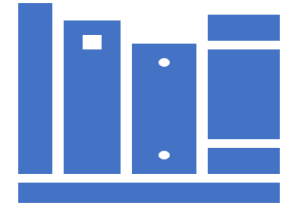




POL54008
THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COURSE CODE
COURSE NAME :



UNIPOLARITY, BIPOLARITY & MULTIPOLARITY IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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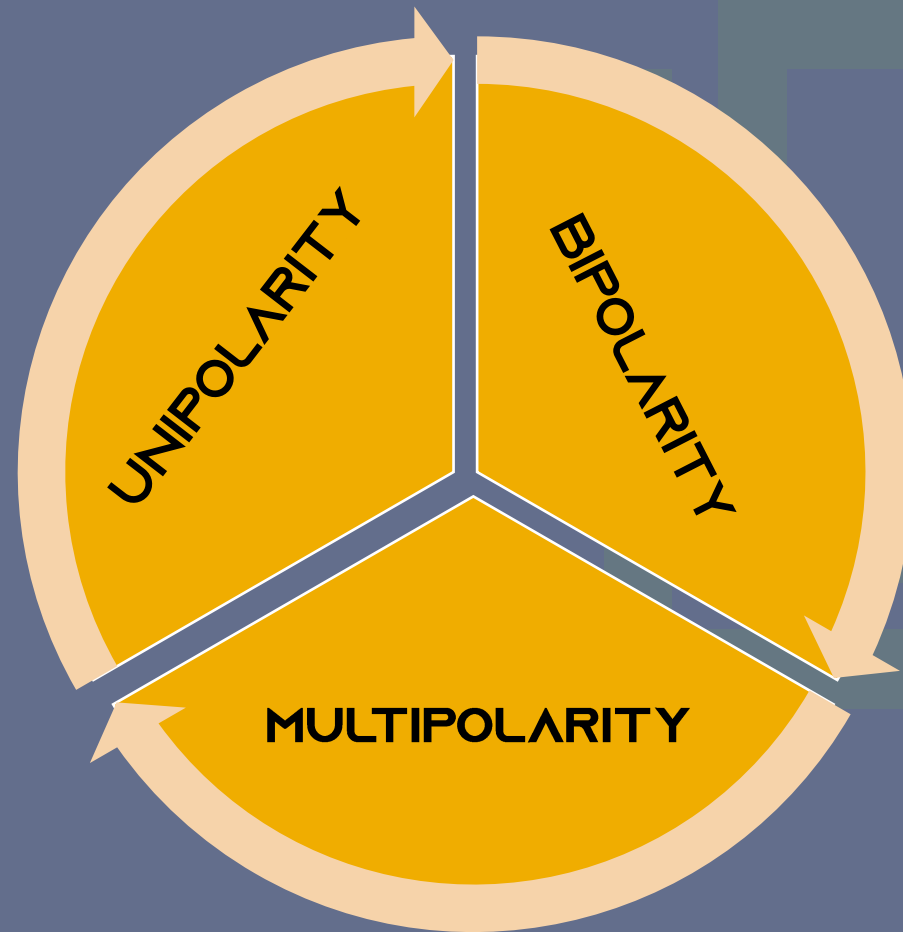
INTRODUCTION

- Disintegration of Berlin wall in 1989 and U.S.S.R. in 1991 changed the world politics unprecedentedly.
- The scholars and diplomats around the globe tried to make sense with new emerging world order.
- In terms of polarity, it could be defined in a certain way .
- Polarity in international relation usually defines it in terms of the distribution of power among community of nations and how it is concentrated around a nation or group of nations.



FORMS OF POLARITIES

- Polarity could be seen as of being three types.





UNIPOLARITY

- Unipolarity could be understood historically and in modern times the collapse of Communism bloc created the “**Unipolar moment.**”
- Conditions of non-existence of bipolarity and ambiguous unipolarity cause many to believe there is condition of multipolarity. Some times the three visions depend upon subjective approaches and not concrete realities.



UNIPOLARITY

The conceptions of polarity is based on some theoretical principles –

GEOPOLITICAL

IDEOLOGICAL

ECONOMIC



UNIPOLARITY

- **Unipolarity** in international politics defines a condition when there is one state with most of the cultural, economic and military influence.
- It can be variously said a hegemony or hyper power'

EXAMPLES OF UNIPOLARITY

- Egyptian Empire from 3150 BC to 664 BC,
- the Greeks (776 BC to 146 BC),
- the Persian Empire (550 BC to 330 BC),
- the Roman Empire (31 BC to 5th Century), Mongolian Empire (13th and 14th Century),
- Ottoman Empire (15th to 17th Century).



