

VOL. XI ISSUE II, SPRING (JUNE-2026)

GPR

GLOBAL POLITICAL REVIEW
HEC-RECOGNIZED CATEGORY-Y

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Title: Decline of Western Dominance: Myth or Reality

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Keywords: Western Dominance, Global Influence, Rising Powers, China, India, Russia, United States, Europe, NATO, European Union, Geopolitical Balance

Authors:

Afza Salman: BS Scholar, Department of International Relations, Government College University, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

Ghulam Fatima: BS Scholar, Department of International Relations, Government College University, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

Bilal Bin Liaqat: (Corresponding Author)
Assistant Professor (OPS), Department of International Relations, Government College University, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.
(Email: bilalbinliaqat@gcuf.edu.pk)

Pages: 56-65

DOI:10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-II).05

DOI link: [https://dx.doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026\(XI-II\).05](https://dx.doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-II).05)

Article link: <https://gprjournal.com/article/decline-of-western-dominance-myth-or-reality>

Full-text Link: <https://gprjournal.com/article/decline-of-western-dominance-myth-or-reality>

Pdf link: <https://www.gprjournal.com/jadmin/Auther/31rv1oIA2.pdf>

Global Political Review

p-ISSN: [2521-2982](https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr) e-ISSN: [2707-4587](https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr)

DOI (journal): [10.31703/gpr](https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr)

Volume: XI (2026)

DOI (volume): [10.31703/gpr.2026\(XI\)](https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI))

Issue: II Spring (June-2026)

DOI(Issue): [10.31703/gpr.2026\(XI-II\)](https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-II))

Home Page

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Volume: XI (2026)

<https://www.gprjournal.com/Current-issue>

Issue: II-Spring (June-2026)

<https://www.gprjournal.com/issue/11/2/2026>

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Citing this Article

Article Serial	05
Article Title	Decline of Western Dominance: Myth or Reality
Authors	Afza Salman Ghulam Fatima Bilal Bin Liaqat
DOI	10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-II).05
Pages	56-65
Year	2026
Volume	XI
Issue	II
Referencing & Citing Styles	
APA	Salman, A., Fatima, G., & Liaqat, B. B. (2026). Decline of Western Dominance: Myth or Reality. <i>Global Political Review</i> , 11(2), 56-65. https://doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-II).05
CHICAGO	Salman, Afza, Ghulam Fatima, and Bilal Bin Liaqat. 2026. "Decline of Western Dominance: Myth or Reality." <i>Global Political Review</i> 11 (2):56-65. doi: 10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-II).05.
HARVARD	SALMAN, A., FATIMA, G. & LIAQAT, B. B. 2026. Decline of Western Dominance: Myth or Reality. <i>Global Political Review</i> , 11, 56-65.
MHRA	Salman, Afza, Ghulam Fatima, and Bilal Bin Liaqat. 2026. 'Decline of Western Dominance: Myth or Reality', <i>Global Political Review</i> , 11: 56-65.
MLA	Salman, Afza, Ghulam Fatima, and Bilal Bin Liaqat. "Decline of Western Dominance: Myth or Reality." <i>Global Political Review</i> 11.2 (2026): 56-65. Print.
OXFORD	Salman, Afza, Fatima, Ghulam, and Liaqat, Bilal Bin (2026), 'Decline of Western Dominance: Myth or Reality', <i>Global Political Review</i> , 11 (2), 56-65.
TURABIAN	Salman, Afza, Ghulam Fatima, and Bilal Bin Liaqat. "Decline of Western Dominance: Myth or Reality." <i>Global Political Review</i> 11, no. 2 (2026): 56-65. https://dx.doi.org/10.31703/gpr.2026(XI-II).05 .

Decline of Western Dominance: Myth or Reality



Afza Salman¹, Ghulam Fatima², Bilal Bin Liaqat (Corresponding Author)³

¹ BS Scholar, Department of International Relations, Government College University, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

² BS Scholar, Department of International Relations, Government College University, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.

