

Global Geopolitical Transformations and the Split Between the Western and Non-Western Worlds: Perspectives from the Fifth Dimension of Strategy

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There is a rapidly evolving global instability that is the result of increased geopolitical competition and conflict, which is caused by the transforming global geopolitical order from a Western-centric US unipolar towards a non-Western centric multipolar configuration. In 2019 and 2020 there were already significant indicators of the so-called New Cold War heating up, such as the 2019 RAND report on overextending Russia in post-Soviet space and in Syria, plus the Biden paper in Foreign Affairs that called for the US to take back its global leadership role. These blueprints for attempting to obstruct the rise of the multipolar order were most likely to increase the level of competition and conflict, and to ultimately further weaken the declining US hegemony and its Western order. The nature of the geopolitics and the strategy employed were to be through the 5th dimension of strategy (information), which is intangible unlike the four tangible strategic dimensions (land, water, air and space). The 5th dimension is considered to be less risky owing to the covert and indirect means of attacking opponents and is more cost effective. The selective and subjective interpretation and representation of peoples, places and events in the physical realm through the information realm is intended to obstruct the foreign policy aims and goals of others, plus create an orthodoxy of knowledge. This orthodoxy of knowledge occurs by engineering the appearance of consensus on the physical realm events and processes, either through inducement or coercion, to gain information domain dominance in order to control the flows of information that give shape and meaning to people, places and events. Hence the blueprint used to try and manipulate event perception and opinions in the Colour Revolutions and Arab Spring has been used again as a mechanism to try and manage and regulate international relations. This is clear in the fifth-dimension use in manufacturing the mass mediated event in the West of the Ukraine Crisis (November 2021-February 2022) that was intended to provoke conflict and minimize the operational choices of Russia. This is being repeated with respect to Taiwan and China. The informational crisis is a means of weakening and containing Russia, China and potentially other targets in international relations. However, the West has only further isolated itself from beyond NATO, EU, South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, the gulf in perception and mindset between the global north and global south is merely increasing. The West is much more ideological, asymmetrical and living in an echo chamber to the more pragmatic and collaboratively minded Non-Western world. As such, the demise of the Western-centric order may well be accelerated and not restored.