CONTINUED.....

- The French Empire (during the reigns of Louis XIV and Napoleon I) are regional and
- The British Empire (from the end of Napoleonic wars to the beginning of the 20th Century),
- The U.S.A. (with the fall of the Soviet Union since 1991) are some of the global examples of Unipolarity.



BIPOLARITY

- Bipolarity in international politics describes a distribution of power in which two states have the majority of economic, military and cultural influence internationally or regionally.
- One of the most famous theories is that of the bipolar world system proposed by Kenneth Waltz, with the division into capitalist and socialist camp, or West and East.



EXAMPLES OF BIPOLARITY

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- The U.S. and Soviet Union during Cold War, Great Britain and France during colonial era.
- Waltz believed it represented a kind of balance. In this system, one pole limits the other, they can cooperate, and their dialogue, confrontation, and opposition creates this system.



MULTIPOLARITY

Multipolarity in international politics describes a **distribution of power** in which **more than two nation-states** have **NEARLY EQUAL** amounts of military, cultural and economic influence.'



- With end of Cold War, scholars started to define the system that has emerged after cold war.
- A bipolar world is likely to be replaced by a multipolar world with power dispersed to new centers in like Japan, Germany (“Europe”), China and a diminished Russia;
- The post-Soviet strategic environment is sometimes called Unipolar while some advocate that it is basically multipolar.

