

THE ILLUSION OF WELL-BEING IN THE TRIPOLAR WORLD

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Abstract: The US set the tone for modern development with ingenious tactics whereby the economy produces little and grows much, dominating the world market worker. Now, the European Union giving up industry, is trying to copy its strategy, but with a delay that can endanger the entire European Union, while China remains with the old strategy held by : Germany, the USSR or Japan in the past, of industrialization and production in mass for domestic and foreign markets. The three areas hold more than 20 trillion US dollars, being the mega-powers of the current world, while the rest of the states, with three exceptions (Japan 5 trillion, Great Britain and India each 3 trillion) have values below 2.5 trillion : Brazil, Russia, Canada, Australia and so on.

Key words: economic powers, geopolitics, GDP gross domestic product, development strategies

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INTRODUCTION

The states of the world have been in fierce economic growth for over two centuries. The industry has reached new stages of development, the consumer population is rapidly increasing its requirements, the great world cities have civilizational centers like the West and prosperity seems to be knocking at the doors of any state.

In all this commotion of the deluge of prosperity showered on the world, after so many years of unprecedented economic development of mankind, as presented in geopolitics books, news media and geography textbooks, yet the number of developed states seems to have frozen as it was in the past two or three decades and very little has changed in 70 years, and the world's rich, in ever smaller numbers, own ever greater percentages of world wealth.

After the end of the Second World War, the world map was colored with 200 states that are ready to take their own geopolitical route, starting on the path of prosperity so coveted during the years of colonialism (Herman & Grama, 2018).

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At a closer look, the situation seems far from shore, going in the same direction, with three developed areas: Western Central Europe, central North America and coastal East Asia, and with the rest of the world in the dark. The great world development is produced with bank loans, the money circulated is mostly US dollars, the sale of local products but also the purchases of citizens are made in chain stores, hodina is made in hotel chains, processed products are made in factories with western shareholders, and the final goods go to the USA, which in return exports the much-coveted green papers that have captured over 40% of the global money supply.

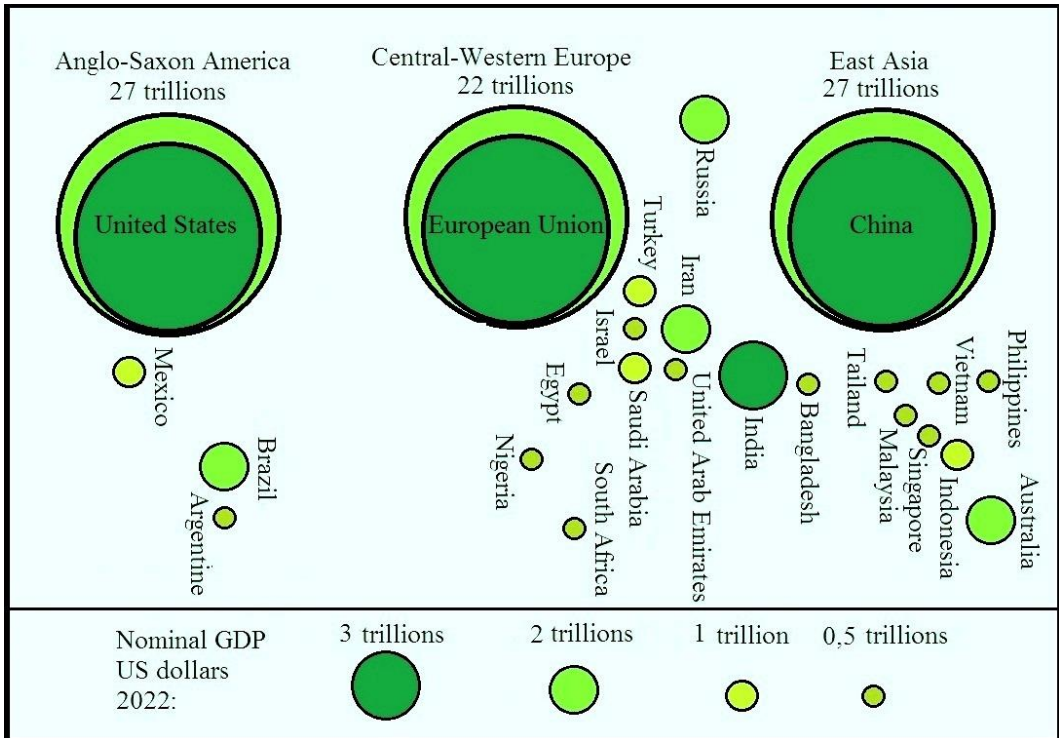


Figure 1. Tripolar economic world and comparison with regional powers (Source: processed by: I.M.F., 2022; Utonish, 2022; World Bank, 2022; Diaconescu & Mazilu, 2021)

