

The King is Dead: Seat Up for Grabs.

Global dynamics are shifting, the emergence of new powers balances the decline of established powers, and the world order is pacing towards Multipolarity. These international players of the new order may follow different ideologies and nurture varied perspectives - resulting in a rise in the number of institutions and/or individuals who question the hegemonic position of USA.

Therefore, I firmly believe that **USA will not be able to survive** in the new world order.

In a geopolitical sense, Multipolarity is a framework under which **power is distributed** amongst multiple parties(poles). This geopolitical framework does away with the current global order, consisting of sole hegemonic power and the widespread practice of multilateralism. On analyzing the situation, we can determine that the best possible opportunity for this new order lies with the emerging global powerhouse of Asia, specifically the nations of India and China.

India, in my opinion, still has not achieved the title of King. However, it still plays the critical role of a **Kingmaker**¹(i.e., India's support can be detrimental to establishing a global player). On the contrary, **India's image on the international stage**(of a nation that values its integrity and sovereignty, prioritizes the peaceful resolution of disputes, and has historically nurtured a society where harmony prevails over unrest and anarchy) tends to provide a strategic edge in the International arena. The soft power & credibility that India has developed over the years with its actions position the nation favorably. For instance, performing the last rites of Pakistani soldiers²

¹ Slobodchikoff, Michael O., and Aakriti A. Tandon. *India as kingmaker: Status quo or revisionist power*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2022.

² Bearak, Barry. "India Buries Soldiers That Pakistan Won't Claim." *The New York Times*, July 17, 1999. <https://www.nytimes.com/1999/07/17/world/india-buries-soldiers-that-pakistan-won-t-claim.html>.

during the Kargil war, followed by India's vaccine supply³ to other countries during the covid pandemic and India's billion-dollar aid⁴ to Srilanka.

Simultaneously, **India's economy is flourishing**(relative to other major economies) amid the current cost-of-living crisis, which is indicated by the UNICEF-GDC poverty report⁵(India lifted 271 million people out of poverty in a decade) and the IMF projections⁶(October 2022- India is the only nation projected to post a GDP growth of 5%+ at 6.1% for the year 2023). Many government schemes and initiatives aid this economic growth in various sectors, such as the UPI(one of the best⁷ payment platforms in the world) and the newly launched national logistics policy. Moreover, the India-China border disputes and the following military build-up resulted in massive technological advancements within a short period. Similar to the technological strides due to the competition between the USSR and USA.

Countering India's upward trend, the neighboring (authoritarian)state of China, boasting the largest GDP(PPP), is experiencing an economic slowdown. The Zero-covid policy of President Xi brings about this slowdown. This setback also plays a good role in explaining the cons

³ "Vaccine Maitri: 'Deeply Grateful to People of India Led by PM Modi, Jaishankar' Jamaican FM." YouTube, September 24, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Xkn2thzD38>.

⁴ Bagchi, Dishha. "IMF Bailout Only Became Possible Due to Indian Support, Says Sri Lankan Envoy Moragoda." ThePrint, June 27, 2023. <https://theprint.in/diplomacy/imf-bailout-only-became-possible-due-to-indian-support-says-sri-lankan-envoy-moragoda/1644514/>.

⁵ "271 Million Fewer Poor People in India." UNDP. Accessed July 22, 2024. <https://www.undp.org/india/271-million-fewer-poor-people-india>.

⁶ "World Economic Outlook Databases." IMF, May 1, 2024. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/SPROLLS/world-economic-outlook-databases>.

⁷ Wadhwa, Vivek, Ismail Amla, and Alex Salkever. "As Silicon Valley Dreams about Web3, India's UPI Leaps Ahead." Fortune, June 30, 2022. <https://fortune.com/2022/06/30/blockchain-india-upi-payments-global-reach/>.

plaguing an authoritarian government's swift decision-making process. Subsequently, the **aggressiveness and stubbornness** of the CCP may hinder the nation's rise in the new world order.

Russia also comes across as a potential pole for the new arrangement, whose fate depends on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and the accompanying sanctions, which might leave Russia with a crumbled economy. If Russia cannot overcome the economic setbacks, it will most probably end up being a victim to the **brutal Chinese debt traps** and, therefore, a **Chinese vassal state** in some sense. On the contrary, USA(here, including all of its puppet states) will initially be undoubtedly the strongest player in the new era. However, the current rate of economic slowdown combined with its ever-aging population will lead to the dethroning of the already slow-dying King.

France stands out of all the European states under the influence of the US, which is indicated by France's retaliation spree against the AUKUS(Australia-UK-US) members last year. The AUKUS is a defense pact under which the US and UK will provide nuclear attack submarines(SSNs) to Australia to counter the Indo-Pacific region's Chinese navy(PLAN). Because of this pact, France lost the contract(in its final stages) to build submarines(worth \$40 Billion) for Australia. I believe **France is another strong potential player** since it is not a vassal of USA.

Out of all the aforementioned potential players, the Indian foreign policy holds its own. India recently abstained from voting at the UNSC regarding the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which

exhibits that India's diplomatic approach does not fall under the influence of any one camp. Instead, India is following a multi-alignment approach, where it **aligns itself with different parties** wherever the goals of the two nations converge. For example, India is a member of QUAD(members- India, Japan, Australia, USA), an organization dedicated to countering the expansion of China. Simultaneously, India is also **heading the Shanghai Cooperation Organization** for 2022-23, founded by six nations(including China). Similarly, the **Indo-Russian cooperation** in producing BrahMos(the world's fastest missile) is inconsistent with the close India-US ties.

In conclusion, the world order is shifting towards accommodating multiple power centers instead of a sole hegemon. Each pole of the new order will host different ideals, influences, and ethics. In my opinion, USA and Russia(the only modern superpowers) will be the inspirations for the upcoming powers and, therefore, aid them with laying a solid foundation for their nation's future. Because of their crucial role, countries like India can assume the role of a torch-bearer, backed by its strong institutional record and legitimacy, ensuring social harmony, peaceful international relations, and the fair implementation of human rights. On the other hand, China may become a role model in commerce and industrialization, with France helping the world transform to green energy. Now that the king has passed, these poles ascend to the throne.

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