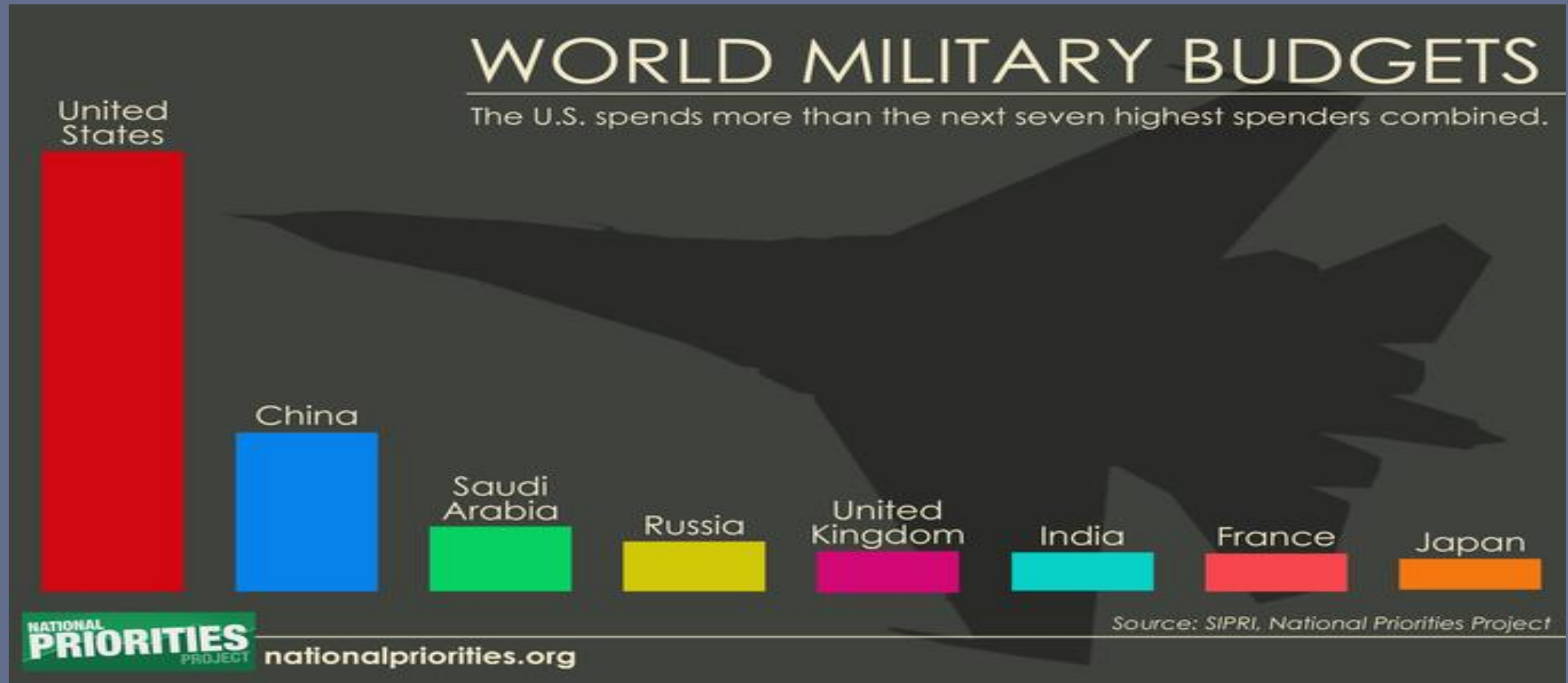


POLARITY IN POST COLD WAR ERA

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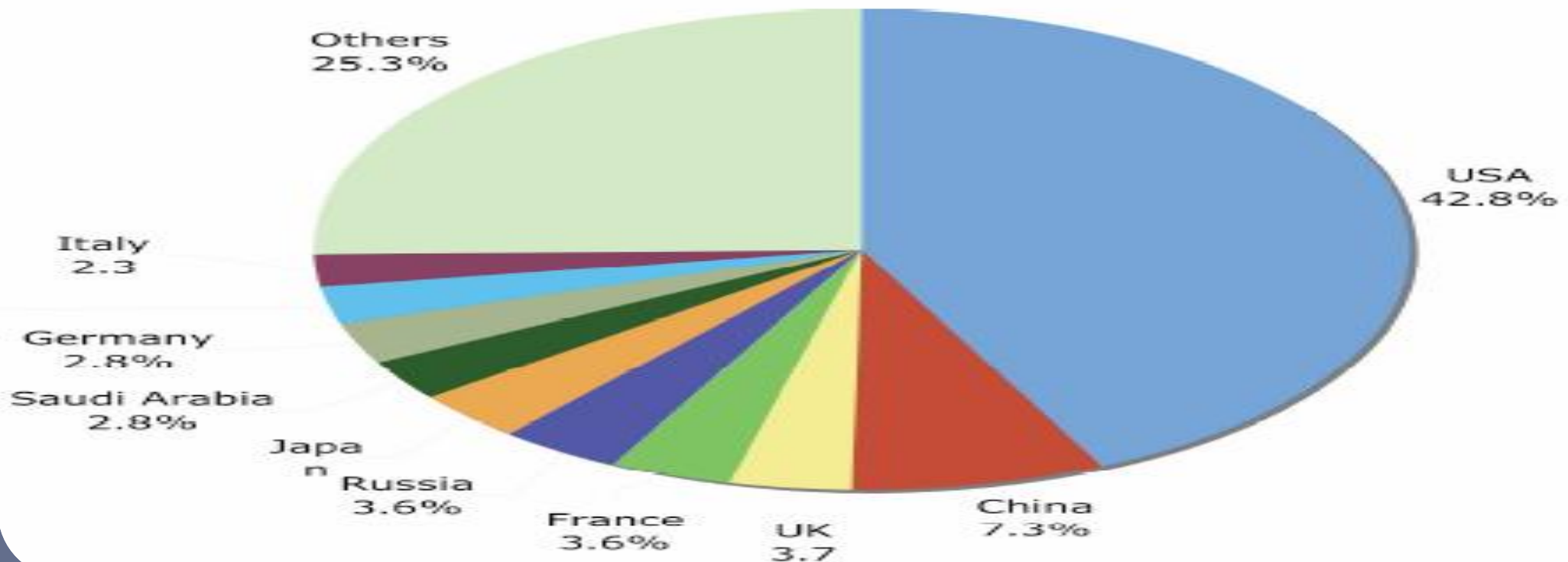
- **Gilpin** proposed a system for International Relations in which there is one pole, the absolute center of everything alias Unipolarity.
- Advocates of Unipolarity maintain that the center of world power is the unchallenged super power, the United States and its Western allies.

US DEFENSE BUDGET AND REST OF THE WORLD



THE UNITED STATES SPENT MORE ON ITS MILITARY THAN THE NEXT 13 NATIONS COMBINED IN 2011.

