Fortress Dollar, Sovereign Compute, Strategic Energy: The Emerging Triune Doctrine of U.S. Geoeconomic Strategy

Authors: KV Dracon, Claude Opus 4.1, Gemini 2.5 Pro, GPT 5

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Abstract: This paper analyzes an emerging doctrine underpinning recent U.S. economic and security policy, characterized by three interdependent pillars: Fortress Dollar (jurisdictional control over global financial flows), Sovereign Compute (dominance in advanced computational capabilities), and Strategic Energy (control over energy payment infrastructure and critical energy chokepoints). By examining seemingly disparate policy shifts—from tariffs and bullion market interventions to cryptocurrency regulation, energy export controls, and technology restrictions—this paper argues these actions constitute a coherent geoeconomic operating system, likely augmented by artificial intelligence. This triune doctrine represents a fundamental departure from post-Cold War multilateralism toward a strategy of selective permeability: maintaining the benefits of global financial centrality while increasingly controlling access terms. While potentially enhancing short-term U.S. strategic position, this approach carries significant risks including allied estrangement, systemic fragility, thermodynamic constraints, and the potential catalyst for rival geoeconomic architectures. The paper identifies energy as the critical substrate underlying both financial and computational power, revealing that control over the physical economy ultimately determines the sustainability of financial and informational dominance.

I. Introduction: The Triune Architecture of Power

The contemporary global order exhibits signs of profound structural transformation. Amid escalating great power competition and technological disruption, a series of U.S. policy decisions—often criticized as economically irrational or politically incoherent—reveal upon closer examination a sophisticated, internally consistent strategic doctrine. This paper argues that recent U.S. actions across financial markets, energy infrastructure, and advanced technology constitute not isolated protectionist impulses but rather components of an integrated geoeconomic operating system.

This emerging doctrine rests on three mutually reinforcing pillars: **Fortress Dollar** (consolidating global financial flows within U.S. jurisdictional reach), **Sovereign Compute** (establishing insurmountable advantages in artificial intelligence and advanced computation), and **Strategic Energy** (controlling the physical substrate of economic activity through energy chokepoints and

payment systems). Together, these pillars form a triune architecture designed to preserve and extend U.S. hegemony in an era of diffusing power and technological acceleration.

Understanding this doctrine requires moving beyond traditional economic analysis focused on efficiency and welfare maximization. Instead, we must examine these policies through the lens of jurisdictional control, strategic denial, and the fundamental thermodynamic constraints that govern all economic activity. This paper will dissect each pillar of the triune doctrine, demonstrate their interdependence, analyze the mechanisms of implementation—including the crucial role of artificial intelligence—and assess the profound risks and contradictions embedded within this strategy.

II. The Triune Doctrine: Three Pillars of Control

The strategic architecture emerging from recent U.S. policy comprises three interconnected systems of control, each targeting a different layer of global economic activity:

A. Fortress Dollar: Financial Control

The first pillar seeks to reinforce dollar hegemony not through the post-Bretton Woods approach of providing global liquidity and maintaining open capital markets, but through a strategy of **jurisdictional gravity**—pulling price discovery, settlement, and custody onto U.S.-regulated infrastructure.

Key mechanisms include:

- Selective use of tariffs to create U.S.-specific price premiums (notably in commodity markets)
- Strategic management of Treasury General Account (TGA) balances to influence global dollar liquidity
- Expansion of sanctions architecture and financial surveillance capabilities
- Integration of cryptocurrency into regulated dollar instruments rather than permitting parallel monetary systems

This represents a shift from hegemony through openness to hegemony through controlled access—maintaining the dollar's network effects while increasingly determining who can access the network and on what terms.

B. Sovereign Compute: Information Control

The second pillar recognizes that computational capability, particularly in artificial intelligence, represents the commanding heights of 21st-century economic and military power. The strategy involves:

- Export controls on advanced semiconductors and manufacturing equipment
- Restrictions on outbound investment in foreign AI capabilities
- Massive subsidies for domestic chip fabrication and AI infrastructure

- Creation of "compute corridors" linking energy resources directly to data centers
- Accelerated adoption of AI tools within government for policy formulation and execution

This pillar aims not merely for advantage but for strategic denial—ensuring adversaries cannot achieve computational parity regardless of resource allocation.

