia's door step to curtail Russian expansion. 1969 Russia-China border conflict of 1969 performed magnetic assignment between United States and China. Secret diplomatic visits between the United States and the People's Republic of China are characterized for the beginning of

process in 1971. Any of US delegations visited China for the first time in 1971 under the umbrella of “ping-pong diplomacy” when China’s ping-pong team invites US counterpart on 6th of April. President Nixon and National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger visit to China in the same year further paved the way for normalization of relations. United States was in search of bringing Vietnam War to an end while China was seeking ally to bolster its defense against Soviet coercion. Global geopolitics and the balance of power during the Cold War progressed substantially with the harmonization of U.S.-China relations in the 1970s which had been frozen since 1949 until ever US delegation first visit to China (Graver, 1997).

A diplomatic document known as the “Shanghai Communiqué” presented Taiwan and China the freedom to share their consensus on tenuous issues without requiring any horse trade. Although, United States did not officially recognized China's sovereignty, but acknowledged China’s claim on Taiwan. Even though it will take years for full normalization, the agreement is the first step toward formal diplomatic relations (Goh, 2004). Formal diplomatic relations between United States and China conceived in 1979 under Jimmy Carter's administration. After severing diplomatic relations with Taiwan, the United States formally recognized the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the sole legal government in China. Despite the lack of formal diplomatic recognition, “Taiwan Relations Act” guaranteed the constant military and economic cooperation (Tucker, 2016).

Homogenization of relations has had expository positive developments for both China and the US, referring amplification of trade and diplomatic ties. China's great leader, Deng Xiaoping, seized the opportunity to accelerate economic modernization and mesmerizing global community. This economic cooperation includes educational exchange program, technology transfer, and to invite western private sector to invest in China. These endeavors tremendously contributed to China's modernization. China's defense as well industrial sectors boosted its economy by working on its technological and industrial base, even though without military and defense cooperation. China's strategic position vis-à-vis the Soviet Union was strengthened by improved relations with the United States, which also created the conditions for the country's rapid economic growth (Zhao, 2004).

Titans’ Economic Rivalry

Sino-US relations characterized by collaboration and cooperation, has changed into complex and multifaceted rivalry where both powers are striving for domination in strategic domain as well world’s economic power. The dynamics of this rivalry can be understood through the lens of power transition theory, which suggests that rising power challenges the existing global order which increases the risk of conflict and instability (Kim & gates, 2015). Expeditious economic boost and technological advancement have endowed China to expand its regional and global traces, leading to a perceived threat to the United States’ position as the preeminent superpower. This acumen has ignited a series of strategic reflexes from the US, including execution of “pivot to Asia policy” under Obama administration which followed by more hostile approach under Trump administration (Parker & Anderson, 2016). Failure of president Trump’s economic policies has led United States to impose tariffs on China-US trade. President Biden, in first week of his presidency, gave indication of not to handle China’s issue with kids gloves (Wu, 2021). Biden has referred this conflict as “a battle between utilities democracies and autocracies in the 21st century (Huang, 2021).US-China tensions are driven less by the economic realities and more by great power rivalry and mistrust about each other strategic intentions (Huang, 2021). On the contrary, to whom United States consider its rival, announced from world economic forum that the competition between United States and China is for excellence, not to defeat or kill each other (Wu, 2021)