³ Assistant Professor (OPS), Department of International Relations, Government College University, Faisalabad, Punjab, Pakistan.
(Email: bilalbinliaqat@gcuf.edu.pk)

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to determine whether Western nations' influence on the world stage is actually waning or merely a perception. This study will check to what extent countries like China, India, and Russia are rising and whether they are becoming more powerful than the West, America, and Europe. The research method will combine data and expert opinions, and it will also assess the strength of institutions such as NATO, the European Union, and the United States to determine their ability to handle new challenges.

Keywords: *Western Dominance, Global Influence, Rising Powers, China, India, Russia, United States, Europe, NATO, European Union, Geopolitical Balance*

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Introduction

The twentieth century saw the creation of the World Bank, World Trade Organization, and IMF on the tenets of free markets, democracy, liberalism, and science. Although this system was established under American leadership, it is currently disintegrating, especially in light of Donald Trump's nationalist views and international concerns like COVID-19, the financial crisis, and climate change. In contrast to Western liberalism, China's quick rise has produced a new form of state-led economy and authoritarian governance. China's global influence is primarily growing through the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Belt and Road Initiative. However, China continues to be a global attraction and institutional. The United States is no longer as capable as it once was. If the United States abandons its moral and institutional leadership role, the world may become multipolar and unstable, with no single country able to effectively lead global issues such as climate change or pandemics (Khan et al., 2021).

Michael's Cox (2012) questions whether the West is truly declining or whether it is simply the nature of power that is changing. He argues that despite China and other power states, the influence of the West, its military capabilities, and its powers are still dominant. According to Cox, this decline is merely a myth that does not consider the West's capabilities strong. He argues that the Western decline is a subject and a reality that differentiates them (Cox, 2012).

If there is a decline in the power of the West, it is mainly due to the rise of China and the crisis of Western societies, which is characterized by populism and economic insecurity. However, this decline is often exaggerated. Beeson says that the dominance of the West has not completely disappeared, but rather the centre of power in the world is expanding. He says that the decline is increasing due to the West's own concerns (Basedau, 2025).



The decline of the West's power. It explains how China and Russia have strengthened their political, economic, and security presence, which has resulted in the decline of the West's power. According to the report, the contradictions in policies and immoral behaviour have led to its decline, and this example shows at what level the period of Western decline is accurate (Jakaria, [2026](#)).

Stephen's Matthew ([2025](#)) thoughts are based on how the spread of global power is affecting institutions and the structure of governance. As China, India and other states rise in power, the importance of the United Nations and other organizations is decreasing. Mathew makes it clear that the distribution of power is not a Western decline, but rather the foundation of a global system, and this study helps to understand institutional power and the Western relationship (Stephen, [2025](#)).

China has exploited this trend to demonstrate the superiority of its one-party system, while the G20 countries have played a major role in global affairs. Western trade facilitation and prosperity have played a major role in the economies of developing countries. The United States faces political and economic challenges, but these are manageable. The United States still has the world's largest military, a free education system, and global cultural influence (Patten, [2023](#)).

Statement of problem:

The importance and influence of Western powers in the world has always been prominent in global politics and economics. In recent years, questions have been raised about the economic, political, and military power of the United States and Europe. Some experts say that the Western world is losing its power and now its influence in the global system is decreasing, while others consider it to be an exaggeration or a misunderstanding. Research into this issue is necessary so that we can understand whether Western hegemony is truly declining or is it just a hypothesis, and to what extent its impact may affect global politics, economics, and security.

Hypothesis

This idea is predicated on the premise that the United States and Europe's economic development has stalled, while China, India, and other countries are increasing their global commerce and political power. However, some experts refer to this as a myth or "myth".

Research Questions :

- Is the West really in decline or is it just a misconception?
- What is the difference between Western citizens' perceptions of the West's decline and the reality of the global power situation?