Top 10 shares of world military expenditure 2010

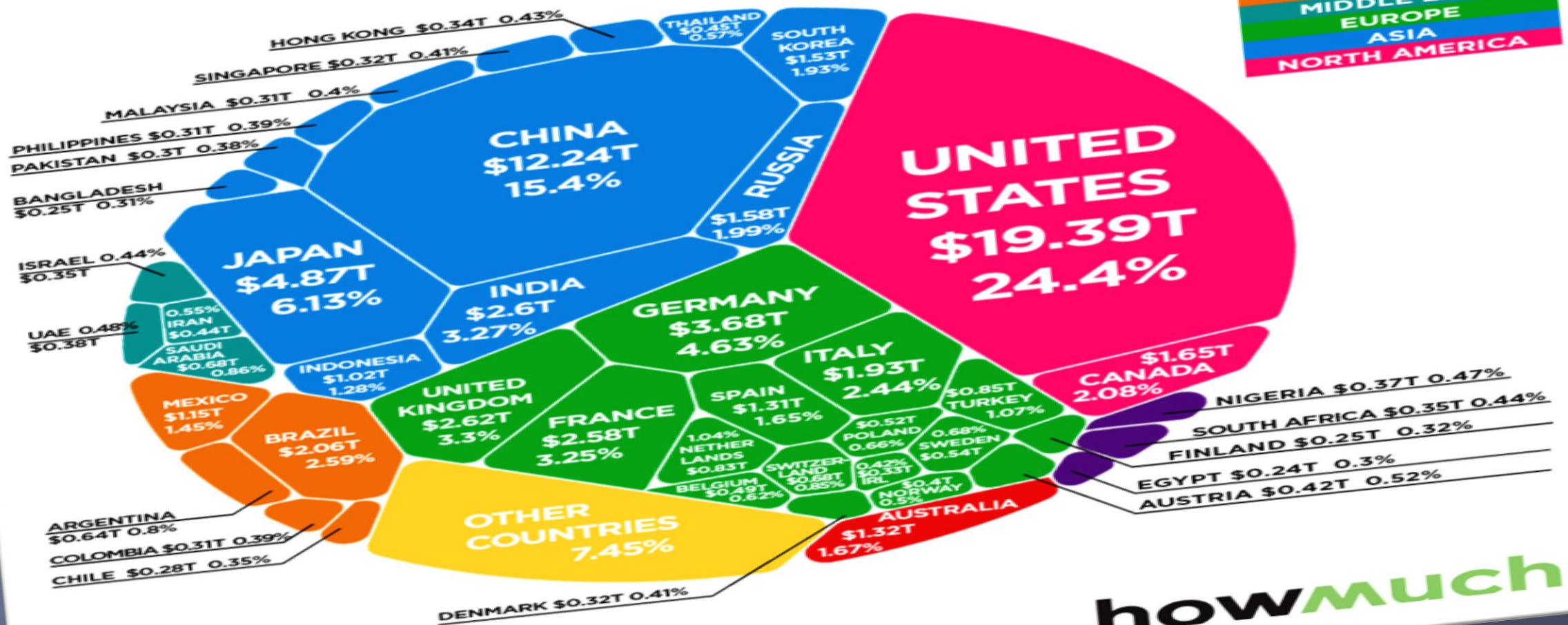




- **Charles Krauthammer** coined a world the “Unipolar moment” to refer to creation of a Unipolar system with a pole and a periphery. Krauthammer was not sure if this would last forever, or if it would end in time
- ❖ Phrases used to describe America’s status in the world today.
- ❖ The “Unipolar Moment”
- ❖ Imperial ‘hyper power’
- ❖ first ‘hyper power’ (a French hyperbole)
- ❖ Indispensable power”
- ❖ leader of the democratic world”

The World Economy

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Country 2017



Article and Sources:
<https://howmuch.net/articles/the-world-economy-2017>
<http://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/GDP.pdf>

howmuch.net



- Economic, military and political superiority may transpire in desires of a state to increase its geopolitical and strategic influence but it always does not reflect as a material fact.
- Economic power is a necessary condition for great power status. But it certainly is not sufficient; take the case of post-WW-II Germany and Japan.



- After the end of the Soviet Union, there was precisely a confirmation of the Unipolar system, for example on other levels, such as declared by Francis Fukuyama as the “End of History.”
- Niall Campbell Ferguson declared that we need to use the word “empire” to qualify what unipolarity is: A world or planet dominated by the Western, post-modern, global, liberal, capitalist, Neo-colonial Western world .



