



21ST CENTURY DEBATE

A DEEPER LEARNING APPROACH TO DEBATE EDUCATION



Image: The Need to Think More Clearly About 'Great-Power Competition' (Rand, 2019-02-11)

Topic: *The United States strategy of Great Power Competition produces more benefits than harms.*

BACKGROUND:

Great Power Competition [(Explained)]: Today, the United States and China, often with Russia at its side, are competing to shape security architectures, as well as norms and practices worldwide, including trade and investment regimes and the development and regulation of new technological infrastructures. These frictions will play out over decades, not only in Beijing, Washington, and Moscow, but in Africa and Europe, the Arctic, outer space, and cyberspace. -- [Wilson Center, Last Updated: September 27, 2022](#)

REQUIRED RESEARCH (VIDEOS):

Global China: Assessing China's growing role in the world,
Brookings Institute, February 22, 2022 [4 min]

<https://www.brookings.edu/interactives/global-china/>

Note: *Competition-minded students should read the articles too.*

Indo-Pacific Islands: Caught in Between U.S.-China Competition,
Carnegie Endowment, September 2022 [3 min]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dfzjx18GDLU>

Testify with Mvemba Phezo Dizolele — Russian Influence and Activity in Africa,
Center for Strategic & International Studies, July 15, 2022 [3 min]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YVA0d_s8bl

Counterterrorism and great-power competition,

Ambassador Nathan Sales, Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council, September 7, 2021 [2 min]

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/commentary/article/counterterrorism-and-great-power-competition/>

Note: *Please read the paragraph, and then scroll down a bit to watch the video.*

Is the UN Useless in an Age of Great Power Competition?,

Foreign Policy Association, September 26, 2022 [2 min]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MHtXqKKAgo>



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REQUIRED RESEARCH (ARTICLES):

Ukraine Crisis Kicks Off New Superpower Struggle Among U.S., Russia, and China,

Wall Street Journal, February 23, 2022 [PDF]

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/ukraine-crisis-kicks-off-new-superpower-struggle-among-u-s-russia-and-china-11645629753>

With Us or With Them? In a New Cold War, How About Neither,

New York Times, April 24, 2022 [PDF]

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/24/world/asia/cold-war-ukraine.html>

The growing danger of great-power conflict,

The Economist, January 25, 2018 [PDF]

<https://www.economist.com/leaders/2018/01/25/the-growing-danger-of-great-power-conflict>

Great-Power Competition is a Recipe for Disaster,

Foreign Policy, April 1, 2021 [PDF]

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/04/01/china-usa-great-power-competition-recipe-for-disaster/>

Author: Emma Ashford, senior fellow, Reimagining U.S. Grand Strategy program at the Stimson Center.

OPTIONAL RESEARCH (ARTICLES & VIDEOS):

[VIDEO too] DEF: Great Power Competition,

Defense Acquisition University, LA: October 2022 [5+ min]

<https://www.dau.edu/greatpowercompetition>

Great Power Competition is the contest between the United States and its adversaries to shape security architectures, as well as norms and practices worldwide, including trade and investment regimes and the development and regulation of new technological infrastructures. These frictions will play out over decades, not only in national capitals and countries, but also in outer space, and cyberspace.

Great Power Competition: Is Great Power Competition a Constructive Framework for Formulating U.S. Policies in sub-Saharan Africa?,

Center for Strategic & International Studies, July 7, 2020

<https://www.csis.org/events/online-event-csis-debate-series-great-power-competition>

Note: This is a debate among top experts. I cannot yet find a transcript. Might be helpful to watch this! I had trouble following the arguments from the first two speakers -- they are assuming things not yet proven and are making most of their arguments by implication. This is common for diplomats to use passive language that is meant to be a non-offensive manner of speaking. UGH!

[PODCAST] Great Power Competition [30+ min],

Center for Strategic and International Studies, January 15, 2020

<https://www.csis.org/podcasts/defense-2020/great-power-competition>

Transcript: <https://www.csis.org/analysis/great-power-competition>

Host Kathleen Hicks moderates a discussion on Great Power Competition with Michael Mazarr (RAND Corporation), Oriana Skylar Mastro (Georgetown University, American Enterprise Institute), Chris Preble (CATO Institute), and Kori Schake (International Institute for Strategic Studies).