Research Methodology

This research will use a qualitative approach, interpretive methodology, depending on the secondary sources that include books, scholar articles, think tanks reports, documents of government policy, news reports, and current studies related to the field. The study follows an interpretive approach which emphasizes to learn the meanings, perceptions, and the motivations behind actions of various actors rather than depending only on numerical data. This approach allows for a full assessment of how political, economic, and cultural variables have molded the global power balance and questioned the collapse of Western dominance, determining whether it is a myth or a reality.

Research Objectives

- To determine whether the power of the West (i.e. the US and Europe) is truly declining or is it a misconception.
- To examine the impact of global politics, economics, military power and technology on Western influence.
- To examine whether global institutions (e.g. UN, IMF, World Bank) are still under Western control.
- To assess the future of the Western “Liberal World Order” — will it persist or is a new world order emerging?
- To compare the views of scholars who support and oppose the “Western decline” theory to distinguish between myth vs. Reality.
- Understanding from historical examples how powerful nations have risen and fallen in the past, and whether today’s Western decline is also part of the same process.

Literature Review

According to Michael Cox, at the beginning of the 21st century, the idea became widespread that the Western world, especially the United States, was losing its global dominance and that the center of power was now shifting to Asia or the “Global South.” This narrative has been reinforced by several economists and political scientists, such as Fareed Zakaria (2008) who called it the “Post-American World,” while Jim O’Neill (2001) identified the emerging powers of the BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India, China). Niall Ferguson (2010) and Paul Kennedy (1987) have also discussed the possibility of the decline of the West. According to Cox, the United States is still the world’s largest economy, a leader in technology, a leader in higher education, and a military leader. He cites authors such as Carla Norloff (2010) and Doug Stokes (2011) who emphasize America’s “hegemonic advantages.” Similarly, the West still has the upper hand in the realm of soft power—due to American universities, democratic values, and cultural influence. China faces internal challenges, a lack of innovation, and the rigidity of its political system. It is therefore an exaggeration to say that the world has entered an “Asian Century.” Cox concludes that there is a distribution of power in the world, but not the decline of the West rather, new powers are joining forces with the West and augmenting the global system, not replacing it (Cox, 2012). In spite of broad talk about on Western decay and the rise of Asia, there remains a writing hole in completely accommodating basic markers of moving worldwide control with the proceeded dominance of U.S.-led hegemonic focal points in financial matters, innovation, military, and delicate control.

In his 1992 book *The conclusion of History and the Last Man*, Francis Fukuyama made the case that ideological disputes ended and Western liberal democracy won with the conclusion of the Cold War and the fall of the Soviet Union. But the experiences of 2021 and the Ukraine war showed that this theory is not entirely correct. According to Fukuyama, liberal democracy gives people the right to live their lives as they wish and decide their own future, so it is the most sustainable system. But today’s situations (e.g., human rights-based interventions in Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan) and other crises have shown that the superiority and values of the West are being challenged, and the conflicts have not ended (Fukuyama, 1992). In spite of Fukuyama's end of history proposition, there remains a writing hole in clarifying the tirelessness and resurgence of geopolitical clashes that challenge the expected worldwide meeting toward generous vote based system and Western standardizing dominance.

According to Michel Foucault, language and discourse are the most important means of establishing power relations. When certain behavior or ideas become so habitual that their

alternatives cannot be imagined, they begin to influence our daily decisions and thinking (Foucault, 1969). In spite of Foucault's accentuation on talk as a central instrument of control arrangement, there remains a writing crevice in experimentally clarifying how prevailing digressive structures gotten to be internalized to the degree that elective ways of considering and decision-making are methodically avoided in regular social and political life.

Graham Allison (2017) – in his book *Destined For War*, he argues that a future conflict between the United States and China is possible, which he calls the “Thucydides’ Trap.” He draws his inspiration from the Greek historian Thucydides’ account of the relationship between Sparta and Athen (Allison, 2017). In spite of Graham Allison's Thucydides Trap proposal, there remains a writing hole in efficiently bookkeeping for basic, financial, and organization components which will anticipate or moderate great-power war between the Joined together States and China past chronicled analogy-based forecasts.

