

The Tragedy Of Great Power Politics

The Tragedy Of Great Power Politics The tragedy of great power politics: Navigating Ambition, Competition, and Consequences In the complex landscape of international relations, few phenomena have shaped world history as profoundly as the dynamics between great powers. From the ancient empires to contemporary superpowers, the pursuit of national interests, dominance, and security has consistently driven states into strategic confrontations. This relentless pursuit often results in a paradoxical outcome: while nations seek stability and prosperity, their ambitions frequently lead to conflict, insecurity, and unintended consequences. This enduring pattern is what scholars refer to as the “tragedy of great power politics.” Understanding this tragedy requires examining the foundational principles of international power dynamics, the historical patterns that have emerged over centuries, and the implications for contemporary global stability. This article explores the core concepts of great power politics, the inherent tensions and risks, and the lessons learned from history to better navigate the perilous path of international power struggles.

Defining the Tragedy of Great Power Politics The tragedy of great power politics refers to the cyclical and often destructive nature of interactions among the world’s most powerful nations. These states, driven by the desire to ensure their own security and expand their influence, engage in behaviors that inadvertently heighten tensions and threaten global stability.

Key Characteristics:

- **Power Maximization:** Great powers continuously seek to enhance their military, economic, and political influence.
- **Security Dilemmas:** Efforts by one state to increase its security often make others feel threatened, prompting them to escalate their own capabilities.
- **Balance of Power:** The pursuit of equilibrium among competing states can lead to arms races and strategic instability.
- **Unintended Consequences:** Actions taken to secure national interests can spiral into conflicts or crises beyond initial intentions.

Historical Context of Great Power Politics The patterns of great power competition are evident throughout history, shaping the course of civilizations and conflicts alike. Several key periods illustrate the recurring themes of ambition, rivalry, and tragedy.

Ancient and Medieval Empires

- The Roman Empire’s expansion created a tension between conquest and stability.
- The Mongol Empire’s dominance facilitated vast cultural exchanges but also led to widespread upheaval.
- Feudal rivalries in medieval Europe often escalated into large-scale wars, driven by territorial ambitions.

2 Early Modern Period

- The Treaty of Westphalia (1648) established the concept of sovereign states, setting the stage for modern state-centric power politics.
- The rise of nation-states in Europe led to frequent conflicts, such as the Napoleonic Wars, fueled by ambitions for territorial expansion.

19th and 20th Centuries

- The Great Powers of Europe engaged in a series of alliances and arms races, culminating in World War I.
- The Cold War epitomized superpower rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, characterized by proxy wars, nuclear arms races, and ideological competition.
- Decolonization and the emergence of new nations added further complexity to the global power landscape.

The Core Dynamics of Great Power Politics Understanding the tragedy involves analyzing the fundamental forces that drive great power interactions.

Security Dilemmas and Arms Races One of the central features of great power politics is the security dilemma:

- When one state enhances its military capabilities, neighboring powers interpret this as a threat.
- This leads to an arms race, where each state continually seeks to outmatch the other, increasing the risk of conflict.
- Example: The naval arms race between Britain and Germany in the early 20th century.

Balance of Power and Alliances To prevent any one state from becoming dominant, countries often form alliances:

- These alliances can stabilize power structures temporarily but may also escalate tensions.
- Misunderstandings or commitments can trigger larger conflicts.
- Example: The intricate web of alliances before World War I.

