

Power Transition In Global International Order: A Study Of Chinese Rise

Ghousia Mukhtar

Pakistan Study Centre, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

Abstract:

Power transition is basically a theory which focuses on the understanding of the nature of war. It is actually a business between the powerful countries. Power transition explained international system in a totally different manner. The world contains different countries having different cultures and beliefs that's why there is always an unequal spreading of power between countries due to which some countries have more powers and some countries have less powers. This theory told that chances of war happen will be increases when there will be the less power gap between countries. Power transition theory shows that how a shift in power relation can effect political position. Another important aspect of this theory is that it also helps in maintaining stability in the system. Similarly, the rise of china is hard to prevent or stop and predicts the beginning of global uncertainty or a power war. The research is a qualitative document analysis based on related facts and published reports.

Keywords: Power transition; Chinese rise; power gap

1. Introduction

AFK Organski in 1958 presented the power transition theory in the book world politics. He forecasted the rise of china. China started developing around 600 years ago. He imagined that the rise of china through the development would be amazing and china will be great in power. The western powers will surely consider the power of china as a threat for them. Power transition is now one of the most important and successful theories in world politics. Khong, Y. F. (2019).

Russell argued that power couldn't be easily determined, but the power of state, individuals or associations only be compared due to the potential to gain the wanted result. In the other, the power of state 1 is wider than of state 2 when the wanted impacts of 1 are bigger than of 2. Russell, like Maslow, thinks that human wants are endless which can never be satisfied. "Among all desires, the wish for power and glory are at the top." He further says that the lust for power and glory often drive identical steps, and that the two contents be seen as as one. "Imagination is the push that drives people to restive efforts even when they fulfilled their basics." Russell, B. (1938).

2. Power Transition

The potential power is the first stage. It is in the early industrial stage, which means that the population would be less or more, or it may be growing fastly, but the economy and government are poor in contrast to more developed country. Government entities are ineffective, and economic growth is low. Tammen, R.L., Kugler, K., & Lemke, D. (2017).

The transitional growth in power is the second stage. At this point, the state's economy is switching from agricultural to industrial. Economic changes such as increased income, increased productivity, and a higher standard of living are brought about by economic changes. Also, political changes such as increased control of the central government over the state occurs. The third stage is power maturity, which occurs when a country has reached a high level of development. At this level, the country is gradually increasing its wealth, size, and efficiency. The inner features that give the state authority do not vanish with power maturity. Nations in the third stage lose comparative power as other countries in the transition growth stage near the gap. Rauch, C. (2007).

3. Role Of Media In Power Transition

The media plays an important role in the power transition era because due to the enforcement of media many difficulties, which develops around these states, are becomes easier to solve. Through the medium of media, the states got knows other states positions they get aware and educated in every aspects and it plays an important role in democracy as through the previous researches it comes to know that media was in huge support of democracy in early stages. In the transition period media, set their outline regarding political activities, debates and in support of political campaigns due to that, it creates the huge pressure on the world and many hardship can easily be resolved. Sparks, C. (1997).

Media played two important role in American society. First of all, these are based on profit maximization and very interested in investing in economic growth. And the second role, they help public in making their opinion valuable. They also set political, social, and economical debate worldwide. Media help in making people aware about the current situation of the society. It also help in globalization. Media spread information of many kind on big platform. Emery, E. (1972).

Russia's media never had the independence to tell the right news. The censorship board in Russia has restricted their mainstream media. It is said that the media is controlled by the Kremfins and they add more fire to propagate war, according to them the Ukrainians shell their own cities and the Russian troop tries to save their cities as heroes. Majority of the Russians tune in to the news channels and they have believe what news are presented. These blockades by the Russians can be easily bypassed. Nowadays, anyone in Russia who is well aware with computers and cellphones tools such as VPNs can easily dodge the restrictions. Russia passed a law against the media that any kind of information against the Russian army will be considered under "false information" that the consequences will be imprisonment up to 15 years. So this means anything against Kremfins campaign in counter to Ukraine will be punished. It is also said the media is also banned from calling it a war but it should be called special military operation. Even some of the independent Russian media have started to censor themselves. Arutunyan, A. (2009).

