

Covid-19 Pandemic is a Milestone in China's Rise on the World Arena

Dr. Mahmoud Khalifa Gouda (*)

• Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic led to rapid, escalating, and profound changes in the structure of the global order in a way that has contributed to the reshaping of the global order, as China's success in dealing with the pandemic and its repercussions constituted a comprehensive geopolitical victory for China, which strengthened its role in the global system, the superiority of the Chinese economy, and China's role in global trade. In addition to that, Covid-19 vaccines represented an opportunity for China to increase its weight on the global arena, as China has moved quickly to produce and export personal protective equipment, ventilators and medical supplies worldwide. Over the year 2021, China partnered with developing economies to improve vaccine manufacturing capacity and used vaccine diplomacy to expand its influence. Thus, Considering the changes in the structure of the world order over the past decades, the Covid-19 pandemic is a one of the main factors dedicated to the emergence of a new world order, in which China is making a strong contribution. This new world order witness increasing international tensions.

Keywords: World Order, China, USA, COVID-19 Pandemic, Multipolarity, Global Economy

(*) Lecturer at Pharaohs High Institute for Computer, Information Systems and Management – Al Maryutia, Giza.

جائحة "كوفيد-19" علامة فارقة في مسار الصعود الصيني على الساحة الدولية

د. محمود خليفة جودة

• ملخص:

أدت جائحة "كوفيد-19" إلى تغييرات سريعة ومتصاعدة، وعميقة التأثير في بنية النظام العالمي على نحو أسهم في إعادة تشكيله، حيث مثل نجاح الصين في التعامل مع الجائحة وتداعياتها انتصارًا جيوسياسيًا شاملاً للصين، مما عزز من دورها في النظام العالمي، وتفوق الاقتصاد الصيني، ودور الصين في التجارة العالمية، كما مثلت لقاحات "كوفيد-19" فرصة للصين لزيادة ثقلها على الساحة العالمية، حيث تحركت الصين بسرعة لإنتاج وتصدير معدات الوقاية الشخصية وأجهزة التنفس الصناعي والإمدادات الطبية في جميع أنحاء العالم. وعلى مدار عام 2021، أقامت الصين شراكات مع الاقتصادات النامية لتحسين القدرة على تصنيع اللقاحات واستخدمت دبلوماسية اللقاح لتوسيع نفوذها. وعليه، بالنظر إلى التغيرات التي طرأت على بنية وهيكلة النظام العالمي طول العقود الماضية، فإن جائحة كوفيد-19 كانت أحد العوامل التي كرسَتْ لظهور نظام عالمي جديد الآن، نظام عالمي تسهم الصين فيه بقوة، نظام يشهد توترات دولية متزايدة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: النظام العالمي، الصين، الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية، جائحة "كوفيد-19"، التعددية القطبية، الاقتصاد العالمي



1. Introduction

Since more than Three decades after the end of the great power rivalry and the end of the cold war, the world may have reached another historic turning point; with the end of the Covid-19 crisis, the international community will begin to reassess the world order; as the world order characterized by mutual understanding among the major powers is over, and a new era of global turmoil has dawned ⁽¹⁾.

The world faced the most severe global economic downturn since the 1930s, as a result of the outbreak of the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, following the easing of full closures during the past summer as a result of the first wave; Easing the closures has led to economic activity beginning to recover ⁽²⁾, but now faces a recessionary trend as a result of the Russian-Ukrainian war, that make the world is a more unstable and fearful place, and the war the war disrupted both global economy and global trade that were still recovering from the pandemic. Food prices have soared, since Russia and Ukraine are major suppliers of wheat and sunflower oil, and Russia is the world's top fertilizer producer (3).