A New Cold War? Hostile Shift in US-China Relations

The strategic competition, since China is emerging as economic power, between both china and US has triggered a new debate regarding whether it is analogous to cold war or just an economic rivalry. This rivalry shares some similarities with the cold war between US-USSR but it has some unique challenges which distinguish it from antecedent event. The features which distinguish this rivalry from the US-USSR Cold War includes, high intensity ideological conflicts between capitalism and communism, having great military power with absence of economic interdependence. However, in China-US case, both states are tremendously interdependent through economy with china’s less developed military even its strength (Christensen, 2020). Although US multiple approaches such as strategic maneuvering in South China Sea, alliances with South East Asian States, String of Pearls policy towards Indian Ocean, economic rivalry and trade sanctions, security and military tension to

counter China trashes the earlier argument. Cold War is also characterized by the United States' grand foreign policy towards USSR to fight against named as "Containment Policy" (Gaddis, 1992). China's democracy is far dissimilar from the "western liberal democracy" a threat to United States' Ruling democracy in the larger part of the world (Hanania, 2020). This subject needs scrutiny and debate in the recent years to be called as Cold war. Analogous to Russian and US during Cold War, both current rivals are engaged with intensely through trade, investment and public relations (Yao, 2021).

The features "circle of hegemony", and "systemic cycles of accumulation" of world system theory refers that the decline of the existing hegemonic power is green signal to the breaking down of existing world order leading to the struggle or even war between contenders (Wallerstein, 2011). China's economic boost, military modernization, and increasing soft power influence has fulfilled the earlier given forecasting approach (Hang, 2017). China has confessed of having no interest in replacing United States as hegemonic power warning not starting a new cold war (Dlouhy & Shield, 2020). Economic and military tensions, trade tariffs has foreshadowed the re-emergence of cold war (Khobragade & Nim, 2021). Western lens has visualized Russian invasion on Crimea following through Ukraine a coward attempt to destabilize western democracies. On the other hand, china's attitude towards Eurasia in terms of economic policies favorable to Beijing, claims over artificial island in international waters and increased influence of Iran's proxies in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen contradictory to Saudi-US proxies have triggered US to launch a new policy of containment against Russia, China and Iran depicting a new cold war (Mandelbaum, 2019).

Preserving Hegemony

USSR and United States have been power rivals in the previous 20th century. Both states have been engaged in confrontation indirectly named as "Cold War". Expansion and dominance of their respective ideologies was the only vital interest of both states resides in that confrontation. Preserving hegemonic status is the sole US interest behind this rivalry in this decade (Tellis & Mohan, 2015). United States' spasmodic and principal interest in foreign policy is preserving its hegemonic status in international relations—with a particular emphasis on upholding global dominance in the political, military, and economic domains. United States has been taking the advantage of its influence over the international organizations such as UNO, World Bank, NATO to establish liberal order over the world (Ikenberry, 2011) . This mechanism has empowered United States to shape international rules, laws, norms, and global political infrastructure which has been legalizing its hegemony and world's leading role in the lines of friends and foes.

With the unparalleled defense budget and strategic intellect, the United States' military has been establishing its hegemony over the world. According to David Vine estimation, a political anthropology professor at the American University in Washington, DC, by the July 2021, the US had about 750 bases installations across at least 80 countries (Hussein & Haddad, 2021). United States can go to any length to protect its interests. United States also has accelerated military ventures in Asia to coup up with China which has been slightly procrastinating before 2024 (Raheed, 2023). In geostrategic locations such as the Middle East and Southeast Asia, where the United States presence make itself reasonable to pursue its interests and guarantee energy security, perpetually costing regional stability, the military's presence is conspicuous (Walt, 2018). This military presence is not for the folk fair but to protect global hegemony and dissuade adversaries. Middle East and North African theaters was demonstration of United States' power conscious approach towards world and protection of its interests.

The international organizations such as World Trade Organization, World Bank and International Monetary Fund are the organizations through which United States reinforce its dominance over the globe. These US backed institutions support neoliberal policies that benefit US financial interests and corporations, contributing to the country's economic domination. Critics contend that these policies encourage US control over these international organizations and exacerbate inequality in the third world states (Stiglitz & Pike, 2004). That is what US financial system is pivot of the world trade.

