

The Changing World Order of the 21st Century

Trends and Challenges

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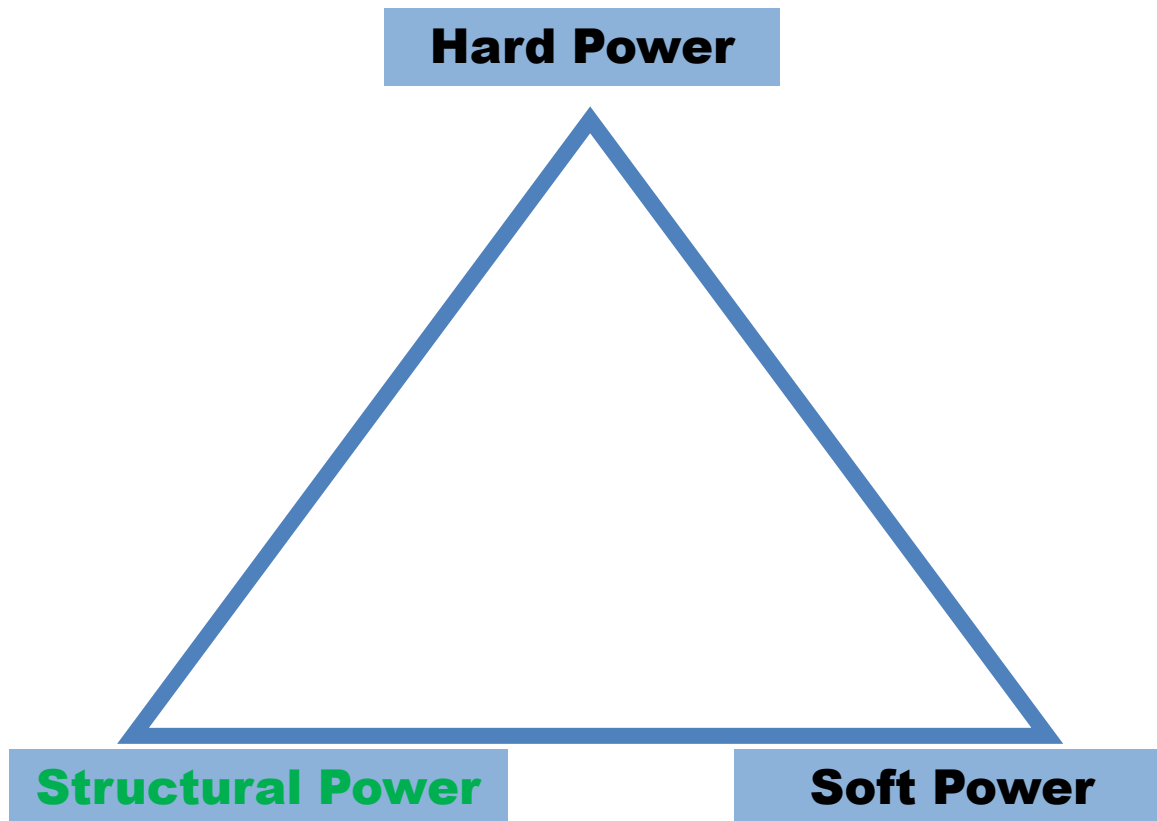
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Trend 1

Increasing weight of structural power in enforcement of national preferences



- Hard Power
“I can force you to do what I want”
- Soft Power
“I can attract you to do what I want”
- Structural Power
“I can leverage you to do what I want”

Trend 2

“Geo-Politization” of Globalization

- Understanding globalization: Nothing is globalized than the young enforcement of capitalistic production system around the globe;
- A real globalization just beginning with the fall of the “Berlin Wall” as political precondition of a globe-covering penetration of capitalism;
- The birth of internet and the digital revolution as technical precondition of globalization;
- Outsourcing and offshoring as driver of globalization producing “Global Supply-Chains” as chemistry of globalization;
- Trend now: No “De-Globalization” as some describe, but “Geo-Politization of Globalization” (more precise: “Weaponization” of globalized interdependences)

Trend 3

Global Political Marginalization of Europe

The massive coincidence of crises beleaguering the continent

- The Euro Crisis
- The Ukraine Crisis
- The Terrorism Crisis
- The Refugee Crisis
- The Populism Crisis
- The Brexit Crisis

But: A more assertive Europe is emerging



Trend 4

The Return of the Primate of Nationalism and the “Brain Death” of Multilateralism

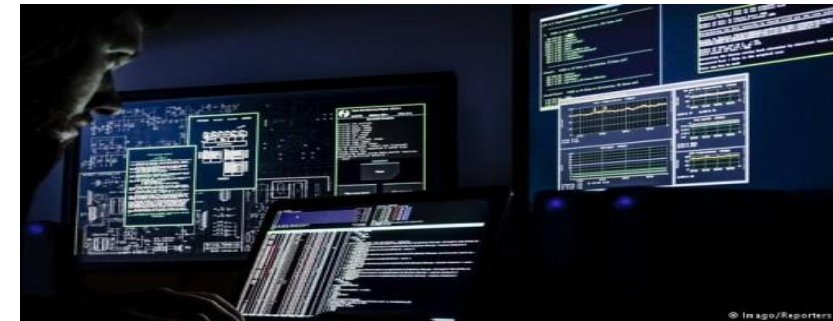
- “America First”
- “Chinese Dream”
- “European Sovereignty”



Trend 5

“Cyberfication” of Power Competition among Nations

- All big powers have recognized cyberspace as the fifth domain of warfare, next to the land, sea, air, and outer space:
- Cyber attacks as “first strike” in contrast to conventional attacks as “second strike” and nuclear attacks as “last trike”;
- Cyber weapons: cheap, widely available, and below the level of war protected by difficult attribution; controllable, traceless and flexible;
- Strategic advantage for small states and non-state actors to coerce much larger and more sophisticated states (cyber asymmetric warfare);
- So far, no uses of Offensive Cyber Operation resulted in the outbreak of military conflict.



Trend 6

Narrowing Gap between Combined Power of China and the US



2005



22.60



2015



12.30



18.80



2017



12.75



18.31



What if these trends continue to intensify?

- Challenge for the world: A bipolarity between China and the US as a new normativity of international relations;
- Challenge for Washington and Beijing: Securing sufficient allies and partners for their competition;
- Challenge for the rest of the world: Growing pressures to take sides.

Thank You