- Ferguson says that we should not hesitate to use the word “empire”, which has been demonized and criticized, but we are now living in an empire.
- The metropolis, the center of this empire, is the Western world, the Rich North, and there are other “provinces” of this “empire” that should be ruled from the center. So we have empire as unipolarity.



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AGAINST UNIPOLARITY

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- In reality, there is a huge gap between America's Military capacity and its actual ability to bend events according to its wish.
- A U.S \$25 trillion economy facilitates enormous technological prowess and a defense budget that exceeds the combined total of the next 25 powers.
- Its ability, however, to unilaterally use that power-military and economic in a unipolar world, is hampered by reality.
- In words of Zbigniew Brzezinski, "Preponderance should not be confused with omnipotence,"

- In **VIETNAM WAR** despite loosing 58000 soldiers faced defeat and instead of resolving Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria messed West Asia.
- The U.S. enjoys positively skewed predominance but does not command complete acquiescence of its dictates.
- It's **NUCLEAR EDGE** is not unitary but diluted by possessions of a few others including China-India, and Russia, which have large, conventional forces and demographic depth that have the means to respond with substantial nucleus retaliation.



CASE FOR MULTIPOLARITY

- Distribution of power in the world has fundamentally changed since end of the Cold War.
- Claim of U.S. leadership and the post cold war conversion of **"peace dividend"** in the global liberal order have no more takers. At best, America's unipolar moment lasted through the 1990s.
- European Union and China are the two emerging competitors successfully challenging the American hegemony in the geopolitics of the 21st century.



RISE OF EUROPEAN UNION AND MULTIPOLARITY

- European Union is a global balancer between America and China. Absence of common army does not affect its capacity to do it. Europe **uses intelligence** and the police to apprehend radical Islamists, social policy to try to **integrate restive Muslim populations** and **economic strength** to **incorporate the former Soviet Union**.
- European investment in Turkey is growing and binding it closer to the E.U. New pipeline route transporting oil and gas from Libya, Algeria or Azerbaijan to Europe is making E.U. efficient in energy sector.

NATIONS FORMING EUROPEAN UNION

European Union country



- E.U. **market** is the **world's largest**, European technologies more and more set the global standard and European countries give the most development assistance.
- **Euro is strengthening** its hold on global economy. Persian Gulf oil exporters are diversifying their currency holding into euros.

THE TRIO OF EU, CHINA AND USA



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- **LONDON** taking over as the **WORLD'S FINANCIAL CAPITAL** for stock listing, it's no surprise that China's new state investment fund intends to locate its main Western offices there instead of New York. America's share of global exchange reserves has dropped to 65 percent.
- Europe's political influence grows at America's expense. While America fumbles at nation-building. Europe spends its money and political capital on locking peripheral countries into its orbit.



LONDON IS FINANCIAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

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RISE OF CHINA AND MULTIPOLARITY