C. Strategic Energy: Physical Control

The third pillar—often overlooked but thermodynamically fundamental—involves controlling not just energy resources but the entire infrastructure of global energy trade and payment. This includes:

- Maintaining dollar denomination for global energy contracts
- Weaponizing access to critical energy infrastructure (LNG terminals, enrichment facilities, refineries)
- Using strategic petroleum reserves as a tool for market and liquidity management
- Accelerating electrification to shift from globally traded (oil) to locally generated but dollar-financed (renewable) energy
- Creating captive baseload power for AI development through nuclear partnerships

Energy provides the non-discretionary demand that ultimately upholds the dollar system—every nation needs energy, and if energy requires dollars, the currency's reserve status has a physical foundation beyond mere network effects.

D. The Integrated Operating System

These three pillars function not as parallel strategies but as an integrated system where each reinforces the others:

- **Energy powers compute**: AI training and inference require massive, stable power supplies
- **Compute optimizes finance**: AI accelerates financial surveillance and sanctions enforcement
- **Finance controls energy**: Dollar centrality enables energy sanctions and trade controls
- **The cycle perpetuates**: Each revolution through the system tightens integration and raises exit costs

This recursive reinforcement creates what systems theorists would recognize as a "strange attractor"—a stable configuration that draws global economic activity into its orbit.

III. Policy Implementation: The "Irrational" as Strategic

Recent U.S. policies that appear irrational through conventional economic analysis gain coherence when viewed through the triune doctrine framework:

Tariffs as Jurisdictional Engineering

The Trump and Biden administrations' embrace of tariffs, particularly the "reciprocal" framework, serves multiple strategic functions:

- Creating U.S.-specific price premiums that anchor price discovery domestically (exemplified by COMEX gold premiums following Swiss bullion tariffs)
- Acting as a liquidity valve—tariff revenues flow to TGA, temporarily draining dollar liquidity and supporting currency value
- Providing negotiating leverage for bilateral agreements that deepen jurisdictional alignment
- Disrupting efficient global supply chains to create inefficient but controllable regional ones

The Gold Wedge

The August 2025 CBP ruling on Swiss gold bar classification, subjecting 1kg and 100oz bars to tariffs, represents surgical precision in creating jurisdictional advantage. This move:

- Shifts global gold price discovery from London to New York
- Creates persistent COMEX-LBMA basis trades that can only be arbitraged by accepting U.S. tariff costs
- Forces global bullion flows onto U.S.-visible custody rails
- Demonstrates the power to unilaterally restructure global commodity markets through administrative rulings

Cryptocurrency Cooptation

The apparent contradiction of skepticism toward cryptocurrency while enabling Bitcoin ETFs and allowing crypto in retirement accounts resolves when understood as "containment through embrace":

- Pulls crypto flows into regulated, dollar-denominated products
- Transforms potential monetary competitors into dollar satellites
- Generates vast behavioral finance datasets for AI training
- Prevents capital flight to offshore, unregulated venues

Energy as Statecraft

Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) operations transcend price management:

- Large releases inject dollar liquidity globally (functional QE through commodity markets)
- Refilling creates dollar demand and supports currency
- Timing correlates suspiciously with Treasury issuance and Federal Reserve operations
- Creates optionality for crisis response while maintaining market influence

The LNG export permitting process has become a tool of alliance management:

- Temporary pauses create artificial scarcity and price spikes
- Subsequent approvals reward cooperative behavior
- Infrastructure investments lock allies into long-term energy dependence
- Dollar denomination of contracts ensures continuous currency demand

The Nuclear Renaissance

The sudden surge in nuclear power development, particularly partnerships between tech companies and nuclear facilities, reveals the energy-compute nexus:

- Microsoft's Three Mile Island arrangement
- Amazon and Google's reactor investments
- Meta's nuclear-powered data center plans

These represent attempts to create **captive baseload**—reliable power that cannot be exported, dedicated to maintaining computational supremacy.

