



World order in the first decade of the 21st century

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Abstract

The world has witnessed many wars and armed conflicts breaking out with high frequency in the first decade of the 21st century. Typically, the war between Russia and Ukraine has occupied a dominant position in the entire process of important world events. In the 21st century, international politics has also witnessed that the United States' superpower position is under pressure from the strong "rise" of China. China's incredible economic and military advances pose the possibility of this country becoming an equal competitor to the United States. It can be said that war and conflict, as well as China's new position, will lead to the process of restructuring the new world order in the 20s of the 21st century. Within the scope of the article, the author analyzes and clarifies the reasons why the war between Russia - Ukraine and the competition between the United States and China will be factors leading to the establishment of a new world order.

Keywords: United States, Russia, China, world order, 21st century, Ukraine

1. Introduction

In the history of international relations, since the Peace of Westphalia existed, there have been many types of world orders with different numbers of "poles" such as multipolarity (from 1648 to 1945), Yalta bipolar order (from 1945 to 1991), unipolar order (period from 1991 to the second decade of the 21st century). Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the international political system began to establish a new world order, in which the United States established a new unipolar world order throughout the twentieth century. By the beginning of the 21st century, the world witnessed many local wars and armed conflicts breaking out with high frequency. In particular, the war between Russia and Ukraine dominated the world in the 20s of the 21st century. In international politics, the United States' position as a superpower is under pressure from the strong rise of China. China's incredible economic and military advances pose the possibility of China becoming an equal competitor to the United States. It can be said that war and conflict, as well as China's new position, will lead to the restructuring of the new world order in the first decades of the 21st century. Within the scope of this article, the above two issue areas will be analyzed and clarified.

2. Research content and methods

2.1. The concept of world order

There are many different definitions of world order. World order is a model of operation between states, ensuring basic goals in international society, including maintaining a system of independent, sovereign, peaceful states (in the sense of not war) and the general goals of social life (limited violence, keeping promises, stable wealth). World order is also understood as agreements between countries, including laws, principles and institutions, or as a state of operation that helps limit the intensity and frequency of violence between elements in a system international. Former US National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger defined "World order is the arrangement and distribution of power around the world". Through different definitions, it can be seen that law is a fundamental element of international order, the existence of international order implies the operation of law. In addition, the international order also reflects the distribution and hierarchy of power among countries in the international system.

The terms "order" and "world order" (or "international order") are often used by both policymakers and scholars to describe, evaluate, or predict the state of the world in a certain historical period.

In Vietnam, the concept of "world order" is widely used in both academic and policy circles. After the Cold War, Barry Buzan introduced the concept of "security complex" to consider relations between countries horizontally (between complexes) and vertically (between lower complexes) higher and higher) according to the unit-system correlation in systems theory. Thus, according to this perspective, "world order" is the highest "security complex" among the levels of analysis of the international system.

The concept of world order, as mentioned above, is only relative. It is relative because it has a broad meaning and a narrow meaning. In a broad sense, it means world "order", considered from ancient times as mentioned above, but in fact this term has only been used a lot in recent years. World order is also used in a narrow sense such as the economic, military, political, cultural, traditional, order of the world. Depending on the approach, there are many different definitions of international order, but in general, world order is understood as "the arrangement and division of power according to order, rules or accepted rules of the game" common and applicable to the whole world", is "a state of comparison and distribution of power and a model of operation or behavioral arrangement of countries, especially large countries according to common rules of the game for their own benefit." national interests and the entire international system.

2.2. War and conflict reshape the world order

In the twentieth century, world history has witnessed many wars and conflicts stretching from Europe to Asia. In the last 50 years of the twentieth century alone, there were 260 local wars and armed conflicts. Among them are two bloody wars: the Gulf War (also known as the Persian Gulf War or the Desert Storm War), and the Kosovo War that took place in the last two decades of the century. XX. Entering the 21st century is mainly a period of peace and an opportunity for countries across the continent to cooperate and develop their national position in all aspects. However, international relations also witnessed many conflicts, conflicts and armed wars initiated by the United States. At the beginning of the 21st century, with the attack on the Twin Towers of the International Trade Center in New York (September 11, 2001), US President George W. Bush launched a global war against terrorism in Afghanistan lasted nearly 20 years. Next, the United States continued to launch the Iraq War (also known as the Iraq Liberation Campaign). In 2008, NATO led by the United States "backed" Georgia and launched a 5-day war against Russian peacekeeping forces in South Ossetia, which Russia fought back and failed miserably. In 2011, the United States led NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) inciting political upheavals called the "Arab Spring" in the Middle East and North Africa, leading to a war of invasion of Libya to destroy the country leader Muammar Gaddafi. On the other hand, in the 21st century, on all continents, there have been political conflicts between neighboring countries and territories due to conflicts of interest, such as: The Syrian war has not ended until now and is considered by analysts to be a "miniature world war" with the participation of forces from nearly 90 countries or the war in Mali (2012), Yemen (2015) and a series of political upheavals that weakened Middle East - North African countries. There are many conflicts that have used armed forces to resolve conflicts taking place within the country, typically the conflict in Sudan (April 2023) broke out between Sudanese military forces led by General Abdel