Imperialism and Expansionism Great powers often pursue territorial expansion

to secure resources and strategic advantages: - This pursuit can lead to colonial conflicts and resistance. - The scramble for Africa and Asia in the 19th century exemplifies imperial rivalries. Internal Politics and Leadership Domestic political pressures can influence foreign policy decisions: - Leaders may pursue 3 aggressive foreign policies to bolster internal legitimacy. - Nationalism and public opinion can push states toward confrontational actions. The Tragedies and Consequences of Great Power Rivalries The pursuit of power has often resulted in tragic outcomes, including wars, economic crises, and geopolitical instability. World Wars as Manifestations of Great Power Failures - Both World War I and World War II were driven by failed diplomacy, alliances, and escalating arms races. - The consequences included massive loss of life, economic devastation, and long-lasting geopolitical shifts. Cold War and Proxy Conflicts - The Cold War exemplified a dangerous standoff, with nuclear deterrence preventing direct conflict but fueling proxy wars and crises like the Cuban Missile Crisis. - The risk of nuclear escalation underscored the tragedy inherent in superpower competition. Modern Challenges: Cybersecurity, Economic Competition, and Regional Conflicts - Today's great power rivalries extend into cyberspace, trade disputes, and regional conflicts. - These tensions threaten global stability without the large-scale wars of the past but still pose significant risks. Lessons Learned and Future Outlook While history demonstrates the destructive potential of great power politics, it also offers lessons on managing competition and fostering stability. Diplomacy and International Institutions - Effective diplomacy, treaties, and international organizations like the United Nations aim to mitigate conflicts. - Multilateral engagement helps manage security dilemmas and promote cooperation. Strategic Stability and Arms Control - Arms control agreements, such as nuclear treaties, reduce the risk of catastrophic conflict. - Maintaining strategic stability is crucial in preventing escalation. 4 Balancing Power and Avoiding Hegemony - A balanced approach that prevents any single power from dominating reduces the likelihood of conflict. - Power transitions, when managed peacefully, can minimize the tragedy. The Path Forward - Emphasizing dialogue, mutual understanding, and shared interests is vital. - Recognizing the cyclical nature of great power rivalries helps policymakers avoid repeating past mistakes. Conclusion The tragedy of great power politics underscores the inherent risks of ambition and competition among the world's most powerful nations. While the desire for security and influence is natural, history consistently shows that unchecked rivalries can lead to devastating wars, regional conflicts, and global instability. Understanding these dynamics, learning from past mistakes, and fostering cooperation are essential steps toward a more stable and peaceful international order. As the world faces new challenges—cyber threats, climate change, and economic shifts—the lessons of great power politics remain as relevant as ever, reminding us of the importance of diplomacy, restraint, and collective responsibility in navigating the perilous waters of international power. Question Answer What is the central thesis of 'The Tragedy of Great Power Politics'? The book argues that great powers are inherently driven by a desire for regional hegemony, leading to a perpetual security dilemma and conflict, rather than cooperation or peace. Who is the author of 'The Tragedy of Great Power Politics'? The book was written by political scientist John Mearsheimer. How does Mearsheimer explain the behavior of great powers in international politics? He explains that great powers act offensively to maximize their security and power, often leading to conflict due to the anarchic nature of the international system. What is the concept of 'offensive realism' as discussed in the book? Offensive realism is the theory that states are inherently aggressive and seek to dominate others to ensure their survival in an anarchic international system. According to the book, why do great powers often end up in conflicts or wars? Because their pursuit of regional hegemony and security creates a security dilemma, making war or conflict almost inevitable as states attempt to preempt threats. 5 How does 'The Tragedy of Great Power Politics' differ from other theories of international relations like liberalism or constructivism? It emphasizes the anarchic structure of the international system and states' offensive motives, contrasting with liberalism's focus on cooperation and institutions or constructivism's emphasis on social norms. What are some contemporary

examples that support Mearsheimer's theory? Examples include the US and China vying for regional dominance, Russia's actions in Ukraine, and historical conflicts like the World Wars, which reflect great power competition. What criticisms has 'The Tragedy of Great Power Politics' faced? Critics argue that the book underestimates the role of international institutions, diplomacy, and internal factors in shaping state behavior, and may overemphasize conflict. How can policymakers apply the insights from 'The Tragedy of Great Power Politics'? Policymakers can recognize the persistent drive for power among great nations and design strategies that manage rivalries, prevent escalation, and promote stability through realism-informed policies. Is 'The Tragedy of Great Power Politics' still relevant in today's global order? Yes, its insights remain relevant as great power competition continues to shape international relations, especially with rising powers like China and ongoing strategic rivalries.

The Tragedy of Great Power Politics: An In-Depth Exploration of Power, Ambition, and Human Nature

The phrase the tragedy of great power politics encapsulates a complex, often somber narrative about the perpetual struggle among nation-states to assert dominance, safeguard their interests, and navigate the perilous landscape of international relations. Rooted in historical patterns and human tendencies, this concept underscores the persistent tension, competition, and unintended consequences that accompany the pursuits of great powers on the global stage. Understanding this tragedy requires delving into its origins, core principles, and implications for both policymakers and global citizens.

--- What Is the Tragedy of Great Power Politics?