The Coved-19 pandemic has also led to unprecedented levels of borrowing and national debt, worsening budget deficits, as well as frequent closures and public health concerns, which in turn have fuelled social unrest and increased pressure on political

⁽¹⁾ Blackwill, R. and Thomas Wright. (July 11, 2020) "Why COVID-19 Presents a World Reordering Moment", The National Interest. Available at: <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/why-covid-19-presents-world-reordering-moment-164496>

⁽²⁾ FT Reporters. (January 6, 2021) "Pandemic Crisis: Global Economic Impact Tracker", *Financial Times*. Available at: <https://www.ft.com/content/272354f2-f970-4ae4-a8ae-848c4baf8f4a>

⁽³⁾ LAWLESS, J (February 22, 2023), " Global impact: 5 ways war in Ukraine has changed the world", Associated Press, Available at: <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-war-5-things-c183ddfe6c140393464d3e0c3828c328>

institutions. The economic and social repercussions of the pandemic are likely to continue for a long time after the virus has receded ⁽⁴⁾, Especially in light of the repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

Despite those pandemic repercussions on all countries of the world, the Chinese economy has shown unparalleled strength among the world's major economies in the face of a pandemic that is expected to result in permanent shifts in global growth rates, pushing China to the forefront.

Based on the above, this paper attempts to study and analyze the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on the global balance of power, especially in light of China's growing influence on the world arena under the pandemic.

2. The theoretical framework

There is a fact that the history of the world order reflects: there are several constants that frame the process of change in the rise of an international power and at the same time, being a sign of the failure of other powers to prove their capacity. While time limits cannot be set for the process of the emergence and fall of the major powers there are elements where the strengths and ups may be, or obstacles that will pave the way for the process of collapse ⁽⁵⁾.

Although it is frequently said that we live in a changing world, this does not mean that change is unique to the contemporary world or a characteristic of this time from other times; The untold fact is that change is a fundamental characteristic of life and one of its main features that is not altered, and that philosophers have

⁽⁴⁾ Michta, A. (January 9, 2021), "Why the West Isn't Confronting China Over Coronavirus", The National Interest. Available at: <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/why-west-isn%E2%80%99t-confronting-china-over-coronavirus-175884>

⁽⁵⁾ Hussein, H. (2013), "A Future Vision of International Polar Transformations", Mustansiriyah University, *Al-Mustansiriyah Magazine for Arab and International Studies*, Issue 43, P6.



expressed in the past by saying that everything is changing except change ⁽⁶⁾.

The central problem in the study of transformation is that it is a common phenomenon; i.e. it occurs in all natural and social phenomena, but most often it takes the character of limited and desirable fluctuation. Hence, the question within the scope of relationships becomes the need to distinguish in the patterns of transformation between a fundamental or marginal transformation? Considering that the transformation occurs as a result of the energy generated by the process of interaction of the parties, i.e. the transformation is not as much an emergency element as it is a component of the system itself ⁽⁷⁾.

There are several major theories that explain the process of power shift and the change in the structure of the world order, at the head of which power shift and balance of power theories:

i. The theory of power shift:

Organski predicted in his 1958 WORLD POLITICS book, the China's rise in the world order, and his theory of power shift is based on two basic observations: that the power of the state stems from its internal development and that the process of growth varies from a state to another and then there is the possibility of the rise of other states and declines. The second basis is that the dominant powers are decisively shape the world order, but with the rise of unsatisfied challenger of the existing world order. The conflict between the two countries is escalating ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽⁶⁾ Abdul Badie, A. (1990), "The Dimensions of Change in the World System and Its Impact on Foreign Policy", by Ahmed Youssef Ahmed (Editor), Egypt's Foreign Policy in a Changing World - First Conference on Political Research, Cairo University, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Center for Political Research and Studie, pp 164-165 .

⁽⁷⁾ Rabahi, O. (June 2011), "The Impact of Strategic Transformations in the International System on Theory of International Relations", Algeria, *Journal of the Academy of Social and Humanitarian Studies*, p28.

⁽⁸⁾ Kim, W and Scott Gates. (2015) "Power Transition Theory and The Rise of China", *International Area Studies Review*, 5, Vol. 18(3), pp 219-220.

Organski and Kugler confirmed that the rising nation, that is called the rising challenger, is behaving in a confrontational manner with the superpower to take the lead in the global system. Therefore, wars break out between the rising power and those controlling the status quo⁽⁹⁾.

