

## **EURASIA'S RESISTANCE TO THE OCEANIC POWERS THE US-RUSSIA CONFLICT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE EU, CHINA OR INDIA**

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**Abstract:** Geopolitical Eurasia is the large continental mass with the Heartland core group: Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Mongolia and so on, exporters of raw materials by direct land and the Continental Rimland: China, Germany, Turkey, Italy, South Korea, India, Pakistan, Thailand and so on, made up of Continental Powers, while the Oceanic Powers, led by the US dominating maritime trade and oceanic embargo capacity, brings together exporting powers: Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, UAE and so on and industrialized maritime powers: Great Britain, Japan, etc., alongside exporting states constrained by them, from Africa, Latin America and island Asia. If the US succeeds in the trade blockade of the Heartland, stopping the export of cheap and abundant raw materials, it indirectly brings the European Union, mainland East Asia (China) and South Asia (India) to its knees, delivering four strikes direct and preventing the emergence of a power that would take its place as world leader. If the Rimland manages to bypass the American embargo by continuing to import from Heartland, Britain will lose dominance in Europe to Germany, Japan will lose the dominance of Asia before China, Saudi Arabia before Iran and India will dominate the Indian Ocean, hence the 3+1 main regions taking over Africa, America and Australia, which will culminate in the decline of the US power, the dominance of the Eurasian world and of the continental powers before the maritime powers.

**Key words:** spheres of influence, dominant power, embargo, trade, raw materials, US dollar

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## **INTRODUCTION**

In Eastern Europe, there is hatred towards Russia since historical times, in Ukraine at the beginning of 2022, horrifying preparations are being made for war (which has been triggered in the meantime), and the USA is threatening Russia with a trade embargo like Iran (Barro, 2020). Taking the three current situations in turn, which spanned the entire end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we can see similarities at the global level.

In Eastern Europe, focusing especially on Romania, there is an endemic hatred against Russia, which has dominated this part of the world for the last century. This feeling is more present when we get closer to Russia, in states like Ukraine or Georgia, but even milder if we move away, in states like: Hungary, Serbia, Italy or Austria, where admiration already begins. Although Poland has suffered for centuries due to Germanic ambitions, the domination of Russia through the USSR in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, makes it look nervously to the east, to Russia. Instead, Greece, Armenia and even Bulgaria feel more embarrassed by the growing power of Turkey, Belgium or Denmark hate the ever-invading Germany, Ireland or the African states hate Great Britain, Latin America hates the USA that subjugated them economically, China hates Japan, which has always invaded its territory, and Vietnam is anxiously watching its ever-rival China.

Similar to human psychological situations, where strong people have always sought to subjugate and use the weak, so great powers dominated and made vassals of weaker states, mainly territorially close, where hatred of imperial power grew. Likewise, weak states, when they had support, assumed a role too large for their power, venturing to threaten much stronger states, thus doing the small country of Cuba, which, secured by the support of the USSR, dared to threaten with missiles of mass destruction even the great power USA, in 1962 or Georgia when it threatened Russia in 2008, at the encouragement of NATO forces, both states suffering the visible consequences even today (Bertonha, 2009; Rose, 1998). The same is happening now with Israel, which, although it has a small area and population in relation to its neighbors, is keeping up with the Arab powers, on the other hand, Hong Kong has already fallen before the rise of China's power, and Taiwan is going to suffer the same. in the future (Chomsky, 2019; Marshall, 2020). Thus, weak states, if they do not stand up to the great powers, risk their colonies, but if they rise up against them, they will most often suffer later when they run out of the external support that encouraged them.

Regarding the period of hatred and enmity, there is a continuous evolution according to the dominant power at the reference date. In Romania, before the current anger towards Russia, they hated Hungary (even during the Second World War, when the conflagration caused by the Germans did not affect Romania, being their ally, hence the respect for the German nation, for the products and the ethnic Germans who became the president of this country in the period 2014-2024).

Before the 1940-1950 period, Romania was hostile to Hungary for over two centuries, the main reason being that it was at that time the great European power next to Austria (in Austria-Hungary). In 1900, for example, Germany had 56 million inhabitants and Austria-Hungary 47 million people, with a huge

power and concentrated mainly on Europe (and the Romanian territories), while England, France, Italy, Spain or Turkey, they each held, in order: 39, 38, 32, 18 and 31 million, and globally, the major powers the United States or Japan held 76 and 43 million respectively (Kaplan, 2015).