3.1 Power Shifts

This method connects essential shift with inside the worldwide politics to variations in financial increase and political development throughout nations. Domestic politics, which affect whether or not and what sort of states develop and evolve, are the motive of friction and collaboration. To a awesome extent, nations' financial increase is self - reliant of the behavior in their ruling training and other countries. However, the stages of domestic fulfilment with international requirements and practices that generate the present day gadget are surely connected to moves taken via way of means of ruling training or selection makers in one of a kind gathering. As a result, Power Transition underscores now no longer most effective capability energy however additionally gratification as predominant elements on worldwide motion and interaction. Tammen, Ronald L., Jacek Kugler, and Douglas Lemke (2017).

3.2 Power Transition As Probabilistic Theory

Power Transition Theory is an interactive and systemic framework for examining huge changes in world power. While theory's core concepts managing, it has evolved over period by introducing fresh aspects and acknowledging different subjects. It is info as well as subjectively responsive. It has found effective as a probabilistic theory in estimating the situations that indicate all clash and

partnership at the worldwide, domestic, and sectorial stages of review. As a global actor, it establishes historical markers indicating profound changes in country and ally power profiles. Coenen, L., Hansen, T., Glasmeier, A., & Hassink, R. (2021).

4. Power Transition and East Asia

According to power transition theory, to between world powers would be most probable once the power of the demanding country and its partners meets the power of the dominant country and its partners, and once the demanding power is displeased with the current world order. As per the updated power transition theory, among both Japan and China, the power transition all through the cold war did not bring battle in both of them because the strict bipolar cold war framework repressed the conflict among them. However, a fighting is very likely if the power transition among Japan and China occurs again in the cold war period. Kim, W. (1997).

4.1 Structure Of International Order

There are two things peace and stability as long because firm control of the international order of this technique will be maintain by power country and its strong partners. (the geopolitical, financial, and safety entities and ethical guidelines). Moreover, diplomacy are constantly changing, so is major power indicators thanks to changes in national power. If any second position powerful country who're also disagree with current international order practice major rise in their regional power then it will be the great task. This only happens through industrialization in their growing age. Growing state generally use their new gained power to try to change the international order. Lai, D. (2011).

4.2 Rise and Fall of Power

In 1816, the United Kingdom was the strongest state on the planet, guiding one-third of the world's content abilities. Living in the age of its Industrialization, Great Britain became the world's economic and trading center after constructed a dominant military, and enlarged its colonial extend to every region, once said. As a systemic hegemon, Great Britain constructed political, safety and financial system referred as the Pax Britannica, which kept more than half a century of comparative peace in the region in Europe. Narlikar, A. (2013).

Following inner integration, the U.S and Germany grew quickly in the last part of the nineteenth of century and British started dropping. Britain appear to lack the ability to enforce stability and peace on worldwide order in world war I. during Nineteen twenties to thirties the super power stayed in chaos. The another economic crisis impacted this chaotic situation because power shifts arrange another stage for the conflict of power. All the while Germany collected enough energy to open up one more try to freeze grip of the international system and also healed from its fall. Brooks, S. G., & Wohlforth, W. C. (2015).

5. The US China Power Transition

In the China's, international system pushed US, this all started when china begun it's mission of modernization in 1978. The world put it's attention on china due to early 1990's and 2000's. In between the big change china shows its relation with the other world. First china had This please do challenge place to challenge the US. china found ways to over balance it's order in the given time but in second china becomes more powerful but in third, external powerful parties controlled china. Maher, R. (2018).

5.1 US -China Future

During the last two decades, the geopolitical, military and financial rise in china found. I'm at least a third quarter century, the international system has undergone its most significant transformation. It has become progressively obvious that the world's unipolar moment is going to its end. The dominant power of the world for a long time is US and will remain the same. China took decades to approach. Although it is clear that china is now a superpower country on level with the US. In the future coming time. US and china will make themselves separate from the whole world, leaving the international order to rough state or lost bipolarity. Bertelsen, R, G., & Gallucci, V. (2015).