At its core, the tragedy of great power politics refers to the cyclical and often destructive nature of international power struggles among the world's most influential nations. Coined and popularized by political scientist John Mearsheimer in his offensive realism theory, it suggests that in an anarchic international system—where no central authority exists—great powers are compelled to seek regional or global dominance to ensure their security. This relentless pursuit often leads to:

- Arms races
- Strategic alliances
- Conflict and war
- Unintended escalation

Despite the rational desire for security, these actions frequently produce instability, insecurity, and even catastrophic wars, embodying the tragic paradox: the very efforts to secure safety and prosperity can undermine them.

--- Historical Roots of the Tragedy

The origins of the tragedy of great power politics trace back centuries, with key moments illustrating how the relentless pursuit of power often results in cycles of conflict:

- **The European Balance of Power (17th-19th centuries):** European nations frequently engaged in shifting alliances and wars to prevent any single power from dominating the continent, leading to a series of conflicts culminating in World War I.
- **World Wars and the Cold War:** The 20th century exemplifies how great powers' ambitions—e.g., Nazi Germany's expansionism or Cold War superpower rivalry—created global instability.
- **Post-Cold War Unipolarity:** The current era reflects nuances but also hints at renewed great power competition, notably between the U.S., China, and Russia. These historical episodes highlight a recurring theme: the pursuit of power by great states often engenders insecurity, prompting even more aggressive strategies, and fostering a tragic cycle of conflict.

--- The Core Principles Underpinning Great Power Politics

Understanding the tragedy of great power politics benefits from grasping its foundational principles:

1. **Anarchy in the International System** Unlike domestic politics, where governments are constrained by laws and institutions, international relations lack a central authority. This anarchy compels states to rely on self-help strategies to ensure survival.
2. **Power Maximization** Great powers are inherently motivated to maximize their military, economic, and political power to deter rivals and expand influence.
3. **Security Dilemma** Actions taken by one state to enhance its security—such as building up military capabilities—can be perceived as threatening by others, prompting an arms race or preemptive measures.
4. **Offense-Defense Balance** The ease with which military advantages can be achieved influences strategic behavior. When offensive capabilities outweigh defensive ones, the likelihood of conflict increases.
5. **Uncertainty and Misperception** States often misjudge each other's intentions, leading to miscalculations that can escalate conflicts unintentionally.

--- The Tragedy in Action: Case

Studies Historical examples vividly illustrate this tragedy: The European Great Power Rivalries - The complex web of alliances before World War I created a fragile web of commitments. - The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand triggered a cascade of mobilizations, illustrating how small incidents can ignite larger conflicts in an unstable system. Cold War Dynamics - The U.S. and USSR engaged in an arms race driven by mutual suspicion. - Proxy wars, espionage, and nuclear brinkmanship exemplify how efforts to secure dominance led to heightened tensions and near-catastrophic scenarios. Contemporary Power Struggles - China's rise challenges U.S. dominance in Asia, prompting military build-ups and strategic competition. - Russia's actions in Ukraine reflect attempts to reassert influence and security, often provoking Western responses. --- The Iron Laws of Great Power Politics John Mearsheimer's offensive realism encapsulates the idea that: - Great powers are inherently inclined toward offensive strategies. - The anarchic international system discourages complacency. - The ultimate goal is regional or global hegemony, which is often unachievable, leading to perpetual tensions. This framework underscores the tragic nature: even when powers recognize mutual threats, their pursuit of dominance can escalate conflicts, inadvertently undermining their own security. --- Implications of the Tragedy Understanding the tragedy The Tragedy Of Great Power Politics 7 of great power politics reveals several critical implications: 1. The Persistent Risk of War Despite diplomatic efforts, the structural incentives for conflict remain dominant, making wars—large or small—an ongoing risk. 2. The Limits of International Institutions Global institutions (UN, NATO, WTO) aim to mitigate conflicts but lack enforcement power against sovereign states pursuing national interests. 3. The Dilemma of Power Transition Shifts in power—such as China's rise—can trigger security dilemmas, leading to instability and potential conflict. 4. The Necessity of Strategic Restraint To avoid catastrophe, great powers must balance their ambitions with restraint and build mechanisms for managing conflicts. --- Strategies to Mitigate the Tragedy While the tragic nature of great power politics appears inherent, certain strategies may help reduce risks: - Confidence-Building Measures: Transparency, communication, and military détente to reduce misperceptions. - Multilateral Agreements: Arms control treaties, trade agreements, and security pacts. - Shared Interests and Cooperation: Focusing on common threats (climate change, pandemics) to foster collaboration. - Institutional Frameworks: Strengthening international organizations to mediate disputes and enforce norms. - Leadership and Statesmanship: Wise leadership that prioritizes stability over dominance. --- Conclusion: Embracing the Tragedy The tragedy of great power politics is not simply a historical pattern but a reflection of human nature and the structural realities of the international system. It underscores the inherent risks of ambition and competition among sovereign states seeking security and influence. Recognizing this tragedy is vital for policymakers, scholars, and citizens alike, as it informs strategies for avoiding catastrophic conflicts, fostering stability, and pursuing a more peaceful coexistence. While the cycle may be difficult to break entirely, awareness, restraint, and a commitment to cooperation can help mitigate its worst effects. In the end, understanding the tragedy is the first step toward navigating the perilous waters of great power politics with prudence and foresight. great power dynamics, realism, international relations, power transition theory, balance of power, geopolitics, hegemony, security dilemma, diplomacy, strategic stability

