Joseph Nye - global power shifts

1. Power moving from West to east and from states to nonstate actors
2. Soft power - getting people to want what you want rather than just do what you want
3. Technology and communication has decreased in price by 1000 fold since 1970
4. By 2027, China's economy is predicted to surpass the US
5. Power in the 21st century is no longer defined just as military capability, but also influence of narrative and ideas
6. Asian countries surrounding China will most likely look to the west to protect them from a rising China
7. In the past, a rising power created fear in the then current hegemon, leading to bad, over reactive policy making on their part
8. Power increase in one country is not always zero sum for other countries (China reducing its emissions)
9. The dilemma of the 21st century - protect ourselves with hard power, but increase our use of soft power to create a more cooperative, public good oriented world that deals with the rise of nonstate actors

Saudi Arabia uncovered

* SA is a key US ally in the middle East
* Ruled by a single family since its founding
* Strict Sunnis, country run under Sharia
* About 25% of population in poverty
* Primary export is oil from fields in the east. Because the east is primarily Shia, they are not given much of the wealth
  + Therefore, the east is the heartland of opposition to the regime
* Opposition escalated after an Arab springs protest in the east devolved into firefights
* Eventually, discontented Sunnis took to the streets as well
* In 2012, Saudi authorities cracked down on protesters
  + Saudi regime uses torture to gain confessions and charged key leaders with treason
* In late 2012, the protests had stopped and the king had introduced reforms to appease the protestors
  + Welfare, social reform, employment opportunities for the poor
    - Basically buying their silence
  + At the same time, they ramped up their strictness of Sharia law
* In 2015, SA held a record number of executions in recent history
  + Protesters can be charged with treason, heresy and sedition
* Religious police - enforce Sharia by cracking down on vice and anti-religious acts (such as not praying)
  + The government tries to reign them in, but they act with autonomy
* Saudi sermons preach harsh redpill
* Saudi government has tied themselves to the popular conservative clerics
* Saudi prisons have lots of vice that is unenforced
* In 2015, king Salman took office after his brother's death
  + He promised to grant more rights to women - they are not allowed to drive, vote, or be in public without a man
  + Women who break these rules are often attacked by civilians
  + Eventually women were granted the vote in local elections
* Fall in oil prices has caused Saudi Arabian economy to struggle
  + Because they can’t buy the people’s silence, tensions are rising again
* If SA keeps their military operations, they'll go bankrupt in 5 years
* 2016 - SA executes 47 terrorists at once to assert authority
  + One of these was a peaceful and popular Shia advocate who was charged with treason. This sparked new violent protests
* Saudis now know the true nature of the regime