DATA AND METHODS

It is not understood why the US economy grows by more than 2% every year, but the average citizen of this state has an average household income almost unchanged since 1970 (Glock, 2020). Japan, although one step away from reaching the USA economically in 1997 (Bennett, 2010), has stagnated, leaving the American power five times ahead of it, while the EU tries to copy the North American model, but it seems that in a period when this trend has been mortgaged, and there is no more room for another world player remaining.

In the last two decades, Asia, with the end of the demographic explosion, seemed more and more economically calculated and the new dominant on the great chessboard of the world, but China seems to be stalling and India, suffocated by Western advice and the lack of resources that should have been

provided with imports directly by the state, give hope to the US that the two Asian powers will have the fate of Japan. In this direction, the United States is still the world's great power (with Europe as a trailer), having a bipolar world and in 2050, 2080 or 2120, with the US and, in turn: India, Indonesia (ASEAN) and Nigeria (Union of African or Central African States).

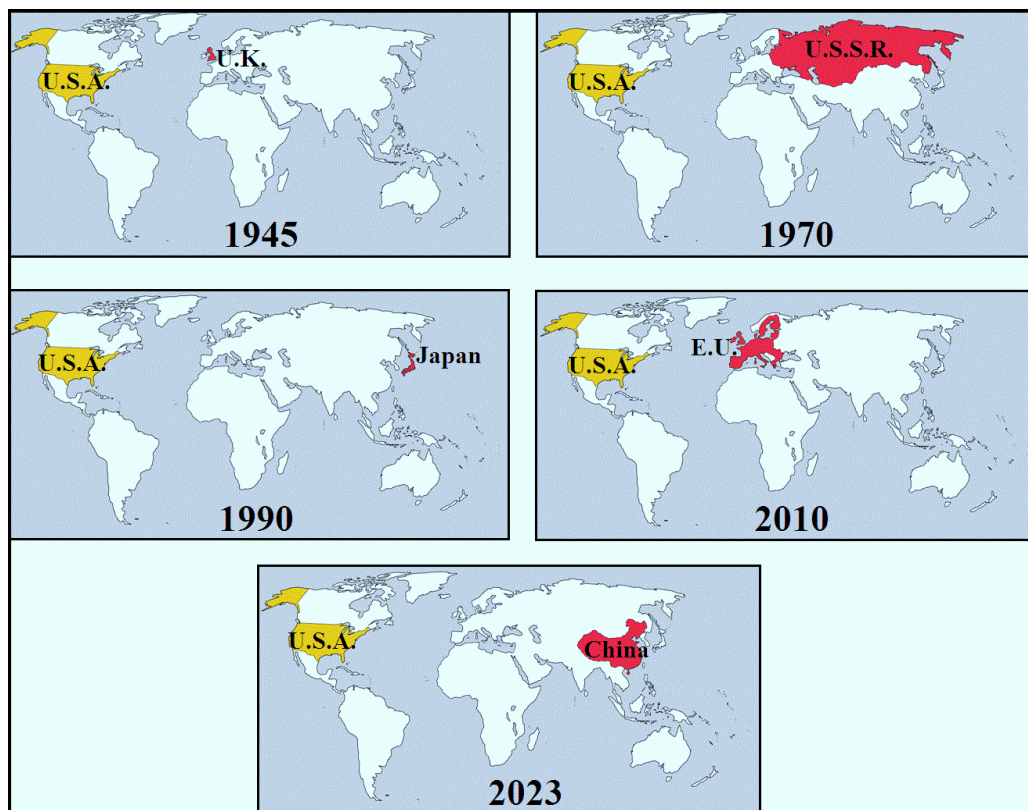


Figure 2. Dominance in the bipolar geopolitical world, in which the USA has been indispensable for over a century

(Source: processed by: Darwin, 2009; Tse, 2015; Joxe, 2002)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

World currency

US Dollar or Euro in exchange for raw materials and finished products American power managed the disaster (at first sight) of decaying its own industry, through greening programs, zero-pollution, reducing the exploitation of raw materials and getting the population used to living in a permanent vacation (Friedman, 2020; Brucan, 1968). The USA has come from the great producer of processed goods as it was noted after the Second World War, when the exploitation of wealth was closely linked to the import of raw materials, the endless factories and plants that produced for the domestic market, but also the export on all meridians of innovative and mass-produced American products. Now this route is provided by the Asian states, where the population explosion has ended in the east and is decreasing in the southeast and south (Pillsbury, 2016; Djuvara, 2008). The countries in this area have become the great workers

of the world, exploiting their own natural resources, importing massively from all over the world, working hard for their own people, and exporting the finished products to the American market mainly and less to the European market.