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RevolutionGreat Power Politics in Greater EurasiaThe International Politics of RegionsThe Return of Great Power RivalryThe Asia-PacificForeign Policies of the Major Powers John J. Mearsheimer Sebastian Rosato Glenn Diesen Haralambos Alexandrou Jo Inge Bekkevold Charles W. Kegley Mark L. Haas Shortcut Edition Ron Böhler Jeffrey Mankoff Parfait Chauvin Audrey Kurth Cronin Roman V. Yampolskiy Paul Sabourin Glenn Diesen Rahman Dag Louis J. Cantori Matthew Kroenig Jim Rolfe Lloyd Pettiford

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a superb book mearsheimer has made a significant contribution to our understanding of the behavior of great powers barry r posen the national interest the updated edition of this classic treatise on the behavior of great powers takes a penetrating look at the question likely to dominate international relations in the twenty first century can china rise peacefully in clear eloquent prose john mearsheimer explains why the answer is no a rising china will seek to dominate asia while the united states determined to remain the world s sole regional hegemon will go to great lengths to prevent that from happening the tragedy of great power politics is inescapable

why the future of great power politics is likely to resemble its dismal past can great powers be confident that their peers have benign intentions states that trust each other can live at peace those that mistrust each other are doomed to compete for arms and allies and may even go to war sebastian rosato explains that states routinely lack the kind of information they need to be convinced that their rivals mean them no harm even in cases that supposedly involved mutual trust germany and russia in the bismarck era britain and the united states during the great rapprochement france and germany and japan and the united states in the early interwar period and the soviet union and united states at the end of the cold war the protagonists mistrusted each other and struggled for advantage rosato argues that the ramifications of his argument for u s china relations are profound the future of great power politics is likely to resemble its dismal past

why and how will the fourth industrial revolution impact great power politics here glenn diesen utilizes a neoclassical approach to great power politics to assess how far the development of ai national and localized technological ecosystems and cyber warfare will affect great power politics in the next century the reliance of modern economies on technological advances diesen argues also compels states to intervene radically in economics and the lives of citizens as automation radically alters the economies of tomorrow a groundbreaking attempt to contextualize the fourth industrial revolution and analyse its effects on politics and international relations

this volume approaches foreign interventions in cyprus from two different angles a vertical angle which corresponds to a case by case historical analysis of foreign interventions which have taken place throughout the modern history of cyprus and a horizontal angle which

corresponds to the implementation of systemic models of analysis in approaching foreign interventions in cyprus furthermore the volume deals with domestic perceptions formed as a result of foreign interventions in cyprus focusing particularly on their impact on the politics and public rhetoric of the cyprus problem especially as regards the greek cypriot community

this book examines india s foreign and defence policy changes in response to china s growing economic and military power and increased footprint across the indo pacific it further explores india s role in the rivalry between china and the united states the book looks at the strategic importance of the indian ocean region in the indo pacific geopolitical landscape and how india is managing china s rise by combining economic cooperation with a wide set of balancing strategies the authors in this book critically analyse the various tools of indian foreign policy including defence posture security alignments and soft power diplomacy among others and discuss the future trajectory of india s foreign policy and the factors which will determine the balance of power in the region and the potential risks involved the book provides detailed insights into the multifaceted and complex relationship between india and china and will be of great interest to researchers and students of international relations asian studies political science and economics it will also be useful for policymakers journalists and think tanks interested in the india china relationship

this is an analysis of the new multipolar world order that is emerging following the collapse of communism the end of the cold war and the erosion of american economic hegemony the central focus of the book is on the conditions under which peace can prev