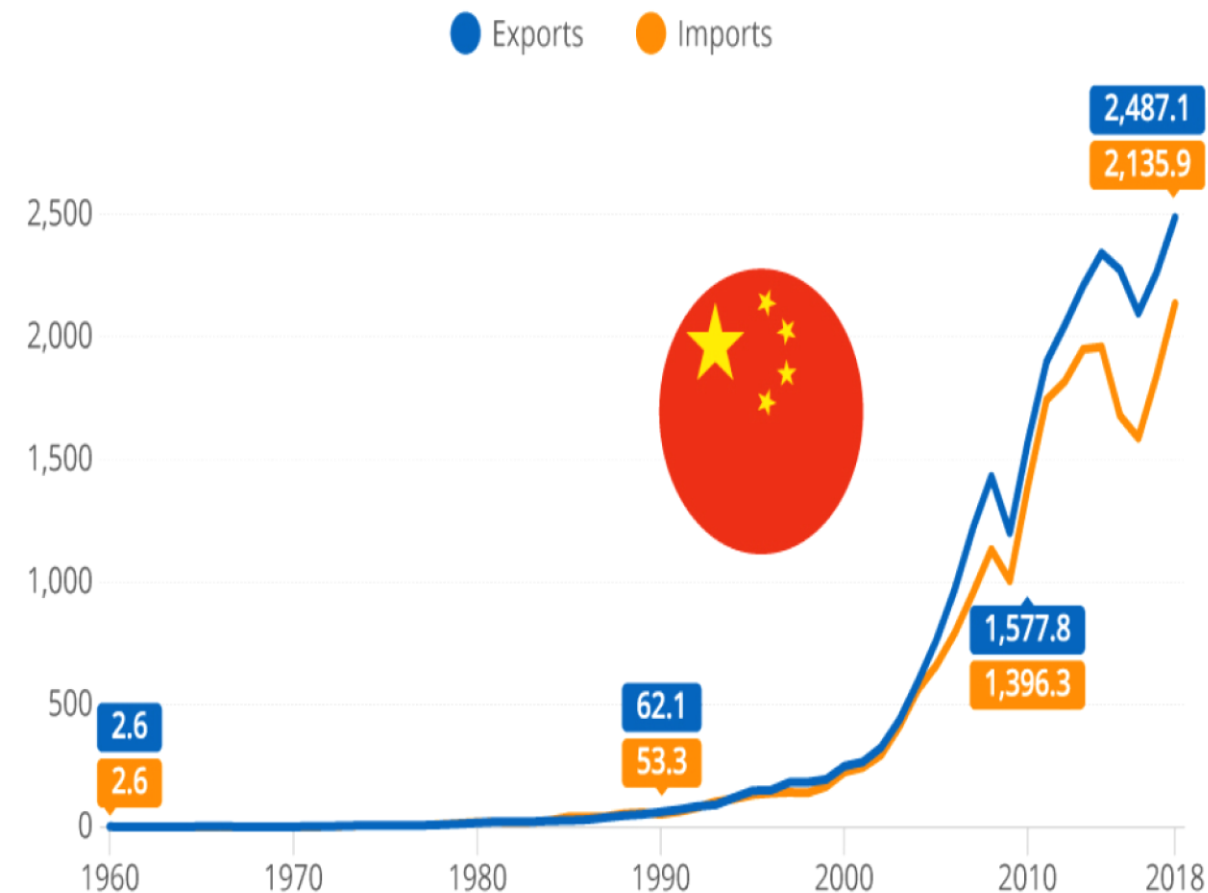
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- China is cutting massive resource and investment deals from Canada to Cuba to Africa.
- In Africa, China is securing energy supplies across global destinations, making major strategic investments in the financial sector.
- China's **SPECTACULAR RISE** is evidenced by the ballooning share of trade in its gross domestic product.



China's Rise to Commercial Superpower

Annual trade values for China (imports/exports) in billion U.S. dollars*



* current dollar values
@StatistaCharts Source: World Bank

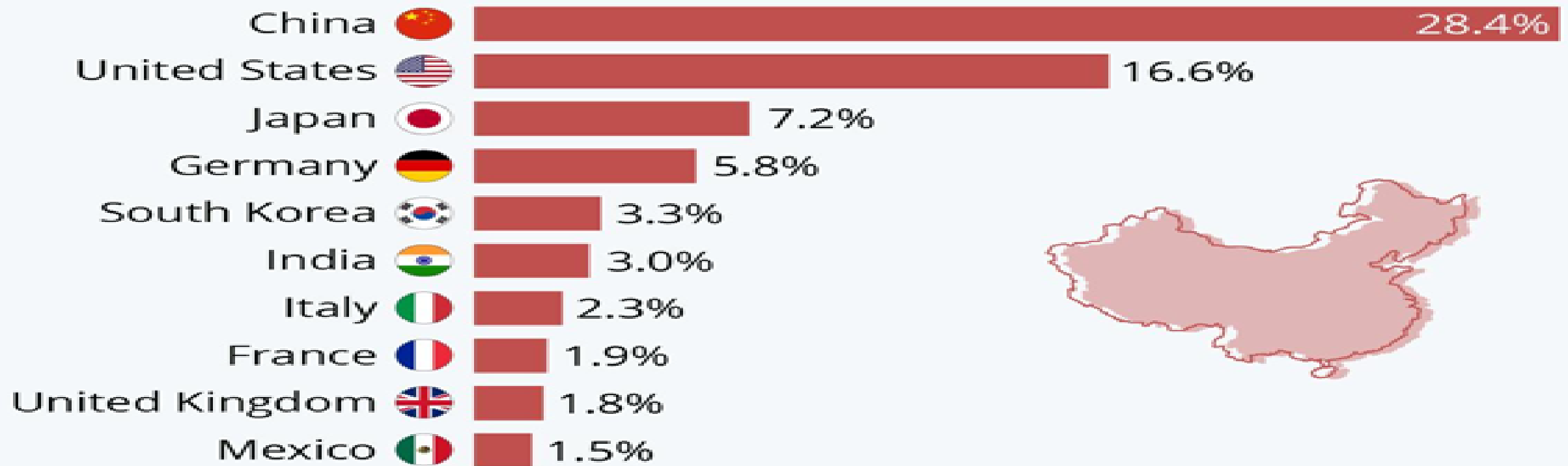
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- Aided by **35 million-strong ethnic Chinese Diaspora** well placed around East Asia's rising economies, a Greater Chinese Co-Prosperity Sphere has emerged.
- China has slashed tariffs and increased loans to its Southeast Asian neighbors. Trade within the India-Japan-Australia triangle-of which China sits at the center- has surpassed trade across the Pacific.