Something worse cannot happen, an economist from the 50s and 60s would have said if he had known the US strategy. But precisely through industrial decline, the American market became a huge importer of consumer goods. And the new industrial powers, so excited about the new export market, found themselves with an economy based on exporting to the US market and importing US dollars, which cornered their financial market. The great economic boom in East Asia, and more recently in the South and Southeast, runs the economy with a currency that does not belong to them and which they must keep at a high value, automatically increasing the value of their own dollar deposits. Thus the economic tigers and dragons of Asia, who gave the miracle of development, are hardly able, all together, to keep up with the economic power of the USA, which is based on influence, currency, army and strategy more than on labor and the consumption of its own resources.

Disciplined population

Maintaining wealth in a balanced way for the entire population brings great risks of instability among the leadership of that country. But by printing an excessive money supply to reach the first rank of the rich, followed by an increase in prices, taxes and loans to be paid by the majority of the population, it brings wealth into the hands of a small number of people, who can easily to conduct.

In the USA the economic growth is of huge proportions, if we compare it with the economy of Japan for example. This generally increases by more than 2% per year, which is a lot for a state developed at such a level. The average income per capita reached for the year 2022 at 75.000 US dollars/year, compared to 40.000 as it is in Japan or Germany, 30.000 in Spain or Italy, under 15.000 in: Russia, China, Turkey or Brazil and less than 2.500 in India or Nigeria (World Population Review, 2022; Knoema, 2022). The period of growth after 1970 was downright explosive, a performance hardly equaled in the Western world.

But for all this growth, the average income of 80% of the US population has grown very little or stagnated over the past 50 years, with growth occurring only in the rich and very rich. Thus, the owners of the great wealth are as well known as possible, being easy to monitor and direct.

If wealth in the US had been closer to uniform, perhaps the African population of the Southeast would have wanted their own autonomy, the Spanish Mexican population of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California would have held annual independence referendums until the voting percentage exceeded 50% pro-state and Chinese investors would have bought the country with every bit.

The discipline of the US population is an example coveted by all the states of the world, a model of how in a democracy, prosperous and free, people are easy to direct, and the central leadership is stronger than in dictatorships. The ability to maintain political life with only two parties, little more than the single Chinese party, has made the US a state with few internal administrative problems, thus being able to focus its attention on the outside world, where power dominates world decision-making, financial and military.

Including the American governments care that citizens no longer work hard in factories and plants, the US economy no longer produces consumer goods that are abundant in the American market at a reduced price, with Asian origins that have infiltrated the market only in exchange for US dollars, it made the populace tacitly endear its government, thus beginning an enviable citizen-state collaboration.

Castling in the Garden of Heaven

In the years 70-95 there was the economic miracle of: Japan, Argentina, South Africa, then followed: Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Iran, then there was: Brazil, Venezuela, Libya, Kuwait, then: Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and now it seems that: Malaysia, Singapore, China, or South Korea are experiencing strong economic growth. But the new series of states is already being prepared, such as: Colombia, Egypt, Kenya, Vietnam, Bangladesh, or India, and probably, in one or two decades, it will be the turn of: Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Nigeria or Peru, this change being in a continuous dynamic, but the West remains unchanged.

In South-Eastern Europe, the great powers were Turkey, then Yugoslavia, followed by Greece, then Hungary and now Romania, which according to the Western rhythm and calculation, the less it produces, the greater its economic growth, following as in a short time, to be deflated after this artificial growth, we will see Ukraine in full ascension.

This castling of nations keeps the West at the top of the world economic pyramid, leaving behind great powers that are not part of the privileged world.