how do leaders perceive threat levels in world politics and what effects do those perceptions have on policy choices mark i haas focuses on how ideology shapes perception he does not delineate the content of particular ideologies but rather the degree of difference among them degree of ideological difference is he believes the crucial factor as leaders decide which nations threaten and which bolster their state s security and their own domestic power these threat perceptions will in turn impel leaders to make particular foreign policy choices haas examines great power relations in five periods the 1790s in europe the concert of europe 1815 1848 the 1930s in europe sino soviet relations from 1949 to 1960 and the end of the cold war in each case he finds a clear relationship between the degree of ideological differences that divided state leaders and those leaders perceptions of threat level and so of appropriate foreign policy choices these relationships held in most cases regardless of the nature of the ideologies in question the offense defense balance and changes in the international distribution of power

our summary is short simple and pragmatic it allows you to have the essential ideas of a big book in less than 30 minutes by reading this summary you will discover the tragedy of the politics of the great powers you will also discover that all european countries continue to fear german hegemony the first world war claimed 9 million lives world war ii claimed 50 million lives the democratization of china is no guarantee against its hegemony the 19th century was one of the most stable periods in european history irenicism or love of peace can lead to dangerous illusions it is difficult to escape the tragedy of the politics of the great powers for the quest to maximize external security to ensure their survival as states necessarily leads nations towards armed competition using historical examples and arguments drawn from the theory of international relations john j mearsheimer professor at the university of chicago has updated this classic of international issues to the delight of readers his main thesis is that the greatest danger threatening the world is the rise of china the tragedy of great power politics is a mine of information and gives an uncompromising insight into the relationship between the powers have you often read such a perspective on recent history buy now the summary of this book for the modest price of a cup of coffee

essay from the year 2011 in the subject politics general and theories of international politics

grade 2 3 university of bath language english abstract a hegemon is a state that is so powerful that it dominates all the other states in the system under this assumption who can be considered to be a great power a world leader can there be more than just one and if yes what makes them so powerful the purpose of this essay is to point out that the term of great power states and politics has changed in recent decades from security policy aspects of the cold war to a more broaden definition including societal economic and cultural characteristics taking these indicators into consideration the international state system has turned away from a bipolar constellation between the two superpowers usa and soviet union to a multipolar world with numerous big players and growing regionalisation in this world order the bric states contemplate the field of great powers next to the us and russia the first section will outline a comprehensive definition of what a great power is and which characteristics distinguish it from less powerful states the second part gives an overview of how great power politics has changed in recent decades from a bipolar world system with two super powers towards a far more diversified multipolar world with various great powers and no remaining hegemon this approach will be tested within the third part of this essay through brief inspections of the cases of the us india and the eu

now thoroughly updated this widely praised book provides a thoughtful and balanced examination of the development of russian foreign policy since the end of the cold war this edition also places developments of the past two decades into the broader sweep of russian history jeffrey mankoff argues that russia s more assertive behavior since vladimir putin became president in 2000 has resulted from both a deep seated consensus among its elite about russia s identity and interests as well as a favorable convergence of events including the persistence of high energy prices and the check on u s power resulting from the wars in iraq and afghanistan because these factors are the result of long term trends the author argues that there is little reason to expect that the election of dmitry medvedev will fundamentally alter russian foreign policy behavior presenting an evenhanded treatment of controversial issues mankoff analyzes russia s interactions with major global actors including the united states the european union the commonwealth of independent states and china despite moscow s often harsh rhetoric and the deployment of russian forces against georgia in 2008 the author convincingly demonstrates that there is little reason to fear a return to a cold war like standoff with the west instead he argues today s russia is more interested in restoring what its leaders consider to be its rightful place among the world s major powers rather than in directly challenging the west thoroughly researched and knowledgeable this book will be invaluable for all readers interested in russia

résumé the tragedy of great power politics de john mearsheimer il est difficile d échapper à la tragédie de la politique des grandes puissances car la recherche de la maximisation de la sécurité extérieure pour assurer leur survie en tant qu États entraîne forcément les nations vers la compétition armée À l aide d exemples historiques et d arguments tirés de la théorie des relations internationales john j mearsheimer professeur à l université de chicago a mis à jour ce classique des questions internationales pour le plus grand plaisir des lecteurs sa thèse principale est que le plus grand danger qui menace le monde est la montée en puissance de la chine the tragedy of great power politics est une mine d informations et donne un aperçu sans concession des rapports entre les puissances avez vous souvent lu une telle mise en perspective de l histoire récente en lisant ce résumé vous découvrirez la tragédie de la politique des grandes puissances