Historical Background

The developing contrasts between the Joined together States and Europe have uncovered a profound fracture within the Western organization together, which the creator compares to the Sino-Soviet Part of the Cold War time. Concurring to the article, Donald Trump’s “America First” policy, pressure on European nations to extend defines investing, exchange sanctions, and the danger of obtaining Greenland have assist debilitated the transoceanic relationship. As a result, European nations are looking for elective financial and security organizations, whereas nations such as China and Russia can advantage from this division. Agreeing to the author, this move marks a major move within the adjust of worldwide control and increments the probability of the rise of a modern multipolar world arrange in which Western authority is slowly debilitating (Bakhsh, 2026).

China’s power is growing and it is challenging the global influence of the United States. In the first phase (1949–1971), China remained largely outside the US world system; in the second phase (1971–2008), China joined the world system, improving relations with the US and growing its economy rapidly; and in the third phase (after 2008), China adopted a more active and assertive global role after the global financial crisis. In the economy, China has increased its production and trade, participated in Western institutions and created new institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and BRICS, and linked the world’s countries through trade and connectivity through the Belt and Road Initiative. In ideology, China offers a “Beijing Consensus” of cooperation and win-win cooperation, which is different from the US approach, and is increasing its influence in the economy and international law rather than through direct military power. Thus, China is not only trying to oppose the United States, but also to create its own new system in the world, strengthen its economy, create new institutions, and provide new ideas for development (Allison, 2017).

Rise of a Multipolar World and Challenges for Global Stability

The monetary advancement of these countries, their regional affect, and their growing consideration in around the world administrative issues have pointed to a multipolar world system where control is not limited to the West. This change is making present day challenges for around the world organization, security, and the budgetary system. Concurring to the article, to preserve stability inside end of, the Western countries will have to be take steps such as collaborating with creating powers, changing widespread educate, and contributing in development to protect their portion inside the changing around the world system (Gul, 2025).

Spread of Western Values and Influence During the Cold War

Western values such as private property (capitalism), constrained government (generous majority rule government) and the security of human rights got to be a demonstrate for creating nations to take after in their strides. Amid the Cold War (1945 -1991), the worldwide impact of the West was encourage fortified. The unions and philosophies shaped beneath the administration of the Joined together States anticipated the spread of communism in Europe and Asia and made the West the gatekeeper of worldwide soundness.

The Decline of Western Dominance

The return of Donald Trump seem debilitate the thought of the West since believe between the Joined together States and its partners like Canada and NATO/EU nations is breaking down. Numerous European nations were stressed around his return, and overviews appear most individuals there think it could be a bad thing. The strife is now not almost about defense investing or exchange, but too around values and culture. Trump has criticized Europe and indeed addressed NATO significance. His approach to the Ukraine war keeping Europe out of choices and restricting Ukraines future has made the isolate more awful. Within the past, the West got to be solid amid the Cold War, when nations joined together against the Soviet Union. Even after that, individuals like Francis Fukuyama accepted Western thoughts would overwhelm. But presently, solidarity is debilitating once more. Europe is attempting to depend less on the US by expanding its claim defense, and a few European nations are indeed separated among themselves. Since of this, it is getting to be troublesome to see the West as one joined together gather (Acharya, 2025).

Change of Worldwide Arrange and the Conclusion of West vs Rest

Trumps arrangements challenge the worldwide framework made after World War II. That framework was based on cooperation and administration by the US, an thought clarified by masterminds like Charles Kindle berger and John Ikenberry. But Trump lean towards control and weight rather than participation, which may make the world more unsteady. Indeed so, other nations are not taking off participation behind. Nations like China, India, and EU individuals are working together through bunches such as BRICS. Modern forms of participation may show up where nations work together without the US, like within the Universal Criminal Court. At the same time, the thought of West vs Rest is additionally being addressed, since numerous nations see the West as connected to colonialism and disparity. This alter does not cruel the world will collapse; instead, it may lead to a more adjusted and comprehensive worldwide arrange. History appears that no single locale has continuously controlled the world framework. Trump may be speeding up the decay of Western solidarity, but he isn't the as it were reason. His activities may too make a chance to construct distant better much better higher stronger; an improved stronger and more comprehensive world framework.