According to the theory of power shift, power parity is achieved in the hierarchical system when one of the major powers becomes a potential rival of the dominant State, by possessing more than 80% of the capabilities and resources of the dominant state, and that stage ends when the competing state exceeds that percentage by about 20% more than the dominant state; i.e. the disparity in power between the competing state is more than 80% of the potential of the dominant power⁽¹⁰⁾.

ii. Power balance theory:

The theory of balance of power uses the concept of balance as an analytical tool, and assumes that States are looking to reach the most appropriate possible balance sites. But the concept of balance is very broad; Where a distinction is made between many patterns of equilibrium, hence the complexity of the theory of equilibrium, and focusing on this mechanical concept may face the risk of neglecting the goals that determine the nature of balance and the processes of change that may hinder the balance. Finally, the concept of balance is suitable for the study of

⁽⁹⁾ Attia, A. (2009), "The Concept of Power in Theories of International Relations", A Study of the Chinese Situation, *Master's Thesis*, Cairo University: Faculty of Economics and Political Science, pp 29-31.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Abdul Hadi, M. (2011), "Relative Capabilities and International Conflict: A Study of Sino-American Relations after the End of the Cold War", *Master's Thesis*, Cairo University, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, pp 28-29.



measurable variables and empirical proof, and it is known that many foreign policy variables are not measurable ⁽¹¹⁾.

The balance of power is a good indicator of the way states will behave and follow certain procedures, which prevents any country from developing the superiority of its power. This is based on two assumptions: **Firstly**, is that states exist in a chaotic system that is not here as a supreme government, and that political leaders will reduce the risks with their countries 'independence and non-dependency. The theory of the "balance of power" also explains the failure of a country to transform from a great power in modern times to a global empire, and how countries seek to increase their power through internal growth and external alliances may clarify whether there is a state that is beginning to emerge strongly on the world arena, making other countries allied against them to avoid threats and risks that could affect their superiority and power ⁽¹²⁾.

3- The repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic on the balance of power in the world

The "Covid-19" pandemic has revealed significant weaknesses in capitalist systems all over the world, as Western countries struggled to confront the virus; China has advanced to contain the disease through technology. It is no longer difficult to imagine that within five years, China will determine the balance of power in the world, driven by its leadership in the field of artificial intelligence ⁽¹³⁾.

⁽¹¹⁾ Saif, M. (1975), "U.S. Foreign Policy toward the Soviet Union 1953-1959", *Master's Thesis*, Cairo University, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, p5.

⁽¹²⁾ Nye, J. (Summer, 1990). "The Changing Nature of World Power", *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 105, No. 2, p184.

⁽¹³⁾ Harada, R. (December 16, 2020), "China's Power Is Rising in An Unstable World", *Financial Times*. Available at:
<https://www.ft.com/content/821ade99-473f-46ee-9104-5e43749e1d7b>

The Covid-19 pandemic has led to major changes in the global system that have reinforced China's role in the global arena and the decline of the US role, and these variables are as follows:

i. COVID-19 and the strengthening of China's role in the global system:

The COVID-19 pandemic raised the issue of future global leadership, and that the nation taking the lead in treating the pandemic would emerge as a global dominant force after the end of the crisis that exposed the unprecedented and persistent Western dependence on China in the production of key commodities, and China's monopoly on supply chains; China has been the sole supplier of major medicines, personal protective equipment and other equipment for global health emergency management⁽¹⁴⁾.

Evidence indicates that the pandemic has turned into an overall geopolitical victory for China. Beijing has largely succeeded in confronting the virus, in marked contrast to the terrible toll the pandemic has taken on Western countries, an outcome that could not have been expected at the beginning of 2020; From China, the pandemic emerged and spread, it was a disaster for Chinese President, Xi Jinping, but throughout the year the President dealt efficiently with it; This has turned the disaster into a relative success that represents a "publicity bonus" for him, both at home and abroad⁽¹⁵⁾.

In contrast, the Covid-19 pandemic proved the weakness of the United States of America; represented in many decisions taken by the administration of outgoing President Donald Trump, such as to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO), the COVAX global vaccine initiative, and the failure of the Trump

⁽¹⁴⁾ Michta, A. (January 9, 2021), "Why the West Isn't Confronting China Over Coronavirus", Op Cit.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Rachman, G. (December 28, 2020), "The Perverse Political Effects of Covid-19", *Financial Times*. Available at:
<https://www.ft.com/content/af3258af-651d-4ad8-9d11-21ff3498ae7f>



administration to control the virus locally, the matter led Americans to bear the consequences of this failure.