US Strategic Maneuver in South China Sea

The rising importance of Central Rimland region, South China Sea was already critical flashpoint to keep an eye on China's trade, energy resources and strategic maneuvering of the regional states. US desire and emphasis upon freedom of navigation is essential to maintain regional security and peace (Department of Defense, 2020). US has increased its military installations in south china sea to

conduct multiple exercises in the region based Freedom of Navigation (FONOPs) to coup with China's claims on disputed territories (Heginbotham & Menon, 2019). These operations faced a tremendous opposition from China as these operations may be provocative ultimately, lead to regional instability and security threat (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, 2020).

Despite these tensions, US pursuance coordination and cooperation with Association of Southeast Asian (ASEAN) pretends to be worse in near future. This approach is also being considered counterweigh approach towards China's economic development, military and technological advancement as well presence in South China Sea and growing influence in the region (Ratner, 2019). Cardinal aspect of US strategic maneuvering in the whole region is to not letting any state of Asia to be global power causing multiple events which may go to any length or whatever it costs. These are conspiratorial dictums encouraging free and more open indo-pacific region depicting well-furnished stable governance, rule of law in domestic as well in global arena, economic growth (Kissenger, 2013).

Indo-US Relations: Companion to Competitor

Like the Soviet Union during the Cold War, the US presently considered India as vibrant candidate to be pivotal ally to obstruct China emerging soul power in Asia (Pant & Joshi, 2016). Strategic and military ties between two nations has aggrandized, yet India's economic development and military power could represent a danger to US interests, as China did at the eve of the Cold War (Schaffer, 2009). United States cooperation with India has brought India competent of China as power balancer in the region. United States proved a bootstraper for India in 21st century alike china in 20th century. United States backed India's economic and strategic expansion entitled it a major player in the region as well in the world economy. However, this India's unchecked development and modernization could result in akin to China used United States' shoulder for its economic ammunition and challenge US hegemony (Khilnani, et al., 2012). India has been strategically autonomous in its foreign policy because India adopted policy of Non-alignment during Cold War while, on the other end, China has been under western economic and political influence (Mohan, 2021). This India's expansion wraps strategic power dilemma for United States in itself. India's growing role in global governance and engagements with multilateral organizations such as G20, BRICS, and SCO pretends deepening ties with Russia and China undermines US-India opened front to contain China (DrishtiIAS, 2023).

India: A Question of Reliability

India is notorious for reliability due to its non-alignment approach and strategic autonomy. Not being party to any specific bloc in global world like other states, India maintained its autonomous foreign policy. India's abstain from condemning Russian invasion over Ukraine at United Nations evidently affirmed Indian stance in global politics despite western pressure (Marie, 2022). India economic policies also add up in building the notion that it may not reliable as well in trade. India protectionist stance and withdrawal from Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in 2019 has raised Chinese concerns over trade with India (Wicaksono, 2021). Increase in tariff on trade by India has also lead to uncertainty for foreign investors and trade partners (Shiino, 2021). Alike trade relations and agreements, India has also signed strategic cooperation and arms agreements with states rivals of each other. Where India is member of the European States and QUAD at the same time, has built good relations evident with arms deals and strategic partnership with Russia and economic relations with China being part of SCO and BRICS. The Quad countries — Japan, Australia, India, and the United States had participated in the Malabar Naval Exercises-2021 off the coast of Guam from August 26-29. This alliance aims to counterbalance China's economic and military eminence (drishtiias, 2021). India is advancing its maritime security and fostering strong defense ties with the QUAD countries through joint military exercises and cooperation agreements (Pant & Saha, Charting a clear course in the Indo-Pacific, 2019). Indian political realignment with United States has made India-Russia strategic and defense partnership vulnerable to the extent of disconnection (Raghavan, 2016). India is reestablishing its relations with Russia as both states signed arms trade deal and had conducted joint military exercise named "INDRA" at Kaliningrard in Russia (Sharma, 2021).