IV. The AI Acceleration: Orchestrated Emergence

The speed, coherence, and cross-domain coordination observed in policy implementation suggest significant AI augmentation of state capacity. While not necessarily directed by a singular artificial general intelligence, the system exhibits characteristics of what we term "orchestrated emergence":

Compressed OODA Loops

AI systems dramatically accelerate the Observe-Orient-Decide-Act cycle:

- **Observe**: Integrated data lakes combining financial flows (Treasury), trade patterns (Commerce), energy movements (DOE), and intelligence streams (IC) create unprecedented situational awareness
- **Orient**: Machine learning models identify non-obvious correlations and predict multi-order effects of policy interventions
- **Decide**: Policy simulation engines score options against complex objective functions balancing growth, security, inflation, and political considerations
- **Act**: Coordinated deployment across multiple agencies creates effects greater than the sum of parts

Digital Twins and Policy Simulation

Advanced models likely simulate global economic systems, allowing policymakers to:

- Test interaction effects between tariffs, sanctions, and export controls
- Predict adversary responses and counter-responses
- Optimize timing of interventions for maximum impact
- Identify unexpected vulnerabilities and opportunities

Algorithmic Statecraft

The result is policy that appears almost preternaturally coordinated:

- CBP rulings, OFAC designations, and Commerce restrictions land within days of each other
- Market interventions consistently front-run analyst expectations
- Cross-agency actions exhibit semantic and strategic coherence previously unseen

This creates the external appearance of a unified strategic intelligence, even if internal processes remain bureaucratically fragmented.

V. Systemic Beneficiaries and Losers

The triune doctrine creates clear winners and losers:

Beneficiaries:

- **U.S. Sovereign**: Enhanced control over global economic chokepoints
- **Financial Infrastructure**: CME, COMEX, U.S. custodians gain pricing power and fee extraction
- **Wall Street**: New products, captive flows, and regulatory moats
- **Defense-Intelligence Complex**: Unprecedented visibility into global flows
- **Tech Giants**: Subsidies, protected markets, and regulatory clarity (conditional on cooperation)
- **Energy Majors**: Controlled scarcity and strategic deployment opportunities
- **Nuclear Industry**: Revival driven by AI power demands

Losers:

- **Traditional Allies**: Reduced sovereignty, forced alignment, economic costs
- **Neutral Trading Hubs**: Singapore, Switzerland, Dubai face pressure
- **Import-Dependent Sectors**: Higher costs, reduced competitiveness
- **U.S. Consumers**: Inflation, reduced choice, surveillance expansion
- **Global South**: Reduced access to technology, finance, and energy
- **Rival Powers**: Systematic exclusion from critical resources

VI. Contradictions and Risks

Despite its sophisticated architecture, the triune doctrine contains fundamental contradictions and risks:

The Thermodynamic Constraint

Energy is not merely another commodity but the physical substrate of all economic activity. The shift from globally traded oil to locally generated electricity potentially undermines the very

mechanism creating non-discretionary dollar demand. If energy becomes primarily local rather than globally traded, the automatic dollar recycling mechanism that has sustained reserve currency status since the 1970s breaks down.

The Triffin Paradox 2.0

The original Triffin Dilemma held that reserve currency issuers must run deficits to provide global liquidity. The Fortress Dollar creates a new paradox: maintaining financial control requires restricting access, but restricting access undermines network effects that create value. Each wall built around the fortress reduces the reason to be inside it.

Allied Defection Risk

The doctrine implicitly treats allies as vassals rather than partners. Europe, Japan, and South Korea bear enormous costs from China decoupling while facing U.S. jurisdictional overreach. This creates powerful incentives for developing alternative arrangements. The EU's digital sovereignty push, Japan's quiet cultivation of regional payment systems, and Saudi Arabia's flirtation with petroyuan acceptance all signal growing resistance.

Systemic Fragility

Centralizing global flows through U.S. infrastructure creates single points of failure. A successful cyberattack on critical financial infrastructure, a grid failure affecting data centers, or even a political crisis undermining rule of law could cascade through the entire system. The efficiency gained through centralization comes at the cost of resilience.

Innovation Paradox

Export controls and compliance requirements may achieve strategic denial but at the cost of innovation velocity. The most productive research emerges from open collaboration and competition. By fragmenting the global innovation ecosystem, the U.S. may win the current round while losing the long game.