Therefore, the pandemic has strengthened the shift of the global center of gravity from west to east. As China is recovering from the effects of the pandemic, the United States and most Western countries face new and rapid waves of outbreaks. This is due to the failure of most of these countries' governments to rapidly and effectively respond to the pandemic ⁽¹⁶⁾.

ii. Covid-19 and the Chinese economy superiority:

China became the engine of global economic growth in the midst of the "Covid-19" pandemic, with the Chinese economy growing by about 1.9% during 2020 (IMF. January 8, 2021), in contrast to the US economy shrank by 4.27% during 2020 ⁽¹⁷⁾.

A report released by the Center for Economic and Business Research (CEBR), United Kingdom, stated that China's economy would surpass that of the United States, becoming the world's largest economy by 2028, five years ahead of previous projections.

The report added that China's skilled management of the "Covid-19" pandemic will enhance its relative growth. Unlike other major economies, China avoided an economic recession in 2020, and was the only economy among the major economies that achieved growth in 2020 ⁽¹⁸⁾.

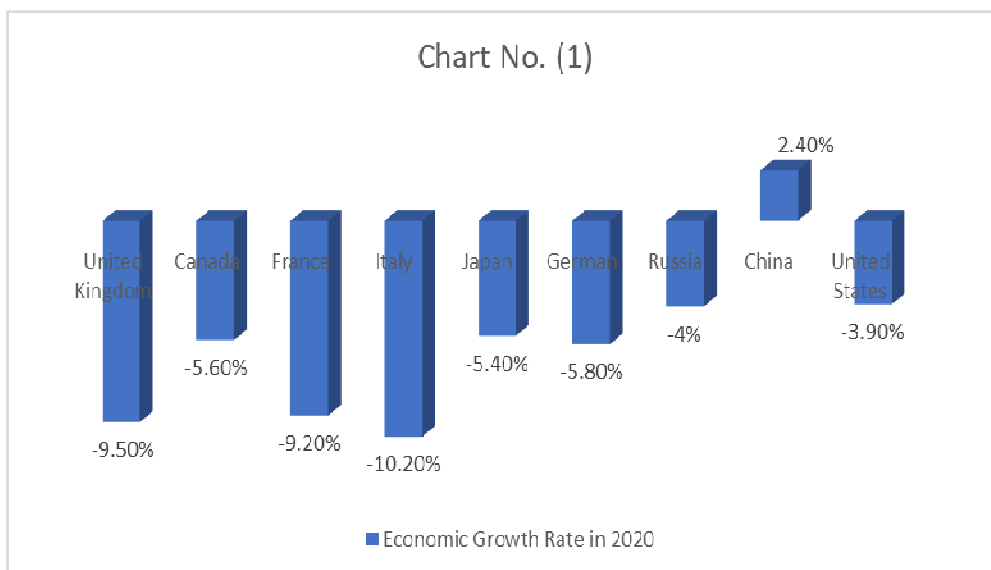
⁽¹⁶⁾ Jan, F and Kolby Kaller. (October 31, 2020), "Trump's Big Mistake: America Is Making China Great Again", The National Interest. Available at: <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/coronavirus/trumps-big-mistake-america-making-china-great-again-171773>

⁽¹⁷⁾ Plecher, H. (January 6, 2021), "Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Growth Rate in The United States from 2015 to 2025", Statista. Available at: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/263614/gross-domestic-product-gdp-growth-rate-in-the-united-states/>

⁽¹⁸⁾ CEBR. (December 2020), "World Economic League Table 2021", 12th edition, The UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research. p. 10, p 7.

Covid-19 Pandemic is a Milestone in China's Rise on The World Arena

Chart No. (1): Seven major industrialized countries (G7) and Russia recorded negative economic growth rates in 2020, while China achieved positive economic growth rate.