Before this moment, Turkey (the Ottoman Empire) was a great rival, constantly destroying the economic power of the Romanian provinces, at a time when it possessed, for example in 1700, 25 million people, more than Russia which had only 13 million or Austria-Hungary with 10 million (Darwin, 2021).

And in the future the evolution of hatred will evolve, feeling a growing disappointment on the USA, which through the IMF encouraged us to destroy the economy and got involved in the country's politics with increasingly pronounced effects at present, and towards the middle of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, probably the anger will focus on the Western European powers, especially the German ones, who are trying to transform the Eastern Europe that fled of Russia, into their own territory of delight.

We also find these evolutions of hatred worldwide. For example, in Latin America, before the anger against the USA, after the year 1500 the hatred was directed towards the Spanish conquistadors, who managed to destroy in a few years, millennial civilizations, in Africa it was against England and France and now it is growing slightly against China who takes them resources more and more greedily. In China, hatred has been directed towards Japan for centuries, then towards the USSR, which was strong and dominated its politics by occupying its territories, and now it is growing towards the USA, which is blocking its world domination. In Vietnam, the eternal enemy was China that invaded it 17 times in its history, then France and later to the USA that caused resounding wars throughout the 20th century, and now it starts again on China, a state that recently expanded into South China Sea (Stuart-Fox, 2003; Nguyen, 2017).

The second problem, that of the war in the world. It exists all over the planet, in Africa or the southern half of Asia or the Balkans in Europe where it manifests itself in the classic way, with weapons and direct victims. In Europe or Latin America with economic submission, in the USA with frequent "civil wars" of those who lose elections to those who win them (with the help of NGOs or instigators of all kinds), and in China with a state war -citizen, in which economic development is encouraged, but with clearly predetermined directions and consequences for mistakes made by citizens. In Romania we do not have inter-ethnic and inter-religious wars, nor inter-state wars with our neighbors, but similar to the other Eastern European countries, for these benefits we had to accept "Shock Therapy", we borrow billions of dollars that do not reach in the economy, we restrict industrialization and encourage the exodus of population to the allied powers in the west, similar to any state at war.