Alliances with Neighboring Anti-China States

United States has long maintained its strategic and economic alliances with the Asian Pacific states with primary goal to contain China as China has swiftly emerged as global power (Capie, 2020). US is trying to build alliances with the states in Asia Pacific neighboring China particularly Anti-China (Mohan & Mohan, 2020). Essential element of this strategy is pivot to Asia policy which was initiated

under Obama administration aiming to enhance US military, economic and diplomatic influence in the region to assure deterrence against potential China aggression. South East Asian States are already United States' underrated states. United States might protrude allying as well signing strategic and military agreement with the states neighboring and anti-China states. These alliances would be blessing in a disguise as US would have to help developing economically, weaponization, technological advancement. The development of alliance states may contribute rise of the region maintaining regional security and economic in global politics. These developments can accredit to the growing US concerns regarding China's dominance and assertive behavior explicitly in South China Sea (Kaplan & Myers, 2014). The alliance establishing with East Asian states includes Japan, South Korea, Australia and others may a measure to counterweigh China's growing influence in the region (Liff & Ikenberry, 2014). Alliance states cooperate each other sharing resources, intelligence information, technological advancement facilitate developing more robust defense system (Ross & Bekkevold, China in the Era of Xi Jinping: Domestic and Foreign Policy Challenges, 2016). China's aggression attitude in the region can be avoided through these developments and maintain regional balance of power. Member states can also strengthen their economic and strategic ties which may regional outburst. This shift in global power politics may resultantly, lead to the rise of East to counterweigh western dominance (Mehbubani, 2013). Ultimately more multipolar global political system or multipolar world order can emerge where multi-power centers will exist, encouraging competition and cooperation among nations (Nye, 2011).

Central Rimland as Geostrategic Chessboard

United States can neither go into direct war with China nor opt above mentioned measures to protect its world's power status as well its hegemony. There is only the way to unleash chaos in Chinese corridor consist of Central Rimland region to contain China and protects its hegemony. The Council of Foreign Relations reports that United States has long standing history marked by endeavoring to contain emerging China in Asia, opting "containment policy" towards China, aiming not let any Asian state to rise to its status (Blackwill & Wright, 2020). The United States military presence in Asia does not smell good. This ambiguous presence meant to maintain United States hold and keep an eye over china uprising. US signed multiple strategic and military pacts with Asian States such as South Korea, India, Philippine, Pakistan, and other Middle Eastern states, are evident to US military presence (Hussein & Haddad, 2021). This presence is referred to fight against terrorism but critics often called it counterbalance measure for China's growing military and economic power. Middle Eastern region has been earlier destabilized by US military intervention which has not recovered yet.

Central Rimland region is new target for United States to destabilize this time being corridor to Chinese trade and energy resources. The dawn of the 21st century is the call for dusk of the stable pacific region (Kaplan & Myers, 2014). United States also has been accused of backing insurgent groups and proxies in the regional states includes Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal many others which lead to military coup or regime changes. United States has been backing Separatist movement in Balochistan with India's helping hand as both states have interest in unstable Pakistan. Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan and Bangladesh's Prime Minister Hasina Wajid has alleged United States to topple their governments in public speaking (Sachs, 2024). Regime changing process in Bangladesh was neither involuntary nor carried out by any Pakistan state actor who has been claiming credit of overthrowing Hasina Wajid's regime, daughter of betrayal Sheikh Mujeeb ur Rehman, and building perception of reunification of separated states. Revealing the cause of regime change, she said if I could remain in power if I surrendered my states' sovereignty to United States and let deploy US military on Bangladesh Island "Saint Martin" over the Bay of Bengal (Sengupta, 2024). She told once earlier to BBC that US does not want her to proceed (Khasru, 2023). US lead Israel-Palestine ongoing war, uprising of separatist movements in India, Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir and military coup and regime changes might be green signal to destabilize this region. States engaged nuclear deterrence prohibit each other from waging war on each other (Glaser, 2011). Nuclear deterrence between states, providing engaged in hegemonic and global power race, play pool with the third world or vulnerable states.