Navigating great power competition – A serious planning start,

Bruce Jones, Stanford Professor, and Fellow, Yale Law School, Brookings Institute, August 3, 2022

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2022/08/03/navigating-great-power-competition-a-serious-planning-start/>

Understanding Competition Great Power Rivalry in a Changing International Order: Concepts/Theories,

Dr. Michael J. Mazarr, Senior Political Scientist, RAND Corporation, March 2022

https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/perspectives/PEA1400/PEA1404-1/RAND_PEA1404-1.pdf



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OPTIONAL RESEARCH (ARTICLES & VIDEOS): *Continued...*

[VIDEO] *Global China: US-China relations through the lens of great power competition,*

Brookings Institution, June 23, 2022 [60 min]

<https://www.brookings.edu/events/global-china-us-china-relations-through-the-lens-of-great-power-competition/>

[VIDEO] *The National Defense Strategy and great power competition,*

Brookings Institution, July 14, 2022 [80+ min]

<https://www.brookings.edu/events/the-national-defense-strategy-and-great-power-competition-a-conversation-with-mark-t-esper/>

Note: *Mark T. Esper is a top expert in GPC!*

[VIDEO] *Great Power Competition and Cyber Conflict,*

Council on Foreign Relations, January 7, 2020 [70+ min]

<https://www.cfr.org/event/great-power-competition-and-cyber-conflict>

Counterterrorism and great-power competition,

Ambassador Nathan Sales, Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council, September 7, 2021

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/commentary/article/counterterrorism-and-great-power-competition/>

Note: Ambassador Nathan Sales is a nonresident senior fellow with the Scowcroft Middle East Security Initiative and Middle East Programs at the Atlantic Council. Prior to this, he served at the U.S. Department of State as Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights (acting). Concurrently, Ambassador Sales served as Ambassador-at-Large and Coordinator for Counterterrorism. He was the principal adviser to the Secretary of State on international counterterrorism matters and led the State Department's Counterterrorism Bureau. He was also the Special Presidential Envoy to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, leading U.S. relations with the 83-member Coalition and efforts to ensure the lasting defeat of ISIS in the Middle East and around the world. Before joining the State Department, Ambassador Sales was Of Counsel at the law firm Kirkland & Ellis LLP (formerly Bancroft PLLC). Ambassador Sales was also previously the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy at the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security and served at the Office of Legal Policy at the US Dept. of Justice.

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When contacting me, please include your name and class information (day/time). Thanks!

MISC. RESEARCH (& Outlines):

CON: *Confrontation Poses Deadly Risks (Refusing to cooperate = dangerous)*

S: Foreign Policy Magazine, April 1, 2021

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/04/01/china-usa-great-power-competition-recipe-for-disaster/>

It's easy to dismiss this kind of rhetoric as silly, but it also carries substantial danger. For one thing, the focus on competition masks a whole series of underlying assumptions about the international system and America's role in it. Washington's policy community appears convinced that we are headed for a more dangerous world, one in which the United States must push back against the perceived aggression of states like China and Russia. Though articles almost always include an obligatory aside—that cooperation with China on climate change is a must!—the frame is almost uniformly confrontational.



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MISC. RESEARCH (& Outlines): *Continued...*

Argument outlines from in-class debates...

PRO-01: Helping Prevent HR Abuse

1. Stopping Human Rights Abuse
2. Challenging Dictators/Opressors

PRO-02: Helping Prevent Wars

1. Standing Up with Deterrence
2. Credibility Requires Projecting Strength

CON-01: Harming Global Security

1. US Gets Overwhelmed (China + Russia)
2. Harming Our Allies (ex. NATO or Allies involved)

CON-02: Harming The Economy

1. Harms Our Economy
2. Hurting Our Current Trade

More argument outlines from in-class debates...

PRO-01: Protects Relationships

- A. China's Islands (with Weapons) = Threat to Allies
- B. U.S. Uses "Freedom of Navigation" to Challenge China

PRO-02: Protecting Global Security

- A. Cooperation Favors China
- B. U.S. Must Project Strength (ex. Gathering Allies)

CON-01: Harming Global Security

- A. Risk of Nuclear Escalation (ex. Russia & China)
- B. Provoking No. Korea Risks Nuclear War

CON-02: Threatening Our Economy

- A. Risking Trade (ex. 100's Billions at Risk!)
- B. Harms to American Companies (ex. Apple)

4-Step Refutation outline from in-class debates...

They said... GPC = Threatens Global Security

We say... GPC = Does NOT Threaten Global Security

Because...

1. *First...* Standing Up with Deterrence
2. *Also...* Credibility Requires Projecting Strength
3. *Finally...* x

Therefore... GPC does NOT Threaten Global Security