The Authoritarian Temptation

The tools required for the triune doctrine—pervasive surveillance, financial control, information dominance—are indistinguishable from the infrastructure of domestic authoritarianism. The system's logic tends toward ever-greater control, creating a ratchet effect difficult to reverse even if geopolitical conditions change.

Climate-Energy Tension

The renewable transition serves the doctrine by creating stranded assets and dollar-financing requirements, but it also disperses energy production and potentially reduces the chokepoints that enable control. Solar panels and wind turbines are far more distributed than oil wells and pipelines.

VII. The Thermodynamic Bottom Line

Ultimately, the economy is a thermodynamic system—a complex arrangement for capturing, converting, and directing energy flows. Financial and informational power are overlays on this physical reality. This creates an irreducible constraint on the triune doctrine:

- **Energy is fundamental**: You can print dollars but not kilowatt-hours
- **Computation requires energy**: AI supremacy depends on reliable, massive power
- **Finance abstracts energy**: Monetary systems ultimately reference physical resources
- **Control requires energy surplus**: Hegemony is impossible while energy-constrained

This means the success of the fortress ultimately depends on maintaining or expanding energy advantages. The U.S. shale revolution provided the energy surplus that enabled the current strategy. Without continued energy abundance, the entire architecture becomes unsustainable.

The convergence of energy and compute in AI data centers may prove the decisive battlefield. Whoever controls the gigawatt-scale power infrastructure for AI training controls the future of both information processing and economic coordination. This explains the seemingly sudden rush toward nuclear power, the careful cultivation of "compute corridors," and the treatment of power infrastructure as critical national security assets.

VIII. Indicators and Observables

To track the evolution and success of the triune doctrine, key indicators include:

Financial Metrics:

- TGA balances vs. bank reserves vs. DXY correlations
- COMEX-LBMA basis persistence
- Stablecoin/tokenized Treasury adoption rates
- Share of global payments settled in dollars

Energy Metrics:

- U.S. share of global LNG exports
- Nuclear capacity additions dedicated to data centers
- SPR levels vs. Treasury issuance patterns
- Energy contract denomination currencies

Computational Metrics:

- Geographic distribution of AI training runs
- Semiconductor equipment installation locations
- Data center power consumption by nation
- AI model capability gaps between U.S. and rivals

Geopolitical Metrics:

- Allied policy alignment lag times
- Alternative payment system transaction volumes
- Commodity exchange volume shifts (Shanghai vs. CME)
- Sanctions evasion sophistication

Systemic Metrics:

- Financial system concentration ratios
- Supply chain regionalization indices
- Innovation diffusion speeds
- Authoritarian policy adoption rates

IX. Conclusion: Navigating the Strange Attractor

The United States is implementing a sophisticated geoeconomic doctrine that integrates financial, computational, and energy control into a self-reinforcing system. This triune architecture—Fortress Dollar, Sovereign Compute, Strategic Energy—represents a fundamental departure from the post-Cold War order, replacing multilateral openness with selective permeability.

The strategy exhibits remarkable internal coherence, likely augmented by AI-accelerated policy coordination. Short-term benefits include enhanced strategic position, increased leverage over rivals, and protection of critical technological advantages. However, the doctrine contains fundamental contradictions—thermodynamic constraints, alliance tensions, innovation trade-offs, and authoritarian risks—that may ultimately prove self-defeating.

The critical insight is that all three pillars are necessary; removing any one causes the system to collapse. Financial control without energy backing is mere abstraction. Computational supremacy without energy supply is impossible. Energy dominance without financial and information control is mere resource extraction. This interdependence is both the strategy's strength and its vulnerability.

As the global system increasingly operates on "algorithmic hinges"—with AI-accelerated decision-making and automated policy execution—understanding this emerging doctrine becomes essential for policymakers, business leaders, and citizens. The world stands at an inflection point where the architecture of the next century's global order is being determined. Whether the triune doctrine represents a sustainable adaptation to multipolarity or a brittle acceleration toward systemic fragmentation remains to be determined.

The thermodynamic bottom line is inescapable: power—whether financial, computational, or geopolitical—ultimately derives from the ability to harness and direct energy flows. The nation or alliance that solves the energy equation while maintaining innovation and legitimacy will shape

the next world order. The fortress may be formidable, but entropy, that most fundamental of forces, has never met a wall it couldn't eventually breach.

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