The current situation of Ukraine is need to be outlined to remind the systematic embeddedness of the cold. Russia is very successful nation of USSR going politically, financially good time at the time of Boris Yeltsin rule. Its universal position was much lessened. Due to NATO and EU membership, it's wide of impact in eastern and central Europe was misplaced. Russia's post USSR status in the world system along with the character of it's national, political and financial system has stayed a source of contention. Heininen, L. (2011).

As the cold war is going to be end but it left two topics to talk about. The first is the behavior after cold war which is "post cold war" will that be the more secure or more harmfully place. And second is the effect of changes took place earlier. The very long Realist hypotheses at the sector level confront the primary one and 0.33 one of those advancements, whilst perception structures at the shop stage have tried to account for the second ex publish hoc. These explanations' conceptual and realistic flaws pose most important dangers to current realist theories. Realists argue that the worldwide device's anarchy bureaucracy throughway actions. International family members after World War II exhibit that international setup isn't always decisive. Lebow, R. N. (1994).

5.2 Post-Cold War World

After the stop of bloodless conflict technology, the bipolar international began out becoming multipolar shape and it's miles now in a unstable state of affairs of strategic imbalance. Whilst the vintage anxiety among the 2 superpowers has lapsed and a few vintage nearby rivalries has been solved or alleviated. Going through a complex publish bloodless conflict all foremost international locations are over hauling the worldwide surroundings and changed their foreign policies. The world of post-cold war is totally different from the world of cold war. Because The world transforming from bipolar world to multipolar world I. In which the china becoming more powerful. The post-cold war is the era of advance nuclear weapons. Chen, Q. (1993).

5.3 Two fundamental observations

The first observation is that the power of a country is derived from its internal development. Since development takes place at different stages and different rates nations rise and fall accordingly. A nation is dependent on the development. The more development will take place it will be more powerful. The second fundamental observation is that the governing state figures the international system. The moments in which a growing power reaches the governing powers is called power transition. These power transitions can be peaceful as well as it can cause war. When UNITED STATE OF AMERICA took over BRITAIN when the dominant power has no objection with the global international order. Germany is an example of war conditions when one nations starts getting power and overtakes the other one. Bohn, W., (2005).

6. Dynamics of China

China is compared today with Germany 100 years ago. Organski favored china and stated that china is not Germany. According to him Germany was a declining power state and china started giving a tough challenge to Germany. Organski studied the dynamics of china just to answer a question in his mind that is instability inevitable? The meaning of this is that we cannot avoid if the nation is not stable or can we avoid it? Organski was cautious about a great power war between china and United States. Shue, V. (1980).

6.1 Encouraging others

After Organski power transition theory other grounds came up with power transition theories too. Organski along with Kugler were the first one to try power transition theory. They motivated others too, to develop power transition theory. Many have contributed to the power transition theory by raising some interesting and knowledge full questions. When power transition theory developed in the academics it still had no importance in the most of the world. When a quick rise in china occurred and it started impacting the East Asia regions it became the trending topic and came into knowledge of people. Many countries such as United States, Australia, Japan, China, and South Korea were then involved in the research about the rise of china and what will be the impact on international security order. Crifo, P., Durand, R., & Gond, J. P. (2019).

The sudden growth of china was certainly the biggest drama of the 21st century. The extraordinary growth of the economic sector of china has transformed the East Asia, the future will see even more transformation in the power and influence of china. Some of the observers were thinking that the American era has come to an end now. Realists think that china will get even more powerful in the future. China will use its power and influence to re design the rules of the international system or order to serve its own interest. Other states will see china as a threat tensions and conflicts will be caused. Zhu, Y. (2005)

7. Is China replacing US?

The rise in the economic sector of china has a great presence in the international relations. It is forecasted that this economic benefit will be converted and shifted to the military benefit in order to get more power and to be more dominant. China will use these abilities to challenge USA in the form of power. China wants to replace USA in terms of power and want to be the sole dominant power in ASIA. Two analysts claim that china is an unsatisfied and ambitious power whose only goal is to dominate ASIA. China is also considered to be in the danger zone as it is located in the center of the ASIA and is surrounded by the powerful states which can be considered as a threat to china. Since china is growing rapidly and its behavior is changing with time it has become a challenger to the international system and having influence on the international order. Suzuki, S., & Wallace, C. (2018).