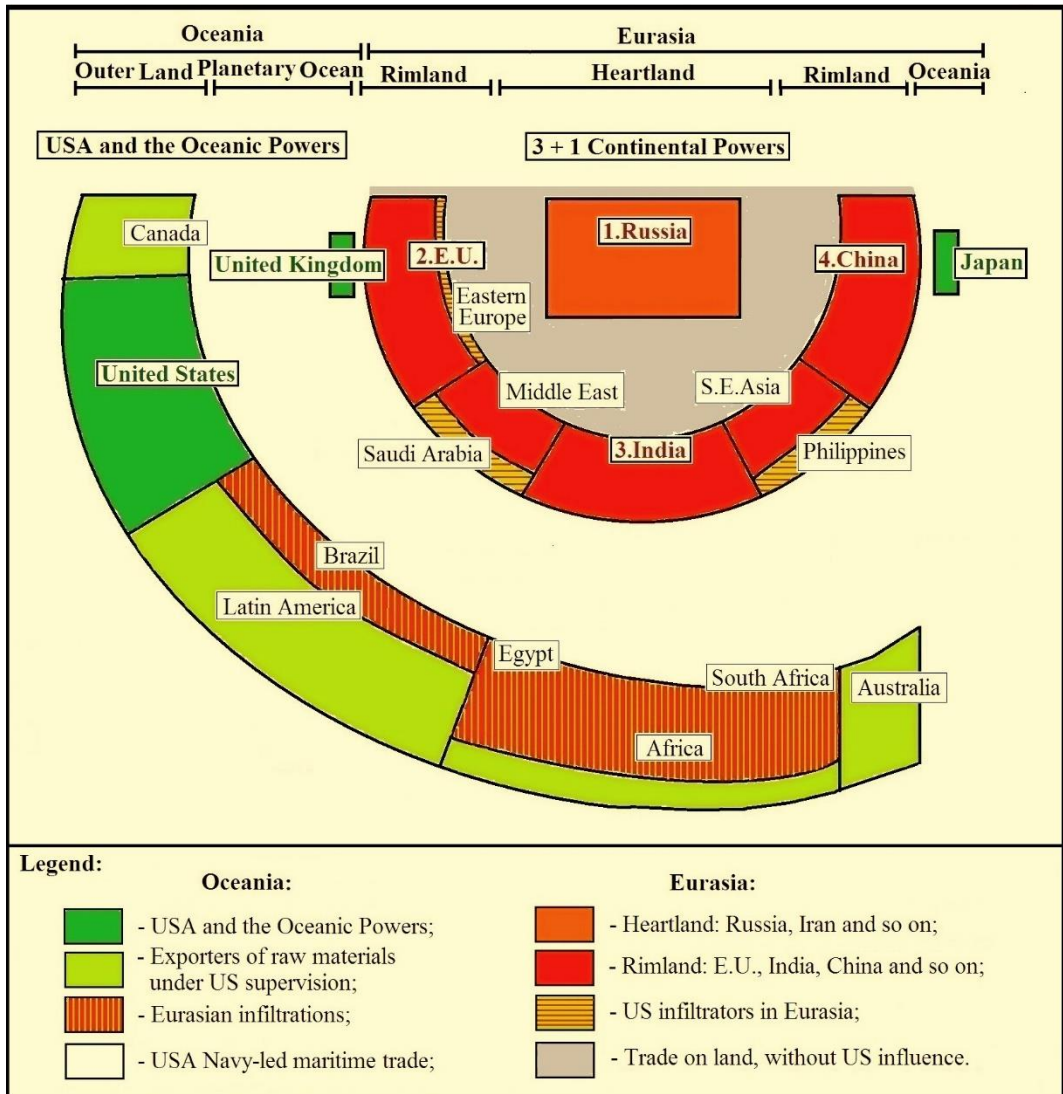
The third element, the US trade and economic embargoes on Iran or Russia, constitutes the main part of the article's study, this war having international connotations to be detailed.

## **DATA AND METHODS**

The observation of events in a country in contact with major world interests is the essence of this article, where troops of the current Anglo-Saxon world power are stationed, as well as French-Latin and Italian-Latin, a language family of which Romanian is a part, with German president and Orthodox Christian religion similar to eastern Slavic states including Russia, with trips to

Orthodox Greece and Islamic Turkey, pilgrimage to Jewish Israel, laborers from Vietnam, Sri Lanka or Nepal, Filipino nannies and Chinese manufactured goods, all these reflecting in the discourse of the political parties, of the news for and against, east and west.

The implementation of the two categories of power, continental and maritime, is a historical fact, and the emergence of communism and allied states in Eurasia, as well as the consolidation of US power in the waters of the Planetary Ocean, a fact materialized after the end of the Second World War, led to the drawing choremei spheres of world influence, the outline from which the structuring of the sub-chapters starts.



**Figure 1.** Chorema of spheres of world influence between the USA and Eurasia  
Source: appreciation of the authors

The data on human losses, the millions of war refugees, the accusations of one side and the other, all of which exist in abundance in all wars, were avoided. Civilians have always been part of the war, helped soldiers, made donations and sometimes, for the defense of family and material goods, they became military volunteers. The intended results are not to look for culprits, whether Russia is an unscrupulous empire, or NATO has always become a provocateur of wars through its expansion. The use of prohibited weapons is not analyzed either, rules that have always been violated. And only its extended implications, over periods of decades. We have not focused on Ukraine's abundant coal resources or agricultural land, nor on the highly skilled workforce expected by Western importers of these immigrants, nor on the historical correctness of its vast landmass with foreign territories. The information concerns similar situations in the past based on which a forecast of the following decades is attempted, for all of Europe, Asia or the USA. And these consequences are. We see how India is still massively importing weaponry from Russia, the US is threatening India with sanctions trying to break this state from the Eurasian power. Japan, influenced by the alliance with the USA and Europe, re-opens the issue of the Kuril Islands, Canada sends soldiers to Europe and Africa suffers from a lack of grain supplies, imported in the past from Ukraine and Russia. The war is far from local or short-lived.

