

November-December 2022 PF Topic Analysis

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Resolved: The United States' strategy of Great Power Competition produces more benefits than harms

It is important to brush up on the general history of U.S. foreign policy before diving into the modern literature about the U.S.'s conflicts with Russia and China.

The November/December topic is related to foreign policy and/or national security.

This topic is extremely broad, so it is important to combine history with theory and logic to help the judge understand this issue.

It is important to first define what is great power as well as competition. "Throughout history, politicians have spoken of the struggle between countries for economic, social, and political purposes. Great Power Competition has arisen all the way back to the Peloponnesian War to the Industrial Revolution to the Space Race. Great Power Competition is often connected to the contest of ideas, opposing ideologies showcased by different countries, each trying to prove that its model of government is best. The stakes can be extremely high with this when looking at victory, peaceful coexistence, or war and ruin." (Urda)

It is important to look at the history and background of how the U.S. has done this with other great powers throughout the world throughout history and look to see how this shift in power has changed throughout time.

Today's outlook with the U.S., Russia, and China is much different than what it looked like 20-40 years ago. Powers change, but we need to look at what has happened in history to help guide the debate to what is being discussed during contemporary and modern geopolitical tensions and areas.

We can look to see that American great power competition strategy has either been, compete to win, coexist/spheres of influence, and retrenchment.

- **Compete to Win** is an extremely aggressive strategy. This was showcased during the Cold War with the U.S. and Russia
- **Coexist/Spheres of Influence**- stability is more important than all-out victory
- **Retrenchment** looks back to not stretching the home country too thin and trying to spread its obligations too far across the world but look to more of looking at what can fortify the U.S. while still having a decent amount of influence around the world to not make the cost of war or relations with other countries too costly.

Pro Arguments

- Projecting Strength is necessary for preventing war
- Competition is necessary to secure human rights
- Competition is necessary to secure Taiwan
- Competition is necessary to combat authoritarianism
- Great Power Competition strategy is necessary because of Russia and China

Con Arguments

- Great Power Competition Strategy increases risk of xenophobia
- Great Power Competition strategy hurts economic relations with China
- Nuclear Posture increases the risk of conflict
- Great Power Competition increases risk of conflict with Russia and China
- Great Power Competition Increases Hostility