G. John Ikenberry, claimed that the real international order was created under the US leadership. US was dominant even after the cold war. American thinkers in 1930 and 1940 realized that the US now demands secure markets and the supplies of raw materials. US had the greatest economic benefit for about 7783092 million with the population of 267,636. If a nation has a strong economy it is the one having strong military also and is the dominant one. US was considered as the dominant one. The world trade organization was formed in 1995. Those countries who wish to

have modern trading and develop modernize were the part of it. The countries which are not the part of it faces a lot of disadvantage in the economic sector. Haass, R. N. (2008).

China turned from to surrendering nation into a superpower with development. This sudden rise in china has effected its economy in a positive way and has started making a hope for china that it can be a dominant state too. The two of the most critical problems were loans and liabilities from banks. Some other problems were environmental and other small problems such as broken roads, pollution but china worked on it. Transformed into a developed state and became a challenger for the US. According to a prediction china will be the 2nd largest economy in the world by the end of 2020. The reason for this development and growth was the leadership was amazing and concerning. Kai, J. (2016).

7.1 Military capabilities

Analyst claims that china will be a major threat and a dominant power for the year 2004 to year 2030. It is justified that the military conditions depends on the economic conditions of china. As china was growing rapidly in the economic sector it was also growing in the military sector. China was much modernized but not as much as US. The prediction of future was that china will have the strongest military. At that time china was 25% of the US military. China will not be able to conduct heavy operations near borders for the next 15 to 20 years but this does not mean that china is a weak nation and is capable of nothing it can easily create chaos at the borders anytime. De Soysa, I., Oneal, J. R., & Park, Y. H. (1997).

40 years ago china had policies which made the economy very poor and unstable. After opening foreign trade and accepting foreign investments china has been among the fastest growing economy in 1979 with a gdp of 9.5%. China become so financially active it helped 800 million people get out of poverty. China made efforts to get a better economy by different creativities such as made in china 2015. They printed made in china to get into the global market and to be considered as a good manufacturer. Eichengreen, B., Park, D., & Shin, K. (2012).

8. Effects of rise of China

The sudden rise in power of china through development has a major effect on US and rest of the world. It was a triggering situations for everyone. The rise started in 1978 and it caught the world's attention. China suddenly became a threat for the outside world. China first had no interest or effort in the existing international order and was in no position to challenge US anyhow. Chinese find this thing very insulting that they are being called as a threat and therefore claim that power transition is from west not from east. Ikenberry, G. J. (2008).

China is considered as a state having assertive nature. China is a very clever state and acts pro actively in every situations. It is being recognized even more recently because of the pro activeness towards every act of US. China has not become so clever purposely but this is a normal behavior adopted by china in the journey from a weak state to a powerful state. The US meanwhile is also working on how to deal with this rapid rising china. if the two countries like china and us having power transition don't comes to a conclusion peacefully the end result is in the battlefield through war. Jerdén, B. (2014).

8.1 China: A dissatisfied power

According to organski the 2nd problem was that the state in power is satisfied or dis satisfied? Analyst considered and claimed china as a dis satisfied state because of the change in behavior in

all aspects. The system was effected in all ways. Chinese leaders also called china dis satisfied. The work within the system was time consuming but was still going on. The main and most frustrating thing for china was claim on Taiwan as integral land of motherland. For such reasons china was a dissatisfied power. Greve, A. Q., & Levy, J. S. (2018).