Source: United Nations, World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021, January 25, 2021.

iii. Covid-19 and China's role world trade:

China achieved a record trade surplus in November 2020; Global demand for Chinese goods has grown even stronger. The "General Customs Administration," December 7, 2020, reported that Chinese exports had risen by 21% in November 2020, compared to 2019, and the trade surplus of USD 75.42 billion exceeded the record set in May 2020, mainly due to lower imports⁽¹⁹⁾.

Thus, China's exports have exceeded market expectations since the second quarter 2021; Beijing restarted the world's second-

⁽¹⁹⁾ Mendell, E. (December 7, 2020), "China Exports Generate Record Trade Surplus", *The Wall Street Journal*. Available at: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-exports-generate-record-trade-surplus-11607324070>

largest economy after the closure, and the Covid-19 pandemic broke out at the beginning of the year.

Sales associated with the Covid-19 pandemic of personal protective equipment and work-related products from home served as pillars of China's foreign trade, helping it gain a share of the world market ⁽²⁰⁾.

In contrast, US trade in the world declined, with US exports of commodities to the world as of November 2020 amounting to about US\$ 1.3 trillion, while imports amounted to US\$ 2.1 trillion, which means a trade deficit of \$814.7 billion ⁽²¹⁾.

At the level of e-commerce, the Covid-19 pandemic has led to an unprecedented increase in e-commerce demand, with employees at a number of US companies such as "Amazon" and "Walmart" making great efforts to meet online orders over Christmas, and investors making big profits.

However, it is China, not the West, that will determine the future of e-commerce. Because its market is much larger and more innovative, as technology companies mix e-commerce and social media, and the use of creative online marketing methods has attracted 850 million digital consumers in China. Also, China's leadership in e-commerce is not new; In terms of volume, its market has surpassed the US market since 2013, and in the begin of 2021 the value of electronic retail trade in China reach US\$ 2 trillion, more than the retail market in the US and Europe altogether ⁽²²⁾.

⁽²⁰⁾ Ibid.

⁽²¹⁾ United States CENSUS Bureau, "2020: U.S. Trade in Goods with World, Seasonally Adjusted". Available at: <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c0004.html#2020>

⁽²²⁾ The Economist. (January 2, 2021), "The Great Mall of China Why Retailers Everywhere Should Look to China". Available at: <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2021/01/02/why-retailers-everywhere-should-look-to-china>

iv. Covid-19 vaccines increased China's weight on the world arena:

Beijing has exploited the isolationist policies of America to promote its image as a new global leader; officially joined the WHO-led COVAX initiative; To produce and distribute the CORONA vaccine worldwide, playing the most influential role in the group, while Washington is not involved in this international effort; Because of the failure of outgoing Donald Trump to participate in cooperative efforts within international organizations ⁽²³⁾.

China has employed the Covid-19 crisis to launch the so-called Silk Health Road; making China practically the World Health Organization (WHO) function; providing medical equipment, consulting and transferring expertise to more than 120 countries around the world. The Healthy Silk Road is also funded from the same sources of funding as the Silk Road Initiative ⁽²⁴⁾.

China transferred the Chinese-made CORONA vaccine to many countries around the world, sending hundreds of millions of doses to countries that have conducted the final phase trials ⁽²⁵⁾.

China has also pledged to provide the vaccine at a fair price to Asian countries, giving priority to developing countries, using several means and facilities, including COVAX initiative, which aims to help poorer countries access vaccines, which gives China

⁽²³⁾ Jan, F and Kolby Kaller. (October 31, 2020), "Trump's Big Mistake: America Is Making China Great Again", *The National Interest*. Op Cit.

⁽²⁴⁾ Pal, D and Suchet Vir Singh. (July 10, 2020), "Multilateralism with Chinese Characteristics: Bringing in the Hub-and-Spoke", *The Diplomat*. Available at:

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/07/multilateralism-with-chinese-characteristics-bringing-in-the-hub-and-spoke/>

⁽²⁵⁾ Culver, D and Nectar Gan, (December 2, 2020), "China Has Promised Millions of Coronavirus Vaccines to Countries Globally. And It Is Ready to Deliver Them", *CNN*. Available at:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/12/01/asia/china-coronavirus-vaccine-diplomacy-intl-hnk/index.html>

the opportunity to reform its image, which has been damaged by its initial poor handling of the virus outbreak, where its efforts to help end the pandemic can be assessed ⁽²⁶⁾.

v. China's growing presence in its regions of influence:

Today, China is a powerful geopolitical player in the world, taking as much as possible an active part in world affairs, and participating strongly in international and regional institutions such as the United Nations, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).