The Decay of Worldwide administration

The decrease of worldwide administration implies that universal participation between nations is getting to be weaker as control shifts within the world. Within the past, rising nations were often included in worldwide frameworks after being vanquished and after that modified, like France after the Napoleonic wars or Germany and Japan after World War II, since they shared common interface with capable states. But when nations don't share the same interface, participation gets to be troublesome and competition increments, as seen amid the Cold War when the Soviet Union and Western nations made partitioned frameworks and worldwide teach just like the Joined together Countries battled to work viably. Nowadays, this issue is growing again, especially since the Joined together States has decreased its back for worldwide participation beneath Donald Trump, taking

off understandings and organizations just like the Paris climate bargain, WHO, and others, and indeed criticizing teach such as the Worldwide Criminal Court. At the same time, worldwide organizations are confronting halt, just like the UN Security Chamber, which cannot solve major clashes, and the World Exchange Organization, which battles to oversee exchange debate. Enormous powers are moreover disregarding worldwide law, such as Russia activities in Ukraine and China claims within the South China Sea, while participation on worldwide issues like climate alter and pandemics has debilitated (Stephen, [2025](#)).

The Decline of US Led Global Order and The Emergence of a Multipolar World

Kenneth Waltz, a conspicuous political researcher, made a refinement between two key components: the dispersion of capacities, which he considered an extremely systemic perspective, and the organizations together that governments build up. Agreeing to his contention, in spite of the fact that countries may not have the capacity to select the degree of their control, they do have the office to choose their group. The organization together framework, which is for the most part cantered on the Joined together States and plays a noteworthy part in worldwide legislative issues, has been in presence for over seventy a long time. It has obtained a certain level of basic centrality, whereas Waltz's separation remains relevant. The foundation of the show worldwide arrange may be credited not as it were to the effort of drive, but moreover to the think choices taken by the Joined together States and its partners. These choices included broad collaboration in both financial and security spaces to begin with pointed at containing the Soviet Union and a while later cantered on advancing a worldwide arrange that encouraged commerce and participation. The choices made by people proceed to have importance. In case suitable choices are made, the probability of bipolarity or multipolarity happening will stay farther, and the current state of a somewhat unipolar framework will endure for numerous decades. Without a doubt, amid the period of fractional unipolarity, the importance of unions gets to be more obvious. The concept of revisionism requires revenge, and given the restricted accessibility of free courses of activity, it is basic for the Joined together States to arrange its reaction with its united countries. Be that as it may, Washington holds noteworthy impact in forming such collaboration. The emergence of participation among self-interested governments may happen within the nonappearance of administration, but it is more plausible to materialize when there's direction from Washington. American thoughts frequently serve as a central point of centre, around which its accomplices tend to join together (Ahmad et al., [2025](#)).

Financial Participation, Administration Part, and Exchange Arrangement Course

Within the domain of financial approach, it is fitting for Washington to work out limitation and avoid reliably seeking after the foremost beneficial terms in transactions with its partners. Compelling pioneers are characterized by having followers who are willing to take after them deliberately, instead of those who require influence or drive. The elemental premise of the modern worldwide arrange spins on an fundamental commitment that has demonstrated invaluable for the Joined together States. This commitment involves that in spite of the fact that the country appreciates particular focal points stemming from its control over the framework, it abstains from utilizing its position to unreasonably extricate benefits from its allies. Sustaining this course of action requires arrangements that show a lesser degree of protectionism compared to those actualized by either the Trump or the Biden organization. Within the setting of exchange, it is basic for Washington to broaden its viewpoint past its possess interface and take into consideration the inclinations and wants of its companions. For the lion's share of people, the reply may be briefly expressed as the capacity to enter the Joined together States showcase. Subsequently, it is basic for the Joined together States to display considerable exchange assentions to its partners in Asia and

Europe, with the point of lessening exchange deterrents. When executed viably, upgrading advertise get to can surrender favorable results for both U.S. partners and American citizens, subsequently empowering lawmakers to overcome political confinements (Ahmad et al., [2025](#)).