Conclusion

The geopolitical as well economic tension between china and United States has made this Central Rimland region composed of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon which were slightly stable than the states fallen prey to United States' conspiratorial interventions includes

Iraq, Syria, Palestine-Israel critical for geostrategic competition. This region also serves as corridor to China's Belt and Road Initiative. These countries trot out maritime and land routes as well are gateways to China's economic power, political influence and energy resources in the era of emerging cold war between both states. This is the red alert call for US triggering for destabilization in this region whether through internal security challenges, stimulating insurgencies, economic sanctions, resurgence of terrorism, endowing strategic and military alliances with Anti-China states. This destabilization may result in waging full scale war on any two states of this region, economic crisis, political unrest and even the rise of the new states to hinder Chinese access to rest of the world, energy resources, and trade routes. Pakistan and Bangladesh are the vulnerable states to fall a prey to United States to achieve her interest to cause destabilization pushing ant of both particularly Pakistan in US war like "war on terror" against any neighboring country might be India or Iran using its own Pakistan's institutional proxies. This would be in best interest of Pakistan to be default than being United States' ally in any regional war. We can coup with default while can't change our neighbors. This Central Rimland chessboard will decide the future of global power dynamics. That will be the rising of east's sun if Central Rimland region over takes scourge akin United States.

Bibliography

- Astarita, C., & Marconi, M. (2023). Reading Spykman in Beijing: Can the Rimland theory question the Belt and Road Initiative? *OpenEdition Journals*, 49-50.
- Blackwill, R. D., & Wright, T. (2020). *The End of World Order and American Foreign Policy*. New York: Council on Foreign Relations.
- Capie, D. (2020). The power of partnerships: US defence ties with Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam. *International Politics*, 57, (242–258).
- Christensen, T. J. (2020). No New Cold War: Why US-China Strategic Competition will not be like the US-Soviet Cold War. *JSTOR*, 09.
- Dlouhy, J. A., & Shield, T. (2020, June 29). *A 'new Cold War'?: How the US-China trade dispute is deepening*. Retrieved Sep 20, 2024, from AlJazeera: <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2020/6/29/a-new-cold-war-how-the-us-china-trade-dispute-is-deepening>
- drishtias. (2021). *Malabar Exercise 2021*. Retrieved 10 4, 2024, from drishtias.com: <https://www.drishtias.com/pdf/1630063974-malabar-exercise-2021.pdf>
- DrishtiIAS. (2023, Aug 31). *BRICS and India's Multipolarity Rhetoric*. Retrieved Sep 29, 2024, from www.drishtias.com: <https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-editorials/brics-and-india-multipolarity-rhetoric>
- Fan, J. (2021). Managing China–U.S. “strategic competition”: potential risks and possible approaches. *China International Strategy Review*, 3, (234–247).
- Gaddis, J. L. (1992). *Strategies of containment: a critical appraisal of postwar american national security policy*. New York: oxford University.
- Glaser, C. (2011). Will China's Rise Lead to War? Why Realism Does Not Mean Pessimism. *Foreign Affairs*, 90,(2) 80-91.
- Goh, E. (2004). *Constructing the U.S. Rapprochement with China, 1961–1974*. Cambridge University Press.
- Goldstein, A. (2020). China's Grand Strategy under Xi Jinping: Reassurance, Reform, and Resistance. *International Security*, 45 (1) 164–201.
- Graver, J. W. (1997). *The Sino-American Alliance*. Routledge.
- Hanania, R. (2020, Dec 14). *China's Real Threat Is to America's Ruling Ideology*. Retrieved 10 22, 2024, from Palladium Governance Futurism: <https://www.palladiummag.com/2020/12/14/chinas-real-threat-is-to-americas-ruling-ideology/>
- Hang, N. T. (2017). The Rise of China: Challenges, Implications, and Options for the United States. *Indian Journal of Asian Affairs*, 30 (47-64).
- Heginbotham, E., & Menon, R. (2019). Taiwan's Balancing Act. *The National Interest*, 160 (22-29).
- Huang, Y. (2021). The U.S.-China Trade War Has Become A Cold War. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 1.
- Hussein, M., & Haddad, M. (2021, 9 10). *Infographic: US military presence around the world*. Retrieved 9 24, 2024, from AlJazeera: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/10/infographic-us-military-presence-around-the-world-interactive>