We do not want to emphasize the changing spheres of world influence, a long-debated topic, these spheres being in continuous shaping, increasingly unpredictable in the last three decades. Calm was a rarity, with the great leaders always at the negotiating table, and the current war between Russia and NATO through Ukraine, increasingly visibly involves the entire planet. Maybe years from now it will be categorized as World War III, or another war with external implications, like Vietnam or Afghanistan, where weapons quietly infiltrated across the border and sent by apparently neutral states decided the fate of the conflict.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

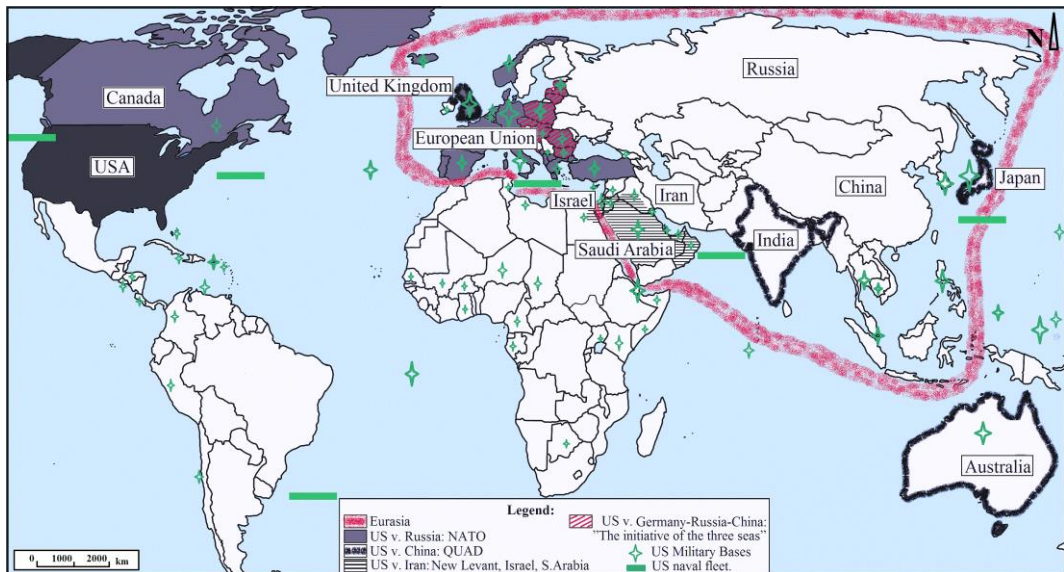
### **Two different supply systems. US ocean interests and Russia's continental interests**

Ocean trade carried out by ships approaches 90% of world trade volume, but only a fraction of this is long-distance, intra-continental trade. Among the states of the world there are some that rely exclusively on maritime trade, without the possibility of land trade with other states, and others have this possibility as well. The strongest overland trade between more than two states is in Eurasia, less in the Americas, and growing for the future in Africa. Exclusively maritime trading powers include: the USA, Canada (excluding trade with the USA), Australia, Japan, Indonesia, Great Britain, but also: Brazil, Malaysia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa or Spain, which are powers semi-oceanic. Continental powers exclusively include Russia, Kazakhstan but also: China, Germany, Turkey, having a major semi-continental role and: Italy, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Iran and even France, which have a geography that allows them both possibilities. Analyzing the trade of raw materials, we see two camps of exporters-importers. An oceanic one from: Canada, Australia, Saudi Arabia and in the not-too-distant past: South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, etc. (states that are increasingly leaning towards Eurasia), towards maritime powers: USA, Japan and Great Britain. The second, which has double possibilities, both maritime and continental (via roads, railways but also pipelines) from the center

of Eurasia known as the Heartland: Iran, Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and so on, to states in the Rimland: China, the European Union, Turkey, India, Pakistan and so on.

The US owns mining companies in the sea-exporting states of: America, Africa, Australia and the southern half of Asia, but less in the mining states of deep continental Eurasia, this fact has recent historical origins, when there were USSR with 22, 4 million km<sup>2</sup>, China, Vietnam, Mongolia or the states of communist Eastern Europe (another 12 million km<sup>2</sup> in total), and American companies concentrated their investments outside this perimeter (Nolan, 2012; Caragea, 2009).