Move from US-Led Unipolar Arrange to a Multipolar World

Donald Trump proposed land grabs cruel the US is not seen as an grapple of steadiness, but or maybe a chance to be supported against, the coordinators of the Munich Security Conference have said in their pre-summit report. The report, which takes as its subject the move from a US-led, unipolar post-cold war time towards a multipolar world in which no single ideological viewpoint overwhelms, will shape the scenery to this year's conference. Since his introduction, the US president has mooted securing arrive for the US in Greenland and Panama, and proposed Canada might be a 51 US state. The signals from Washington progressively show that the US not needs to be the gatekeeper of the magnanimous international order, but it is distant from clear which other nations may be willing and able to supply much-needed worldwide open products. The report predicts a world in which a more prominent number of states are competing for influence, meaning the future arrange may be much messier (Wintour, [2025](#)).

Decrease of U.S. Authority as a Driver of Multipolarity

Decay as the Essential Driver the move to multipolarity is frequently ascribed generally to the melting away of U.S. authority. Due to an assortment of circumstances, counting extended nation-building activities and key misfortunes in as well yearning worldwide operations, the Joined together States' relative power which is characterized as its capacity to impact worldwide behavior has reduced. Policymakers, scholastics, and worldwide political investigators all to a great extent concur that this does not ensure the foundation of a really multipolar world framework. Botches just like the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which exhausted budgetary assets and harmed the Joined together States' notoriety universally, and the War on Fear, which went through more than \$4 trillion without creating any important key preferences, have in reality caused the country's control to decrease. Furthermore, its backing of governments with a dreary record on human rights, like Israel and the Inlet governments, has undermined its ethical specialist and called into question its declaration that it advances all-inclusive equitable standards. It cannot disregard the key, political, and financial repercussions of these disappointments and routs (Shah, Rab, & Sanaullah, [2025](#)).

Conclusion

This ponder set out to look at and comparatively dissect the directions of worldwide nations overwhelming AI distributions between 2000 and 2025. By using the rate of worldwide AI distributions by nation as the centre metric, the investigate successfully measured the emotional move of the worldwide AI investigate scene. My examination comes about in five centre . The essential conclusion is the unequivocal authority of China, which expanded its share of worldwide AI distributions from less than 5% in 2000 to about 36% by 2025. This makes China the single most prevailing supporter to worldwide AI inquire about volume, altogether outpacing any other major nation or coalition. In differentiate, the consider affirms a supported, systemic decrease within the relative dominance of the notable, built up AI players, specifically the US and the EU27. Both have seen their person offers decreased by over half, showing that their yield development has fizzled to keep pace with the exponential worldwide extension of AI investigate, to a great extent driven by Asian economies. The inquire about demonstrates a broader geological move of the AI inquire about wilderness towards Asia, prove by the significant development of India commitment nearby China dominance. This recommends that the current worldwide AI race is progressively a