- Ikenberry, J. (2011). *Liberal Leviathan: The Origins, Crisis, and Transformation of the American World Order*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Kaplan, R. D., & Myers, J. J. (2014). Asia's Cauldron: The South China Sea and the End of a Stable Pacific. *Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Relations*.
- Khasru, B. (2023, 6 23). *U.S. Seeks Regime Change in Bangladesh?* Retrieved 10 07, 2024, from dcjournal.com: <https://dcjournal.com/u-s-seeks-regime-change-in-bangladesh/>
- Khilnani, S., Kumar, R., Mehta, P. B., Menon, L. G., Nilekani, N., Raghavan, S., . . . Varadarajan, S. (2012). NONALIGNMENT 2.0: A FOREIGN AND STRATEGIC POLICY FOR INDIA IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY. *Penguin India*, 7-11.
- Khobragade, V., & Nim, A. K. (2021). The US-China New Cold War. *World Affairs: The Journal of International Issues*, 25(2), (70-83)74.
- Kim, W., & gates, S. (2015). Power transition theory and the rise of China. *Sage Journal*, 18(3),219-226.
- Kissenger, H. (2013). *A World Restored: Metternich, Castlereagh and the Problems of Peace, 1812-1822*. Echo Point Books & Media.
- Layne, C. (2018). The US–Chinese power shift. *International Affairs*, 94(1) 89–111.
- Liff, A. P., & Ikenberry, G. J. (2014). Racing toward Tragedy?: China's Rise, Military Competition in the Asia Pacific, and the Security Dilemma. *International Security*, 39(2), 52-91.
- Mandelbaum, M. (2019). The New Containment Handling Russia, China, and Iran. *Foreign Affairs*.
- Marie, I. (2022). Why India Abstained from UN Votes on Ukraine. *National Institute of Defence Studies*, 212(3-4).
- Mehubani, K. (2013). *The great convergence: Asia, the West, and the logic of one world*. PublicAffairs.
- Mohan, C. R. (2021, June 15). *From G-7 summit, a template for Indian engagement with the West*. Retrieved Sep 29, 2024, from TheIndianExpress: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/g-7-nations-meet-statement-on-open-societies-climate-change-india-7359182/>
- Mohan, S., & Mohan, J. C. (2020). Shaping the regional and maritime battlefield? The Sino-Indian strategic competition in South Asia and adjoining waters. *Journal of the National Maritime Affairs Foundation of India*, 82-97 .
- Nye, J. S. (2011). *The Future of Power*. Public Affairs.
- Pant, H. V., & Joshi, Y. (2016). The US Pivot and Indian Foreign Policy: Asia's Evolving Balance of Power. *Palgrave Macmillan*, 85-91.
- Pant, H. V., & Saha, P. (2019, 5 18). *Charting a clear course in the Indo-Pacific*. Retrieved 10 04, 2024, from Observer Research Foundation: <https://www.orfonline.org/research/charting-a-clear-course-in-the-indo-pacific>
- Parker, J. A., & Anderson, D. A. (2016). The Reality of the So-Called "Pivot to Asia". *InterAgency Journal*, 7(1) 11-12.
- Raghavan, P. S. (2016). India-Russia Strategic Partnership – a Mutual Commitment. *Indian Foreign Affairs Journal*, 11(4), 302.
- Raheed, Z. (2023, Dec 28). *In bid to counter China, US ramps up effort to boost military ties in Asia*. Retrieved Oct 10, 2024, from AlJazeera: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/28/in-bid-to-counter-china-us-ramps-up-effort-to-boost-military-ties-in-asia>
- Ratner, E. (2019). The United States and the South China Sea: A Strategy for the Trump Administration. *Foreign Affairs*, 98(4), 132-139.
- Ross, R. S. (1993). The diplomacy of Tiananmen: Two-level bargaining and great power cooperation. *World Politics*, 400-432.
- Ross, R. S. (2012). The Problem With the Pivot: Obama's New Asia Policy Is Unnecessary and Counterproductive. *Foreign Affairs*, 91(6)70-82.
- Ross, R. S., & Bekkevold, J. I. (2016). *China in the Era of Xi Jinping: Domestic and Foreign Policy Challenges*. Washington D.C: Georgetown University Press.
- Sachs, J. D. (2024, August 19). *Accusations of US Regime-Change Operations in Pakistan & Bangladesh Warrant UN Attention*. Retrieved 10 07, 2024, from jeffsachs.org: <https://www.jeffsachs.org/newspaper-articles/5x2zh8emrax3hs3dltf4hbcf6d2mmw>
- Schaffer, T. C. (2009). India and the United States in the 21st Century: Reinventing Partnership. *Center for Strategic & International Studies*, 139-141.

