



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
BLDG 607, LINCOLN HALL
WEST POINT, NY 10996

MADN-SOC

05 NOV 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR: STUDENT CONFERENCE ON U.S. AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: THE NEW WORLD ORDER AND THE RISE OF REVISIONIST POWERS

1. **Issue:** The purpose of this memorandum is to recommend a way forward for the United States to maximize its influence within the changing international order.
2. **Strategic Analysis:** Revisionist powers threaten the current liberal world order by challenging international norms, altering international power dynamics, and establishing themselves as alternative world leaders to the United States. This shift in global distribution of power threatens America's interests abroad and jeopardizes the position of the United States on the international stage. Furthermore, as developing nations increasingly establish a presence in the international community, the United States finds itself reevaluating its place within that growing community.
3. **Relevant National Interests:** Unfavorable changes in the international order threaten to diminish America's ability to mitigate interstate conflicts and ensure national and international security against hostile actors. Furthermore, revisionist powers increasingly rival American intellectual capital, a worrying development that concerns American national security. Finally, amid egregious human rights violations committed by revisionist powers, the United States risks multiplying such violations if it does not preserve its status as a leading power.
4. **Strategic Options:** The United States should maintain its position of power by:
 - a. Advocating for human rights to protect national and international security.
 - b. Reinvigorating American innovation to restore the U.S.'s competitive edge.
 - c. Strengthening relationships with the world's small and medium-sized states by establishing a network of bilateral intelligence agreements.
 - d. Advocating for all states to have a presence in the international world order and accommodate their desires to reform the international order.
5. **Recommendations:** The United States should demonstrate its commitment to reform international norms, institutions, and arrangements in ways that accommodate the interests of states seeking moderate reforms in global order. This allows the U.S. to build coalitions with states that have moderate revisionist aspirations and reduce the chances that they will form coalitions with more radical revisionist powers.

The U.S. should identify and strengthen relationships with existing and potential regional partners. Such partners will assist the U.S. in mediating local conflicts by providing valuable regional insights and intelligence. Intelligence should be freely exchanged between the U.S. and its partners.

The U.S. should encourage ideological partners to help lead the international human rights regime. Distributing responsibility among international stakeholders decreases the cost of promoting human rights and allows the U.S. to focus on key security priorities.

The U.S. must reignite innovation to maintain its influence. Increasing funds for domestic education would foster intellectual capital and allow the U.S. to regain its competitive edge. Government incentives that empower the commercial sector to produce pioneering technologies would strengthen U.S. economic influence.

6. **Implementation:** Encourage the Bureaus of South and Central Asian Affairs and Western Hemisphere Affairs to submit to the Office of the Secretary of State and the National Security Council a comprehensive strategy to form a strengthened security partnership with India and Brazil, respectively. The Office of the Secretary of State and the National Security Council should also identify other potential partner countries in other regions.

Reform the United Nations Security Council procedures by requiring vetoes to be motioned and seconded by at least one other permanent or rotating member. The U.S. should expand the United Nations Human Rights Council, allocating seats equitably among geographic regions. Implement a governing body for the Council based on states with the strongest human rights records as determined by neutral parties.

Create a National Human Rights Institution to coordinate efforts among state and local human rights organizations, educate staff members of their obligations under international human rights treaties, and support subnational governments with personnel and funding. The U.S. should address domestic human rights violations to set an example on the world stage.

Instruct the Defense Innovation Board to monitor the state of research, development, and commercialization of emerging technologies in the U.S. and recommend appropriate funding increases to relevant publicly-funded institutions.

The U.S. should do this through producing a network of independent, bilateral relationships that emphasizes HUMINT sourcing, to be implemented by strategic American partners.

7. **Point of Contact:** The point of contact for this memorandum is CDT Caden Whelpley at caden.whelpley@westpoint.edu.

Appendix

Contributing Members:

Nara Abadzada, Drew University

CDT Emmett Carey, USMA

Maliabo Diamba, UT Austin

Brayan Aviles Favila, Hanover College

A.U. Gabriele Gonella, Accademia Militare di Modena

Alix Gonzalez, Vassar College

CDT Turner Linafelter, US Coast Guard Academy

Duncan MacDonald, Bard College

CDT Alex MacFarlane, USMA

Hailey Martin, Georgia Institute of Technology

Cadet Evan Overholser, USMA

David R. Porges, Middlebury College

Caitlyn Shrewsbury, Stephen F. Austin State University

CDT Caden Whepley, USMA

Satoshi Yanaizu, Harvard College

Advisors:

Dr. Lionel Beehner, Bard Globalization and International Affairs Program

Prof. Daniel Nexton, Georgetown University

Ali Wyne, Eurasia Group