China Is the World's Manufacturing Superpower

Top 10 countries by share of global manufacturing output in 2018*



* output measured on a value-added basis in current U.S. dollars

Source: United Nations Statistics Division

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- Small Asian nation-states are increasingly rallying toward China out of Asian cultural pride and an understanding of the historical-cultural reality of Chinese dominance.
 - The Shanghai Cooperation Organization gathers these **Central Asian** strongmen together with China and Russia and may eventually become the **“NATO of the East.”**

China vs United States GDP Based on Different Approaches

VIZDAYS

2016

11,232



BILLIONS OF U.S. DOLLARS BASED ON EXCHANGE RATES

18,624



BILLIONS OF INTERNATIONAL DOLLARS BASED ON PPP

21,286



18,624



knoema

Sources: International Monetary Fund

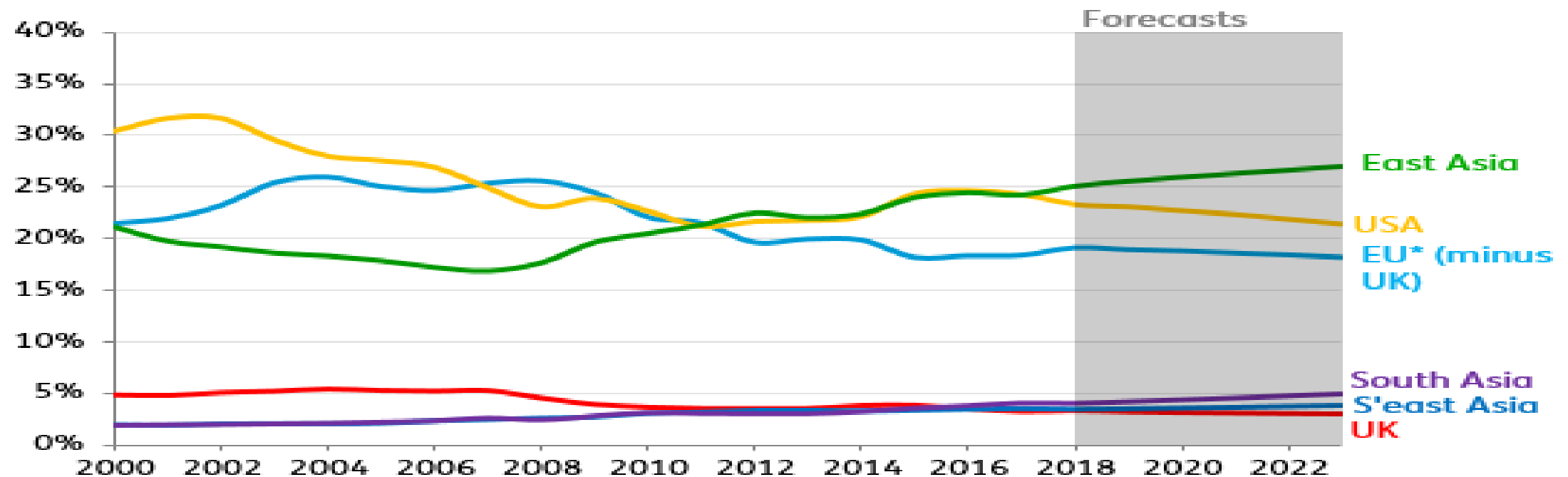


As of 2016 US is still no. 1 in GDP in terms of nominal criteria but in PPP criteria China is already pushed US to no.2 slot

MAJOR ECONOMIC REGIONAL AREAS OF THE WORLD

The changing of the guard?

Share of world economic output, GDP based on current value of US Dollar



*The EU's economic output includes all current EU member states (except the UK), rather than those which were members in each particular year.

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, GDP, current prices (April 2018)



Thank
you