- Sengupta, R. (2024). Refusal To Cede Strategic Island To US Led To My Ouster. *Start News Global* (pp. <https://stratnewsglobal.com/world-news/refusal-to-cede-strategic-island-to-us-led-to-my-ouster-says-hasina/>). Economic Times.
- Sharma, R. (2021, 7 30). *India-Russia maritime exercise concludes in the Baltic Sea*. Retrieved 10 4, 2024, from Frontline.com: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/dispatches/india-russia-maritime-exercise-concludes-in-the-baltic-sea/article35631673.ece>
- Shiino, K. (2021). India's increasingly protectionist trade policy - What are the characteristics of goods subject to increased tariffs? *The Institute of Developing Economies*, 13-26.
- Steuck, W. (1995). *The Korean War: An International History*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
- Stiglitz, J., & Pike, R. M. (2004). Globalization and its discontents. *University of Alberta Library*, 321-324.
- Tellis, A. J., & Mohan, R. C. (2015). PROTECTING AMERICAN HEGEMONY. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 11-23.
- Tucker, N. B. (2016). *China and America: The Search for a New Relationship*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Wallerstein, I. (2011). *The modern worldsystem II: mercantilism and the consolidation of the european world-economy 1600-1750*. Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Walt, S. M. (2018). The Hell of Good Intentions: America's Foreign Policy Elite and the Decline of U.S. Primacy . *Uluslararası İlişkiler*, 169-170.
- Westad, O. A. (2017). *The Cold War: A World History*. New York: Basic Books.
- Wicaksono, A. H. (2021). India's Withdrawal from Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). *Nation State Journal of International Studies*, 4(2), pp. 231 - 246.
- Wu, W. (2021, Jan 27). *China-US tension: Xi tells World Economic Forum competition is for pursuing excellence – not killing off a rival*. Retrieved Sep 20, 2024, from MyNews: <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3119509/china-us-tension-xi-tells-world-economic-forum-competition>
- Yao, Y. (2021). The New Cold War: America's New Approach to Sino-American Relations. *The Institute of International Strategic studies*, 3,20-33.
- Zhai, Q. (2000). *China and the Vietnam Wars, 1950-1975*. University of North Carolina Press.
- Zhao, S. (2004). *A Nation-State by Construction: Dynamics of Modern Chinese Nationalism*. California: Stanford University Press.
- Zhao, S., Zhao, S. X., & Zhang, Z. (2021). *US-China Rivalry and Its Implications for the Post-Pandemic World*. Springer.