multipolar competition established in Asian inquire about biological systems. The move in distribution dominance serves as a driving marker of vital capability. The concentration of foundational AI information generation in a single nation (China) disturbs the geopolitical adjust, encouraging the essential vital re-evaluation of AI-related investigate financing and collaboration arrangements over Western powers and the EU coalition to guarantee innovative versatility and competitive advantage. Moreover, the Granger causality examination yields show a degree of chronicled interdependency between Western and Asian AI investigate frameworks which policymakers ought to take into consideration when planning worldwide investigate collaboration systems. China dominance in worldwide AI investigate is now not kept to distribution volume. The quality-quantity investigation illustrates that China share of high-impact distribution surpasses its share of generally distributions in 2025, and its normal citations per paper has outperformed the US. These observational yields show China comprehensive investigate authority that challenges the common suspicion where Western nations hold dominance in high-impact AI grant. This ponder has a few impediments that ought to be recognized. To begin with, the classification of AI distributions depends on field-of-study labelling that takes after the OECD measures. Papers in adjoining areas such as characteristic dialect handling or computer vision are as it were included in the event that they are concurrently classified beneath centre AI or machine learning categories. This implies the datasets I utilized likely undercount the complete breadth of AI-relevant grant. Moment, while the Granger causality investigation distinguishes factually noteworthy prescient connections between Western and Asian distribution directions, it does not clarify why past values of one country distribution share foresee another. Third, distribution figures for 2025 ought to be deciphered with the affirmation that the datasets I utilized may not completely cover distributions from late 2025 due to ordering delays. Hence, the 2025 information ought to be seen as temporary but not complete (Mahbubani, [2020](#)).

Post-Cold War time of undisputed Western authority and American unipolarity is coming to an unavoidable conclusion. Driven by moving, eccentric US remote arrangements and residential vital dangers, American worldwide supremacy is confronting serious weakness and auxiliary challenges. In its put, a complex, divided multipolar world arrange is quickly rising, intensely characterized by the rise of China as a coordinate superpower competitor and a enormous relocation of financial and political impact from the West to the East. Besides, this geopolitical realignment is being quickened by the dynamic re-assertion of the Worldwide South, which is bypassing Western educate to create its possess select organizations together, eventually reshaping the rules of modern universal relations along civilizational and multipolar fault lines (Lalani, [2024](#)).

Recommendations

- The Joined together States and its Western partners must desert a zero-sum attitude with respect to rising powers like China and India. Since cutting edge worldwide economies are profoundly coordinates, endeavouring outright decoupling would cause disastrous worldwide monetary hurt. Western countries ought to turn toward a procedure of agreeable coexistence, cantering on non-military, transnational emergencies such as climate alter, worldwide pandemics, and monetary insecurity.
- To counter the relative decay in mechanical dominance especially given that China's share of worldwide Manufactured Insights (AI) distributions has come to about 36% Western powers and the EU fusion must in a general sense re-evaluate their investigate financing structures. Policymakers ought to address the fracture of investigate subsidizing within the EU and make motivating forces to prevent the movement of high-impact AI analysts from the scholarly world to private businesses within the US.

- Western-led multilateral organizations such as the UN Security Committee, IMF, World Bank, and WTO must experience basic changes to stay pertinent. These organizations must give more noteworthy representation, voting offers, and decision-making specialist to the Worldwide South and developing alliances (such as BRICS+ and the SCO) to anticipate the total fracture of worldwide administration.
- The Joined together States ought to maintain a strategic distance from pulling back from its security commitments in Europe and Asia, as add up to non-intervention seem destabilize territorial security. Be that as it may, Washington must hone restriction and maintain a strategic distance from protectionist exchange approaches. The US ought to offer significant, mutually beneficial exchange assertions and advertise get to to its accomplices to support its organizations together through intentional arrangement instead of impelling.
- Whereas the West ought to protect its organizations together, worldwide accomplices must step up and accept more obligation for their possess territorial defense. European partners ought to improve their capabilities for regional ground defense, whereas Asian accomplices (such as Taipei) must prioritize cost-effective, cautious military systems to guarantee territorial solidness without over-relying exclusively on American military resources.

Western countries must recognize that the post-Cold War period is multicivilizational which Western values are not all around acknowledged as supreme truths. To dodge perilous fault-line clashes, Western powers ought to hone an "abstention rule" refraining from one-sided military or ideological intercessions within the inner issues of non-Western civilizations, in this manner regarding worldwide social differences.

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