by virtue of its geographical and historical position postwar austria was condemned to a prominent role in the plans of both the east and the west in this account of an unusual episode in the cold war audrey kurth cronin examines the negotiations over austria and the soviet union s sudden and surprising decision to withdraw its troops and accept the country as a neutral western state after having rejected any settlement for eight years drawing on a wealth of recently declassified british and american documents and on interviews with key

austrian participants cronin analyzes the events leading up to the 1955 austrian state treaty and in the process strengthens our understanding of current east west relations her account of the creation of a neutral state in the heart of a divided europe will be important reading for all who are concerned with security affairs international relations and the history of the cold war

the history of robotics and artificial intelligence in many ways is also the history of humanity's attempts to control such technologies from the golem of prague to the military robots of modernity the debate continues as to what degree of independence such entities should have and how to make sure that they do not turn on us its inventors numerous recent advancements in all aspects of research development and deployment of intelligent systems are well publicized but safety and security issues related to ai are rarely addressed this book is proposed to mitigate this fundamental problem it is comprised of chapters from leading ai safety researchers addressing different aspects of the ai control problem as it relates to the development of safe and secure artificial intelligence the book is the first edited volume dedicated to addressing challenges of constructing safe and secure advanced machine intelligence the chapters vary in length and technical content from broad interest opinion essays to highly formalized algorithmic approaches to specific problems all chapters are self contained and could be read in any order or skipped without a loss of comprehension

power politics refers to a political strategy centered on the use and balance of power among states or groups to achieve and maintain dominance and control it is characterized by realpolitik where pragmatic and often ruthless tactics are made use of prioritizing national interests and security over ideological or ethical considerations in power politics military might economic strength and strategic alliances are crucial tools for influencing and coercing other actors historically and contemporarily power politics has shaped global interactions driving both cooperation and discord on the international stage this book presents the complex subject of power politics in the most comprehensible and easy to understand language the topics included in this book on political science are of utmost significance and bound to provide incredible insights to readers through this book we attempt to further enlighten the readers about the new concepts in this field

why and how will the fourth industrial revolution impact great power politics here glenn diesen utilizes a neoclassical approach to great power politics to assess how far the development of ai national and localized technological ecosystems and cyber warfare will affect great power politics in the next century the reliance of modern economies on technological advances diesen argues also compels states to intervene radically in economics and the lives of citizens as automation radically alters the economies of tomorrow a groundbreaking attempt to contextualize the fourth industrial revolution and analyse its effects on politics and international relations

great power politics is a practical reality of world politics and it happens on a daily basis regardless of which international system we witness this book seeks to emphasize the ways these great power politics emerge within greater eurasia most researchers consider china becoming powerful enough to counterbalance the us and possible power dynamics among the rising powers such as china india china russia and china japan in this sense the book categorizes the battlegrounds in their power politics with three aspects national regional international conflicts institutions alliances and projects

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the united states of america has been the most powerful country in the world for over seventy years but recently the u s national security strategy declared that the return of great power competition with russia and china is the greatest threat to u s national security further many analysts predict that america s autocratic rivals will have at least some success in disrupting and in the longer term possibly even displacing u s global leadership brilliant and engagingly written the return of great power rivalry argues that this conventional wisdom is wrong drawing on an extraordinary range of historical evidence and the works of figures like herodotus machiavelli and montesquieu and combining it with cutting edge social science research matthew kroenig advances the riveting argument that democracies tend to excel in great power rivalries he contends that democracies actually have unique economic diplomatic and military advantages in long run geopolitical competitions he considers autocratic advantages as well but shows that these are more than outweighed by their vulnerabilities kroenig then shows these arguments through the seven most important cases of democratic versus autocratic rivalries throughout history from the ancient world to the cold war finally he analyzes the new era of great power rivalry among the united states russia and china through the lens of the democratic advantage argument by advancing a hard power argument for democracy kroenig demonstrates that despite its many problems the u s is better positioned to maintain a global leadership role than either russia or china a vitally important book for anyone concerned about the future of global geopolitics the return of great power rivalry provides both an innovative way of thinking about power in international politics and an optimistic assessment of the future of american global leadership

for those who need a rapid yet thorough understanding of the foreign policies of the major powers these volumes which cover the usa soviet union and present day russia china japan and the eu form a comprehensive account of the major debates and developments of the

world s major powers

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