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TOPIC OVERVIEW

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGIC COMPETITION

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Overview

The U.S. National Security Strategy of 2017 acknowledged what many observers of the international system had been saying for several years: Great power competition has returned. At the heart of this resurgence in classical great power competition is the simple fact that the rise of China, India, and others, has replaced the unipolar moment with a more multipolar age. This is very evident in each of the four sub-regions of the Indo-Pacific, where China's economic power and infrastructure development have played a significant geostrategic role. This presentation will highlight selected aspects of these changes. It will also consider if these aspects of strategic competition will necessarily lead to a "Thucydides Trap" between the U.S. and the PRC.

Objectives

- Improved understanding of the return of geopolitics in the 21st century.
- Enhanced appreciation of the nature of strategic competition between US and China.
- Insights into the future trend of geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific region.

Recommended Readings

Aaron Friedberg, "Ripe for Rivalry: Prospects for Peace in a Multipolar Asia", *International Security*, Vol. 18, No.3 (Winter 1993/4), pp.5-33.

Walter Russell Mead, "The Return of Geopolitics," *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2014).

Uri Friedman, "The New Concept Everyone in Washington is Talking About", *The Atlantic*, Aug 6, 2019.