Also, although Russia has a land military power of great capacity, equal to that of the USA, that is, in a war near Russia, it would win, and the same is already the case with China, which would cope well with a conflict near it, both located in Eurasia, the US has military bases all over the globe and a huge sea power with nuclear powered aircraft carriers or submarines (Figure 2) which makes it able to dominate a war anywhere else on the planet except Russia or China at their home (Bianchini and Fiori, 2018).



**Figure 2.** US military power, decision and maritime, encircling Eurasian adversaries

Source: information processed by: Hastedt, 2020; Hook and Spanier, 2018; Diaconescu and Mazilu, 2021; Suci, Caunic and Muntele, 2010; Grumaz, 2013; Reid, 2004.

Because it owns an extensive fleet and dominates the planetary ocean but also the export of oceanic states with its companies, as well as the import of raw materials, it dominates the economy of: Great Britain, Japan, Canada, Australia, Saudi Arabia or other states in America, Africa and Asia insular. But it cannot enter inside Eurasia. Although it succeeded in forming alliances with the states of the Rimland to encircle the USSR in the past, now, with few exceptions (the expansion of NATO in Eastern Europe), it cannot penetrate militarily, economically and decisively inside the Heartland, which is largely dominated by only a few countries: Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Iran, Pakistan and so on, approaching 35 million km<sup>2</sup>. The US tried to penetrate the

continental space to destabilize Eurasia, but it left Yugoslavia, Vietnam and recently Afghanistan, the same fate having it in Iraq, while the prospect of conquering Iran is increasingly distant. And the powers economically close to the US seem to be playing tricks on him, with Turkey somewhat returns its weapons, as well as: Germany, Hungary, Italy, China and increasingly: South Korea, Thailand, India or Saudi Arabia, which tend to buy materials receive and trade with Eurasia, drastically hampering US influence over this large land mass. The time has passed when America was welcomed as a savior in the face of the expansion of the USSR, and today the trade of the South (Latin America-Africa-Asia) and the East (Eurasia, the states of the Indian Ocean, the North-West Pacific, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Red Sea or the Persian Gulf) is becoming increasingly difficult to coordinate with US influence.

### **Embargo of the Eurasian Heartland and 3+1 powers: EU, India, China + Russia**

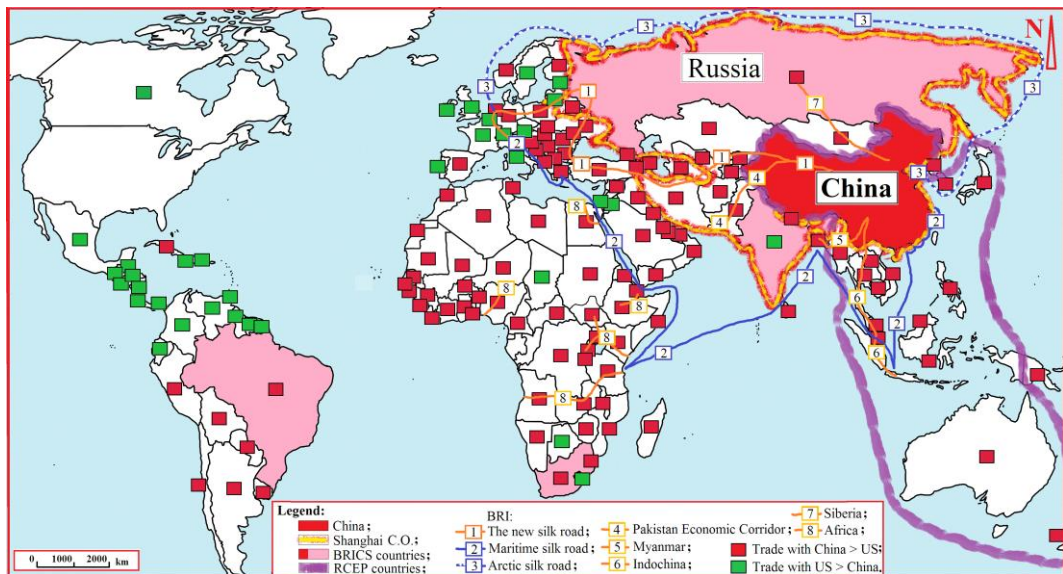
The USA has always had, since its formation as a great world power, the goal of preventing the emergence of a superpower in Eurasia, which could take its place. It was the case of Hitler's Germany, imperial Japan or later the USSR where exactly the power targeted was known. Currently, it is not clear whether the problem of denying the US as the only superpower comes from: China, India, Russia, the European Union (with the core of Germany-France) or from Iran or Turkey. There are chaotic military alliances (NATO, QUAD, Three-Seas) and multi-player allies (India, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Germany) that bring instability to US actions.