Japan was never a threat or competition for china. Japan doesn't have enough resources to gain the economic growth which also opens the expansion of military powers. Japan was a weak state economically. If we compare japan with the power of US. Us as a sea powered state and china was a land powered. Analyst considered US as a better competition than japan for china. Cargill, T. F. (1988).

China as a democratic state cannot promise a peaceful outcome as china is challenging the us role in ASIA. As china is not a democratic state the decision making is done at higher level by authorities which is quick and efficient. Political scientist don't consider china as a democratic state. Haugaard, M. (2010).

9. Findings and Conclusion

Power is basically an ability to dominate the behavior and action of others to get a desired result. Power transition theory is a theory which is about how shifting of power relationships cam effect geopolitical status, this theory also tells the nature of war. The theory was presented by A.F.K Organski. There are three stages of power transition. Potential power is the first stage where economy of a country is at a growing stage, transitional growth is the second stage where a country's economy is shifting from one sector to another, in this stage the economy is growing. Third stage is power maturity, in this an economy reaches its highest point and the wealth of a country is increasing. The concept of power transition has raised a new interest in power transition theory and dangers of Hegemonic trap. China's growth has raised many attention and is being compared to the mighty US. The dynamics of power transition is to increase financial and political development throughout the nations. It is a probabilistic theory which examines massive changes in world power. Power transition theory affected the relationship between Japan and China; there was a cold war between the two nations. It never escalated into a war because of strict bipolar cold war framework repressed the conflict between the two. In order to maintain peace and stability in the region, powerful countries manage and creates diplomatic in international order. Due to changes in international politics, a power rises to emerge as powerful nation like in 1816 United Kingdom became the world power. But in the later part of 19th Century US and Germany grew swiftly and that caused the fall of the United Kingdom. China emerged as a new world power; it started with the modernization in 1978. But it caught the attention of the world in late 90's and early 2000. After the rise of China, it is now obvious that the world is no longer unipolar. Currently US is the only superpower in the world, but in future China will also emerge into being the superpower and both will separate themselves from the whole world which will lead the world to loose bipolarity.

AFK Organski predicted the rise of China when he presented the power transition theory in 1958. He forecasted this through the process of development at that time. Two fundamental observations help to predict the rise of any nation or country. First is the internal development since a country is totally dependent on its development and growth. The second fundamental observation is the governing power, a strong or weak governing body in international system helps

in the rise or fall of a nation. The rise of China cannot be prevented; today's China cannot be compared to Germany which was 100 years ago. Germany was on its declining stage as on the other hand China is on its rise. Organski was also concerned about power war between the US and China in the future. Many countries like US, Japan, and other countries were concerned about how the rise of China will impact on the International Security Order. The sudden rise of China is considered to be the biggest drama of the 21st Century, it is being said that China can be more powerful in the future.

This rise of economic sector of China will help them dominate US and can also replace them as the most powerful nation in the international order. There is no doubt about US being the most powerful nation as they dominate the world but we cannot ignore China, as currently China is the only country who is challenging US and emerging as a strong competition. China's military capability and their fast growing economy are one of the main reasons which are helping China to be a world power. The rise of China is affecting the US and the rest of the world; they are in a triggering unrest situation, which can also lead into power war between the nations. China's clever nature is helping them to grow rapidly; they are trying to act accordingly to the US. China is a dissatisfied power, as the Chinese leaders complaints about work this is due to the system is time consuming. Taiwan is being affected the most. Japan was never a threat to China because Japan doesn't have many resources to compete with China. China cannot be called a democratic nation as they cannot compromise to compete with US and which leads non peaceful environment in the Asia.