Japan reached 6 trillion US dollars in 1997 while the United States had 8 trillion, but with much slower growth. From that moment, the Asian crisis set in, which kept Japan in decay for a period of 25 years, and the situation seems to continue (Peptenatu et al., 2005; Bessis, 2004). At the level of 1997, Japan held 6 trillion of a total of 40 trillion worldwide and close to the US, and in the year 2023 it will hold 5 trillion dollars out of 110 trillion as the world economy grew and 26 trillion as the economy reached US (Utonish, 2022). The European Union seems to be in a situation slightly close to that of Japan, which has made very little progress since 2008. If then it held 14 trillion, one trillion more than the US, in 2023 it has 20.6 trillion with 5 trillion less than the US, without considering that Great Britain chose another path in the meantime, thus the EU still holds only 17 trillion dollars, the power rated (Marga, 2017; Mazower, 2019).

The time has come for Europe to copy the US strategy

The United States has become so confident in its development strategies that it no longer has any problem maintaining world primacy. Although there are a multitude of examples of the overestimation of empires at their peak, as was the case: the Roman, Mongol or English Empire, which were convinced until the last moment that they would tilt the fates in their favor and remain at the head of the world system of their time, so the US is still sure that just as it managed to isolate and curb the English economy in the 50s, Russian in the 80-90s, Japanese in 97 and European in 2008, so it will succeed in curbing China's economy, which will stagnate or, following provocations of protests and discontent, it will split between north and south or east and west between the rich coast and the poorer interior (Friedman, 2009; Eriksson, 2021). It is difficult to decide whether China will also suffer the fate of Japan and the European

Union, but the Americans are playing the smart card they have been betting on for the past decades, proving to be a winner every time.

When it comes to the European Union, through a series of sweeping reforms, with influence in justice, money supply and green energy, it has enriched a small number of people and companies, closed local productions and big economic concerns have taken the place of regional investors (Cooper, 2007). It is difficult to specify whether this whole program of indebtedness and deindustrialization is an external infiltration into the European economy, or whether it is an intelligent project of Brussels following the steps of the Americans in the last decades, of stagnation of the wealth of the majority population, submission to a central power of the few very rich population that will own most of the wealth, providing the population with consumer goods without having to work in factories for 8-12 hours a day and grabbing the exports of the newly industrialized countries, through a huge market, which also has no production capacity.

Perhaps the Euro currency will compete with the US dollar and the import of consumer goods from around the globe will save European natural resources and flood the world market with the new currency. Fewer but solid parties are taking shape in the EU, united by the political union that is in full implementation process, which will be completed with the assimilation of the American model on the European market.

CONCLUSIONS

In the tripolar world there are two regions with over \$27 trillion in nominal GDP and one with \$22 trillion. The rest, powers with 3 trillion (India), 2 trillion (Russia, Brazil, Australia, Iran) with one trillion (Indonesia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Turkey) and with 0.5 trillion US dollars (Argentina, Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, Israel, UAE, Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Bangladesh), i.e. a total of 21 regional powers, some of them with ambitions of world powers (India, Russia, Brazil), but which, together they manage to collect under 21 trillion dollars.

The first three zones, all in the Northern Hemisphere, the temperate zone, are composed of central North America, the western half of Europe, and the eastern half of East Asia. If in America the United States is defined as the main power and in East Asia China dominates the region, in Europe, slightly weaker economically (by 5 trillion minus) the power is dispersed among several states, mostly members of the European Union (Germany, France, Italy, Spain) and outside of it (Great Britain), understanding why the economic world is tripolar but the geopolitical world is bipolar, currently being divided between the US and China.

The old systems such as the colonial one that gave the mega-power Great Britain, the communist system with the mega-power USSR and the system of industrialization for export with the dominant role held by Japan, have just proven their inefficiency. Europe still does not have its own system, here there exist together industrialized states (Germany), with dominant agriculture (France) or financial banking (Great Britain), but with problems in identifying their development model.

The USA, on the other hand, as a great financial, military and decision-making power, created a still stable and credible economic miracle that continues to dominate the Western world. On the other hand, China, combining

the planned economy of the USSR with the forced industrialization specific to Japan's economy and with an international openness that tries to easily copy European strategies, managed to create a unique model with the help of which it dominates the East.

How far will this bipolar race in which the USA has been inseparable for 80 years stretch? In general, the periods were from two to 5 decades, and the losers followed in turn: Great Britain, the USSR, Japan and the last but which continues to be an economic (and less and less geopolitical) power, the European Union. If the United States or perhaps China wins, we will probably see the bipolar world of tomorrow where the winner will compete with: India, Indonesia (merged in ASEAN) and towards the end of the century, Nigeria (Union of Sub-Saharan African States). Between these, however, there may be assertion attempts by the Arab or Latin American world, but also two distinct powers within Africa, this continent becoming the most populated, by the year 2100 expecting to reach 5 billion people.

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