It has been known since the time of the great world wars, that to decay the opposing power, you must stop its supply of raw materials, without which any industrial power will quickly capitulate. Or if the US worsens the embargo against Russia and Iran and imposes an embargo on the states: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, maybe Turkey, etc. for violation of human rights, pollution, aggression or others, i.e. a space of 23-25 million km<sup>2</sup> with only 260-380 million inhabitants (depending on the states included), would cut supply to Central-Western Europe by 6 million km<sup>2</sup> and 600 million inhabitants, East Asia with 10 million km<sup>2</sup> and 1,600 million inhabitants and South Asia with 4.5 million km<sup>2</sup> and 1,800 million inhabitants, i.e. the big consuming centers of today and in the future, destroying and economically destabilizing not only Russia, but also the other states from the Heartland, but also the EU, China or India, i.e. the powers that threaten its primacy (Figure1).

In support of the US are the oceanic exporting powers, mainly Canada and Australia who are the most vocal towards Russia, and who hope that once the Heartland is blocked, the natural resources they export will increase their power, profit and influence (Friedman, 2009). On the periphery of Eurasia are Great Britain and Japan, who have always fought to prevent the emergence of a continental power that would endanger their influence. Great Britain fears the economic growth of Germany but also of France or Russia in Europe. Japan hopes that once the embargo is in place, China, deprived of the resources of Russia and the Heartland in general, will fall into economic crisis and disintegrate. Up to a point: Germany, France, Turkey, Poland, Saudi Arabia, India or China also support the American initiative, each with its own interests. The blockade between Russia and China would make India stronger, the decline of Iran-Russia-Turkey trade would give hopes of regional power to Saudi Arabia, stopping exports to Eastern Europe would intensify the current action of

Germany or China to buy only resources from Russia, and stopping a German-Russian trade, gives hopes to France that it will take the dominant place in the EU, to Turkey that it will be the export gate of raw materials from Russia to the Mediterranean Sea, and Poland dreams of dominating the Eastern European states (Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania).

Each of these Eurasian powers is waiting for another to make the mistake of complying with the US decisions and decay its economy by cutting off supplies from the Heartland, and it will be the beneficiary. An easy example already materialized in 2020 when India, for the sake of the US in the framework of QUAD (Figure 2), stopped certain investments and trade with Russia and Iran, seeing how immediately China took its place, what resulted, and among other reasons, to a slight Indian economic decline that was forced to increase its trade with much more expensive Australian and North American raw materials. Its economy decreased by -7.3%, while the states involved in the life of the Heartland (importing raw materials from Russia and active members in the New Silk Road implemented by China (Fig.3) experienced economic growth: Egypt 3.6%, Iran 3.4%, Bangladesh 3.5%, China 2.3% or South Korea and Pakistan with slight decreases of -0.9% each (Ayres, 2017; International Monetary Fund, 2021).



**Figure 3.** China, continental, economic power and the workshop of the world, seizing Eurasia, with the support of Russia

Source: information processed after: Frankopan, 2011; Goh, 2016; Favari, 2014; Pomeranz, 2009; Ramge et al., 2018; Maçães, 2018.

### **The USA, the only market for Eurasian industrialized powers**

One could naturally ask why Germany and China, but also South Korea, the Netherlands or Italy do not give up their attachment to the USA, thus prospering with the help of the abundant trade in resources from the trade blocked states, which exports raw materials at a very low price. Nothing more difficult to achieve. Raw products arrive from the less industrialized states of the Heartland and beyond, to these value-added finished goods producing states, and they take the route of the US mainly, but also to other powers with



overvalued currencies such as: Canada, Australia and Britain. Basically, the USA mainly helped the economic launch of: Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany (now Germans after reunification), Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, or Thailand.