References:

- Russell, B. (1938). *Power: A new social analysis*. Routledge.
- Tammen, R. L., Kugler, J., & Lemke, D. (2017). *Foundations of power transition theory*. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.
- Rauch, C. (2016). *Realism and power transition theory: Different branches of the power tree*. *Realism in Practice*, 55.
- Sparks, C. (1997). *Post-communist media in transition*. *International media research: A critical survey*.
- Emery, E. (1972). *The press and America: An interpretative history of the mass media*.
- Arutunyan, A. (2009). *EBOOK: The Media In Russia*. McGraw-Hill Education (UK).
- Tammen, Ronald L., Jacek Kugler, and Douglas Lemke. "Foundations of power transition theory." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. 2017.
- Coenen, L., Hansen, T., Glasmeier, A., & Hassink, R. (2021). *Regional foundations of energy transitions*. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 14(2), 219-233.
- Kim, W. (1997). *Power transition and strategic stability in East Asia*. *Asian Perspective*, 153-170.
- Lai, D. (2011). *The United States and China in power transition*. Strategic Studies Institute, US Army War College.
- Narlikar, A. (2013). *Negotiating the rise of new powers*. *International Affairs*, 89(3), 561-576.
- Brooks, S. G., & Wohlforth, W. C. (2015). *The rise and fall of the great powers in the twenty-first century: China's rise and the fate of America's global position*. *International Security*, 40(3), 7-53.

- Maher, R. (2018). Bipolarity and the Future of US-China Relations. *Political science quarterly*, 133(3), 497-525.
- Bertelsen, R. G., & Gallucci, V. (2016). The return of China, post-Cold War Russia, and the Arctic: Changes on land and at sea. *Marine Policy*, 72, 240-245
- Heininen, L. (2011). The end of the post cold war in the Arctic. *Nordia geographical publications* 40(4), 31-42.
- Lebow, R. N. (1994). The long peace, the end of the cold war, and the failure of realism. *International Organization*, 48(2), 249-277.
- Chen, Q. (1993). New Approaches in China's Foreign Policy: The Post-Cold War Era. *Asian Survey*, 33(3), 237-251.
- Khong, Y. F. (2019). Power as prestige in world politics. *International Affairs*, 95(1), 119-142.
- Bohn, W., Von Bülow, H., Dass, S., Ionin, A. A., Klimachev, Y. M., Kotkov, A. A., ... & Hager, G. D. (2005). High-power supersonic CO laser on fundamental and overtone transitions. *Quantum Electronics*, 35(12), 1126.
- Shue, V. (1980). *Peasant China in transition. The dynamics of development towards socialism, 1949-1956.* University of California Press..
- Crifo, P., Durand, R., & Gond, J. P. (2019). Encouraging investors to enable corporate sustainability transitions: The case of responsible investment in France. *Organization & Environment*, 32(2), 125-144.
- Zhu, Y. (2005). "Yongzheng Dynasty" and Chinese Primetime Television Drama. *Cinema Journal*, 3-17.
- Suzuki, S., & Wallace, C. (2018). Explaining Japan's response to geopolitical vulnerability. *International Affairs*, 94(4), 711-734.
- Haass, R. N. (2008). The age of nonpolarity: what will follow US dominance. *Foreign affairs*, 44-56.
- Kai, J. (2016). *Rising China in a changing world: Power transitions and global leadership.* Springer.
- De Soysa, I., Oneal, J. R., & Park, Y. H. (1997). Testing power-transition theory using alternative measures of national capabilities. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 41(4), 509-528.
- Eichengreen, B., Park, D., & Shin, K. (2012). When fast-growing economies slow down: International evidence and implications for China. *Asian Economic Papers*, 11(1), 42-87.
- Ikenberry, G. J. (2008). The rise of China and the future of the West-Can the liberal system survive. *Foreign Aff.*, 87, 23.
- Jerdén, B. (2014). The assertive China narrative: Why it is wrong and how so many still bought into it. *The Chinese Journal of International Politics*, 7(1), 47-88.
- Greve, A. Q., & Levy, J. S. (2018). Power transitions, status dissatisfaction, and war: The Sino-Japanese War of 1894–1895. *Security Studies*, 27(1), 148-178.
- Cargill, T. F. (1988). Competition and the transition of finance in Japan and the United States. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 12(3), 380-400.
- Haugaard, M. (2010). Democracy, political power, and authority. *Social research*, 77(4), 1049-1074.