Fattah Burhan leader and the Rapid Response Paramilitary Force (RSF) led by General Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo. Local wars and armed conflicts breaking out with high frequency are part of the cause of the restructuring of the world order. Because, to create strength for themselves, warring parties take advantage of all conditions to attract allies and compete for the support of international public opinion. If friendly countries are mobilized to provide economic, political and social assistance or to blockade the enemy, those actions will have a significant influence on the course and outcome of the conflict. Such support can be compared to direct participation in military operations. Therefore, in recent years, third countries indirectly participating in the war have taken advantage of international law to justify the actions of the warring parties to get involved in the war situation. A typical example is the United States, this country has been heavily involved in wars in the 21st century, using its influence to prevent the formation of a multipolar, polycentric world order in order to maintain maintaining its position as the world's number 1 power. However, the moment when Washington's world order was considered "one-superior" and "unipolar" also weakened quite quickly because of wars, conflicts, and contradictions in diplomatic relations with Russia. In particular, the rise of China, and the rise of many other countries, have challenged the United States' position as a superpower. From the second decade of the 21st era, the world began a transition period from a unipolar order to a multipolar, multicentric situation. At the same time, the world order has become volatile and profoundly changed by the special military campaign between Russia and Ukraine.

2.3. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine "reveals" a new world order

Against the intention to re-establish a unipolar world order, with power in the hands of the United States, Russia has fought to be recognized by major powers as an equal member in the global situation. First of all, the confrontation between Russia and the United States has reached the bottom, emerging are conflicts, core security interests and especially fierce geo-strategic competition in the face of Russia's annexation. Crimea in 2013. In the article "The Case for Offshore Balancing A Superior US. Grand Strategy" published in Foreign Affairs in 2016, Mearsheimer said: "By pursuing a strategy of offshore balance, Washington maintains dominance in the Western Hemisphere and prevents any regional hegemony from emerging in Europe, Northeast Asia and the Persian Gulf region". The United States believes that Russia will be a major security and political threat to their country. Therefore, Washington's security policy has expanded NATO's sphere of influence closer to Russia's border, considering the possibility of admitting Ukraine and Georgia as NATO members to neutralize all military plans. Developing nuclear weapons, reducing Russia's military power, improving defense capabilities, helping the United States gain superiority over Russia. The United States' expansion of NATO and "ignoring" Russia's interests contributed to sparking the political crisis in Ukraine and many other conflicts between Russia and the West. Considering that national security is at risk, Russia has used strong measures by annexing Crimea. In March 2014, Russia annexed Crimea (including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol) into the territory of the Russian Federation with the goal of

"territorial expansion to protect security", and protect security interests. Russia's national defense in Ukraine. Russia also believes that the annexation of Crimea is completely legitimate, based on respect for the wishes of the Crimean people, international law and the precedent of Kosovo. Russian President Vladimir Putin said that "Russia's interests are threatened not only by the expansion of NATO but more seriously by the presence of military facilities right next to its borders". Therefore, Russia is determined to prevent Crimea from becoming a Western stronghold, prevent Crimea from becoming a NATO base, and prevent cross-border behavior by the United States and the West. With Russia's decision to annex Crimea, President Vladimir Putin accepts that there is a possibility of diplomatic conflicts in the future, but Russia will resolutely protect the nation's interests above all.