After 1970 and especially after 2000, its current adversary China also grew, making it the world's workshop and the most powerful nation in the organizations: "Shanghai Cooperation Organization" with the help of which it dominates the Heartland and the Southern Rimland; "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership" through which it economically influences East Asia, Southeast Asia and Oceania; "Belt and Road Initiative" with a land side and a sea side, through which it implements the largest investment program ever known in the Island of the World (Europe, Asia, Africa) and the "BRICs" (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) through which it influences the whole world (Figure 3) (O'Brien, 2010; Carmody, 2013). Without the contribution of the USA and the opening of its own market, the Eurasian continental powers would not have become the 2nd, 3rd or 4th places in the world today, the model being now also copied by Vietnam, India or Bangladesh which follow the same direction of industrialization, with exports of finished products to the American market.

The overvaluation of the American currency, the US dollar, led to the industrialization of the western and eastern extremes of Eurasia, and now it is the beginning of the industrialization of the states of Southeast Asia and especially the South. We can say that the US has rescued his later opponents. And through them, it led to financial benefits and military expansion of some "indirect trade partners", which are now the great and visible enemies of the USA, such as Iran or Russia.

### **The strength of the US dollar, with the support of Eurasia**

The USA maintains the economic growth of the main economic challengers to its supremacy, such as Germany with the EU, China with East Asia, India with South and Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Bangladesh), and through them also the raw material exporting states such as Russia and Iran, which will create regional and global economic and military actors with its own financing. This means that by stopping the import of consumer goods from: Germany, China, India, South Korea and so on, the USA would secure a leading place in the future world power, while also developing its production capacity, owning its own underground resources, including the export of oceanic raw materials from: Australia, Canada or Saudi Arabia. In this way it would endanger the emergence of a power in Eurasia.

Technological transfer was achieved through the multitude of American companies in the production centers of: Japan, China, India, Germany, Italy, and so on (where American companies were welcomed with open arms, strictly to bring with them the innovation so necessary for the industrialization of these new powers). That is, the USA directly developed the industry from the new world powers, and with the help of its own market, it led to the economic miracle: German, Japanese, South Korean, Chinese, and now Indian or Vietnamese (Frank, 1998; Findlay and O'Rourke, 2009). Practically all connecting to this huge power, with megalomaniac multinationals, research centers and market backed by the strongest currency. The natural question would be, why doesn't the USA stop import the goods, which anyway they destroyed its production capacity and challenges them of world supremacy?

The very fact that the US has a strong and attractive currency, a huge market but also an industry in severe decline, can make it a big importer. But this fact of importing a lot, leads to the export of the US dollar in the world, especially in China and Germany, but also in all East Asia, Western Europe and now in South Asia (Kagan, 2004; Khanna, 2019). Thus, in the opposite sense, if the USA led to the emergence of Eurasian industrial locomotives, it was precisely these that made the USA the greatest financial power in the world and maintains the world supremacy of a state with only 4% of the entire population of the world, managing to dominate Eurasia which collects 70% of the planet's population.

This situation leads to the US dominating the world market by exporting stamped papers, but also if Germany or China stop giving value to these currencies, they negate the power of their countries' huge deposits of US dollars (with which they make the world's investments and borrow the United States) but would also cancel its largest export market, going down economically.

### CONCLUSIONS

The war in Ukraine, Iraq, Syria, or the tense situation in Russia, or the embargo in Iran, are only surface conflicts in an interconnected world. By stopping the export of raw materials from any of the Heartland states (Russia, Iran and so on), the production centers of China, Germany, Japan, India and so on, suffer economic losses for the companies of Japan, Great Britain or the USA from these centers and beyond the American market that would be deprived of consumer goods, at reduced prices, hence the decline of the American currency, the US Dollar, which is the main exchange currency in trade with Eurasia.

Instead, precisely the export of dollars against the value of finished products practiced by the USA, leads to the jeopardy of its own production capacity, to the emergence of new economic powers such as: the EU, China, Japan or India, which challenge its superpower and here it strengthens the power of states like Iran or Russia, which do not respect the international norms developed and imposed by the American superpower. The fact that everything revolves around the USA gives it huge economic and decision-making benefits that it would not be able to maintain with its low population and far from the large landmass of Eurasia, if it focused strictly on industrialization, but precisely this constraint makes it the prisoner of the powers of Eurasia, which are in a huge economic expansion and begin to influence the states of Africa and Latin America, easily replacing the American power.

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