This allows it to implement its national interests as a global trading force, and as a major nation with its place and policies on the world arena, this policy has an increasing impact on global economic processes and international policy, which directly affects not only its immediate neighbors, but also all over the World ⁽²⁷⁾.

With the West unable to define its stance towards China and its preoccupation with its issues, especially in light of the repercussions of the Coved-19 pandemic, China is taking strict measures to expanding its influence abroad.

On January 2021, China arrested more than 50 democracy activists in Hong Kong, and in November 2020, China signed a trade agreement with 14 Asian countries, including US allies such as Japan and Singapore, and continues to press Australia with its strong diplomacy and partial trade bans.

⁽²⁶⁾ Beijing (AFP). (December 30, 2020), "China's Sinopharm Says Vaccine '79% Effective' Against Covid-19", France 24. Available at: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20201230-china-s-sinopharm-says-vaccine-79-effective-against-covid-19>

⁽²⁷⁾ Grigorenko, O et al. (2016)," The Development of Russian-Chinese Relations: Prospects for Cooperation in Crisis", *International Journal of Economics and Financial Issues*, Vol. 6, Special Issue, p 257.

In addition, China led efforts to expand BRICS membership, which culminated in inviting 6 countries (Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), to join the group, their membership would take effect from Jan. 1, 2024⁽²⁸⁾. The move is a historic decision for the organization, further cementing it as a counterweight to Western-dominated institutions, such as the G-7, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank, and paving the way for potential future expansion⁽²⁹⁾.

According to estimates for 2021, the gross domestic product of the five countries amounted to about 23.5 trillion US dollars, and it is expected - according to a paper issued by "Goldman Sachs" that the total size of the economies of the "BRICS" countries exceeds the total size of the economies of the G7 by 2035. Moreover, China's economy will surpass that of the United States of America, making China the largest economy in the world by 2028.

4- Conclusion: Results and a Future Vision of China's Rise in the World Order

i. Results:

- Covid-19 pandemic has led to rapid, upward, and profound changes in the structure of the world order, perpetuating the decline of American power and the rise of China on the world stage.
- Considering the changes that have occurred in the interface and structure of the global system over the past decades, the COVID-19 pandemic is a milestone. Where it has been

⁽²⁸⁾ Iordache, R. (August 24, 2023), " China's Xi calls for accelerated BRICS expansion", CNBC. Available at:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2023/08/24/emerging-markets-group-brics-invites-6-new-members-including-saudi-arabia-and-iran.html>

⁽²⁹⁾ Sharp, A. (August 24, 2023), "BRICS Invites Six New Countries to Join the Bloc", *Foreign Policy*, Available at:

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/08/24/brics-summit-expansion-new-members-china-russia-saudi-arabia-iran-uae-us/>



devoted to the emergence of a new world order, to which China contributes strongly, an order that has witnessed increasing international tensions recently, as China appears to be more assertive in its ongoing maritime disputes with its neighbors and is increasingly imposing its control and influence in the South China Sea.

- China has the actual ability to challenge the United States of America, due to the power balance shifting in its favor in many important areas, especially as the Chinese economy grows at higher rates than the U.S. counterpart and China controls vital areas, mainly artificial intelligence and (G5) networks.
- In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, China has strengthened its presence on the world arena, strengthening its hard and soft power, helping many countries of the world on the one hand, and on the other hand it worked to impose its hegemony in the South China Sea region, and in East Asia on countries such as Japan and Korea. Southern countries, and Southeast Asian countries alike, to make them conform to Beijing's desire and act according to their strategic, economic and political preferences.
- The BRICS represents a challenge to the entire world order established by the United States of America, given that the Sino-Russian strategic partnership already has great economic and geopolitical weight on the international arena, in a way that has reshaped the balance of power in the global system. The world Divided into two blocs again, similar to the Eastern Bloc and the Western Bloc, but with new data and foundations predominantly pragmatic reformist character, and that the BRICS group is a corner reservation for this axis.

ii. The Future of China's Rise in the World Order

In view of the Chinese rise in the global system, there are many speculations about the future of the global system in light of

the Chinese rise and its implications, and there are two main trends:

The first trend: says that if China's economic growth continues during the next few years, there is a possibility that the American and Chinese sides will engage in intense security rivalry with a high probability of war. Most of China's neighbors, including India, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Vietnam, will join the USA to contain the Chinese power. It is also likely that China will try to dominate Asia in the way that the USA has dominated the Western Hemisphere ⁽³⁰⁾.

