

HEDGING AGAINST AMERICA C RAJA MOHAN

1) PYQs linkage:

- Critically examine the decline of the United States of America as a hegemon and its implications for the changing international political order. **15(2021)**
- Discuss the various constraints on American hegemony today. Which of these are likely to become more prominent in the future? **15(2023)**
- Do you agree with the view that the USA uses NATO as a traditional tool of strategy to perpetuate its hegemony in the world? **15(2024)**

2) Theory application:

Mearshemeir “Offensive realism”: great powers are always searching for opportunities to gain powers over their rivals, with hegemony their final goal.

Hegemonic stability theory: (Charles Kindleberger and later expanded by Robert Gilpin): There must be a hegemonic power, i.e. a single dominant power in the international system to ensure international economic and political stability. Only a hegemonic power can establish the international rules that facilitate orderly exchanges amongst countries and should punish transgressors with predictable penalties.

3) Concepts and keywords: restructuring, strategic autonomy, dual-dependency on US and China, EU – USA transatlantic ties, US China rivalry in Indo-Pacific,

4) Important facts:

Phases of challenges in Indian foreign policy:

The Chinese betrayal in 1962, China's embrace of Pakistan, the Sino-Soviet spilt, the US-China entente in the 1970s, the Soviet collapse of 1991, the rise of a new economic order in the 1990s, and the Russia-China alignment in the 2000s.

5) important quotes or statements:

“..As in life, so in international relations—nothing is forever.”

6) Brief analysis and key points from the news or editorial:

- **Trump 2.0**

Unprecedented disruption unleashed by President's Trump 2nd Term through imposing trade tariffs on countries across the globe threatening the existing global order.

- **Challenges for Global order:**

- 1) All USA partners have enormous stakes in sustaining their economic and technological ties with the US.
- 2) Their security challenges would become far more demanding without American guarantees.

- **How key actors are responding:**

1. Embracing the idea of 'strategic autonomy'
2. Diversification and de-risking
3. EU is accelerating collective defence efforts
4. France and Britain are discussing better coordination of their nuclear weapons policies.

5. French president's call for European unity for responding effectively to global challenges.
6. UK is seeking to rebalance the "special relationship" with the USA against the geographic imperative of Europe. Rebuilding links with EU.
7. Japan reducing its dependence of the USA by not offering any easy concessions or compromising its national interest under US pressure.
8. Australia insisted that being an ally does not mean a blind follower and stepped-up efforts to engage its Asia neighbours

- Challenges for India:
 - a) It may face any strategic surprise

- What's India's approach:

1. Continue to engage with the USA
2. Weighing the consequences of the Trump upheaval for Eurasia and the global order
3. Negotiating a trade deal

Key suggestion:

- India must focus on managing external changes.
- India must have will to walk away if negotiations don't go in desired directions.