Russia's climactic response to the declaration of a "new world order" led by Washington through the "Special Military Campaign" between Russia and Ukraine. Russia believes that "the world order is dominated by the West, which is inhibiting the development of our civilization". At the end of February 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the start of a special military campaign in Ukraine to demilitarize, de-fascize - clean the country's territory from nationalists and neo-fascists. Nazi; liberated Donbass, protecting the Russian-speaking people here from genocide for 8 years, since the coup that overthrew the government in Kiev in 2014, ensuring security for Russia in the face of danger. Ukraine was turned into a springboard against Russia by the United States and NATO. The military war between Russia and Ukraine was predicted by Mr. Putin that major changes will create a new world order and that only "truly sovereign" countries will succeed. "Great, truly revolutionary changes will create a new world order that is more harmonious, fairer, safer and more community-oriented." According to Mr. Putin, in this new era of many changes, "only countries with true sovereignty can succeed." He defines truly sovereign nations as those "with freedom for national and individual development, as well as the ability to succeed technologically, culturally, intellectually, and educationally," and are a nation-oriented, responsible and active civil society. When the war had been going on for 90 days, in May 2022, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov expressed hope that Russia's military campaign in Ukraine, when completed, would force Western countries to "stop promoting the so-called unipolar world under the domination of the US and its allies. Radio RT (RT International - based in Moscow) commented that the idea of a new "multipolar" world has also been discussed in the West, most recently by German Prime Minister Olaf Scholz. However, after Russia launched a military campaign in Ukraine, the West announced its intention to "isolate" Moscow and impose unprecedented tough sanctions.

The beginning of the military campaign in Ukraine not only changed the course of Russian history but also significantly affected world politics and economics. Since Russia launched a special military campaign in Ukraine, the United States, along with the Western tripod (England - France - Germany) and Japan, have been racing to form an alliance against Moscow, imposing fierce sanctions on her establishment and decline of Russia's position as a great power. The "global alliance" with sanctions has shaken the world, the global economy is being severely damaged by supply chain disruption, energy crisis, and declining global economic

growth. Chinese experts warn that a prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict will cause far-reaching consequences and damage the global future, as well as increase the risk of loss of control and a nuclear crisis. They describe it as the most important strategic challenge and the most serious instability facing the world today. On the other hand, the serious escalation of conflict between Russia and Ukraine has also increased tension and confrontation between East and West, with countries forming blocs centered on the US and China. In Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Balkans, Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, competition for influence takes place between major powers such as the US, China, EU, Russia and Turkey, etc. The tense conflict in Ukraine has shaken the world and is also the cause of the current world order being turned upside down. First, combined with the ongoing impacts of the pandemic and the risk of a global economic recession, the Russia-Ukraine war has reduced the power and prestige of all major powers, especially Russia. Russia. For the United States, the Russia-Ukraine crisis also makes this country no longer pay much attention to other regions, especially in the Middle East and Africa. The rapid withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan in 2021 also raises questions about America's ability to maintain power in this region. For Europe, the Russia-Ukraine war and the security of the Euro-Atlantic region have become complicated and unpredictable, with non-traditional and traditional security challenges, NATO countries reveal their views different about the "Russian threat. Mr. Josep Borrell, senior representative for security and foreign policy of the European Union (EU), said: "We have moved to a chaotic multipolar world, where everything is a weapon: energy, data, infrastructure, migration. Geopolitics is the important word, everything is geopolitics." Second, the progress of the Russian conflict in Ukraine, observers believe that that move has officially ended the global order formed after the Cold War, with the West being the most influential force in the world order. Moscow is determined to dismantle the current international political structure, creating new changes that are more beneficial to Russia, and the results in Ukraine will show whether this Russian effort is to re-establish a new world order.

Currently, the Ukraine conflict shows no signs of cooling down, it is unclear when it will end. The position and strength as well as the power competition between the superpowers behind the conflict are also the causes that contribute to shaping the international situation create new trends in international relations. China, which has a poor relationship with the United States, has shown signs of being "close" to Russia. The two countries have promoted bilateral cooperation in the military, political, humanitarian, and technical fields and energy is increasing thanks to the crisis in Ukraine and Western sanctions. Moscow itself also declared its support for China's stance on differences between Beijing and the West such as the situation of Taiwan, Hong Kong, Xinjiang. According to China Times, the above moves show that Moscow and Beijing is using its strategic position to confront the US in "a new era of cold war". All create worries about the world returning to harsh polarization right at the time when globalization seems to take over.