The views of this team are based on China's desire to change the world order to advance its interests, as many Western observers see that there is a new Cold War, considering China the twenty-first century version of the Soviet Union.

It is clear from the historical record, how will the leaders of the United States of America react? Because Washington does not tolerate peer competitors. Therefore, it is expected that it will take great steps to contain China and ultimately weaken it, so that it will not be able to impose its control or will, especially in Asia, and it is likely that the United States will follow multiple means with China, as it followed with the Soviet Union during the Cold War ⁽³¹⁾.

The second trend: It goes that there is still a long way to go for China to turn into a global pole, as its development still faces many obstacles or challenges. Although China is the second economy in the world, The GNI per capita of the United States of America according to the statistics of the World Bank in 2019 is more than 6 times. Counterpart in China ⁽³²⁾.

⁽³⁰⁾ Mearsheimer, J. (September 17, 2014). "Why China's Rise Will Not Be Peaceful", the National Interest. Available at:

<https://nationalinterest.org/commentary/can-china-rise-peacefully-10204>

⁽³¹⁾ Ibid.

⁽³²⁾ The World Bank, Countries Data, <https://data.worldbank.org/>.



In addition, there is still a big gap between the United States of America and China with regard to military power, and China also lacks sources of soft power such as "Hollywood" and the level of universities such as that enjoyed by the United States. Therefore, it can be said that we are exaggerating in the Chinese power, and cannot be compared to the rise of Germany before the First World War, whose strength actually exceeds that of Great Britain⁽³³⁾.

There are also factors that could hinder China's global progress, such as china's sharp rhetoric that stands in the way of an alliance with other partners, indicating that China has a long way to go to develop the soft power capabilities needed for any future expansion. Global attention to Chinese tyranny will also complicate Beijing's quest to highlight its model abroad, as evidenced by the refusal of major powers to adopt the (G5) technology developed by Chinese telecommunications company Huawei, due to concerns about its relationship with Chinese power, and the possibility that the widespread adoption of China's (G5) network will lead to China's global dominance, so that Beijing will have the ability to control a key element in the economic development of many major countries, as well as access to vast amounts of data⁽³⁴⁾.

There are also some indications that China has retreated from supporting lending to a large number of prominent projects within the Belt and Road Initiative, foreshadowing that it is heading to abandon what was called the 'largest development plan in the world', expecting that the Chinese century project may not last for another decade China may withdraw its investment from several initiative projects in some countries, coinciding with capital

⁽³³⁾ Nye, J. (2006) "The Challenge of China", in Evera, E (Editor), How to Make America Safe: New Policies for National Security, Cambridge, Ma: The Tobin Project, pp 75-76.

⁽³⁴⁾ Mitter, A. (December 8, 2020), "The World China Wants: How Power Will—and Won't—Reshape Chinese Ambitions", *Foreign Affairs*. Available at:

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2020-12-08/world-china-wants>

decline of the two Chinese institutions responsible for most of Beijing's overseas development loans: the China Development Bank and China's Export and Import Bank ⁽³⁵⁾.

In our personal opinion, the future of Sino-American relations swings between cooperation and conflict, as US-China relations are not proceeding at the same pace, and the future of relations between the two countries is no longer governed solely by the commercial and economic interests between the two countries or by their military and security strategy. In all cases, the two parties can achieve a degree of balance in the totality of these relations during the current decade, despite the lack of mutual trust at the political level.

⁽³⁵⁾ Chang, G. (December 20, 2020), "China Has an Imperial Overstretch Problem", The National Interest. Available at:
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Covid-19 Pandemic is a Milestone in China's Rise on The World Arena

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