2.4. The US-China confrontation is gradually forming a new world order

There is no doubt that China's power and influence have truly increased dramatically in international relations. China's

rapid economic development and flexible foreign policy have been well implementing its goals of becoming a superpower. Under Mr. Xi Jinping, China no longer "hides and bides its time", shifting to a "proactive strategy" (SFA), proactively taking initiatives in participating and planning the rules of the international game to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. China's rise and continuous expansion of power in the second decade of the 21st century when confronting the United States is shown as follows:

First, in terms of national aggregate power, since the second half of the second decade of the 21st century, China has become a world superpower. According to the assessment of the Lowy Institute for International Policy Studies (Australia), China's national comprehensive strength in 2019 reached an index of 75.9 points, behind the United States by 8.6 points (84.5 points), nearly twice as high as the index of Japan and India, more than twice as high as that of Russia. With this index, China has achieved the criteria of being a world superpower. By 2020, the US's national composite strength index decreased to 81.6 points, China's increased to 76.1 points. Other countries, such as Japan, India and Russia, have seen similar declines as the US. In terms of economic power, China's GDP in 2020 accounted for more than 18% of world GDP (15.38 trillion USD/83.845 trillion USD), 3 times higher than Japan's (15.38 trillion/5.049 thousand USD billion), 4 times Germany (15.38 trillion/3.806 trillion), 5.5 times England, 6 times France and India, 10 times Russia.

Second, Beijing's goal is to "enhance its international position and influence, and play a greater role in global governance", China has created a major change in its position in international relations, due to the advantage of deploying a proactive strategy and the decline in relative power of the United States. Demonstrating its national strength, China has increased its financial contributions to the United Nations (second only to the United States). On the other hand, creating an initial impression of its role as a "responsible big country", Beijing has proactively proposed plans to handle global and regional issues at leading multilateral mechanisms and forums, such as the United Nations, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-21), the Group of Leading Developed and Emerging Economies (G-20), the Group of New Economies (BRICS)... China also shows "activeness" and "goodwill" in mediating on a number of international issues and hot spots, especially between countries surrounding China, such as North Korea nuclear/missile issue, Rohingya Muslims (Myanmar), Middle East peace process and tensions between some Central Asian countries...

Third, China's announcement of the Global Security Initiative along with the Community of Common Destiny and BRI initiatives shows that China is in an international context with many geopolitical fluctuations in many countries has created a pivot in the global trade balance. China has dramatically transformed from a regional power to a global power, from a passive position to a position of creating "rules of the game", world rules, first of all to limit the negative impact of the United States' into alliances and alliances to surround China. In addition, China has succeeded in increasing its interest ties with the United States and its allies and drawing closer to Russia, gaining a certain advantage and even superiority in competing for influence with the United States. States in some areas. Specifically, China has become the No. 1 economic, trade and investment partner of the United States and the leading partner of key US allies, such as Australia,

the EU, Canada, South Korea, Japan) established official diplomatic relations with 180 countries and is a member of more than 150 international organizations, participating in more than 300 multilateral cooperation agreements...

Fourth, the strong and comprehensive association trend that has formed between the two neighboring powers Russia and China threatens the position of the United States. In fact, China and Russia are not formal allies, meaning they are not committed to protecting each other through military support like NATO countries. But the two countries are close strategic partners, a relationship that deepens at a time when Russia is sanctioned and isolated by Western countries due to the war in Ukraine.

It can be said that the rise of China has created "risks" that will cause the United States to lose its long-standing role as a superpower. The world order in the early years of the 21st century is forecast to continue to change in many directions as the United States views Russia and China as long-term challenges and serious "threats" to its superpower position his strength. China's power is attracting the world's attention, relatively reducing the influence of the United States. In the race for global power, Beijing and Washington clearly show their true nature Uncompromising competition between a rising power, making "incredible" progress, and a superpower that is losing momentum and is on the decline. The extremely complex power struggle between the United States and China in many fields has had a profound impact on the landscape of the modern world. Currently, the state of "one super" (United States), "multi-power" has been showing signs of changing to a state of "two supers" (United States - China), "multi-power", "multi-center".

3. Conclusion

In the history of international relations, for at least the past 300 years, since the Peace of Westphalia, there have been many types of world orders with different numbers of "poles" such as multipolarity (from 1648 to 1945), bipolar order (from 1945 to 1991, unipolar order (period from 1991 to the second decade of the 21st century). The polarization and ups and downs of "polarity" reflect the competition for power and personality competition and even mutual exclusion in relations between major countries. Currently, the world power order is fluctuating in an extremely complex and difficult to predict manner. China is determined to pursue the "Chinese dream". Russia launched the war in Ukraine, against the Western influence and order led by the US, just as the US is putting all its efforts and gathering forces against Russia and China, disrupting the current world order in a tension between "unipolarity" and "multipolarity", even though the multipolar trend is somewhat dominant. So the big question is: Where will this world go? The world order will form in the direction this is also an issue that needs attention from many international researchers and scholars, predicting the development trends of a new world order. This research will help countries clearly see the world's movement trends to plan foreign policies, as well as propose timely adaptive foreign policy options.

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