Joe Biden’s foreign policy in dealing with China

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Abstract The purpose of this study is to examine the foreign policy of the Joe Biden era in dealing with China. The authors use qualitative research, data sources from Web, Scopus, Taylor, and documents from the United States Department of State. The author uses a supporting application, namely, VOS Viewer. After that, it is analyzed using the theory of liberalism in tracing Joe Biden’s foreign policy. Therefore, this article resulted in Joe Biden implementing his "Foreign Policy for the Middle Class" strategy. Joe Biden has revived EU-US dialog and coordinated sanctions against Chinese officials in response to human rights abuses in Xinjiang. The US uses a strategic approach in industrial planning to maintain competitiveness with China. Biden's first trade policy action involved an executive order regarding government procurement. Its military policy focuses on multilateral action to limit Chinese operations and reduce their impact on collaboration with allies.

Keywords: Joe Biden, foreign policy, China, liberalism

1. Introduction

The United States and its Western allies have historically experienced economic success by assuming global capitalist financial system leadership. This financial influence has allowed America and Western nations to establish themselves as critical players worldwide, particularly in developing countries, where they have gained significant market share. It is not surprising that a substantial portion of the world’s wealthiest individuals comprise nationals from the United States. This might be attributed to their preparedness to engage in international competition and advocate for reducing governmental intervention. The global system primarily serves the interests of established countries prepared to compete rather than benefiting emerging countries and those classified as third-world nations (Sahide, 2021).

Unavoidable strategic competition from the United States and China. A competitive situation arises when the interests of the parties involved conflict, creating a danger for the 3rd country. The United States and China also compete in the security and military fields. Both sides see this as "competition" in the Asia-Pacific region. The stability of the complex regional situation depends on several interconnected elements because many countries are affected by the hegemony of the two major countries. In the economic field, the competition between these two dominant forces encourages the development of the high-tech sector, which will result in technological hegemony. In addition, small states are constrained to cycles of strategic decision-making about security because they need more options for engaging in cooperative efforts (Nam Tien & Thu Trang, 2023).

Over the last forty years, China has shown remarkable progress in its growth by implementing postreform policies. The magnitude and impact of this development have had a significant influence at both the national and international levels. The remarkable economic rise of China has significantly altered its global position, enhancing its capacity to influence the trajectory of international policy in the future. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), first proposed by President Xi in 2013, has gained significant importance for China and governments throughout Asia, Europe, and beyond. The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which took place in October 2017, incorporated the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) into the Party's constitution, affirming its status as a fundamental guiding concept for China’s future endeavours. China has increased its participation in the global governance process through several means. These include supporting reform initiatives within established international institutions, setting a security bloc within its sphere of influence, leading a prominent community of emerging economies, and creating various multilateral structures aligning with existing international systems. The present global system is characterized by the institutionalization of China’s remarkable economic progress, which is fragmented, focused on issues, and influenced mainly by the United States and its allies (Ly, 2021).

A prominent characteristic of present-day Pacific geopolitics is the tendency of 'Western' countries, such as Australia, the USA, France, and New Zealand, to stigmatize China as an unauthorized presence in a region that Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has described as Australia’s territorial domain. Regarding a proposed initiative that sought to endorse examining the source of COVID-19, the Australian prime minister implied that Western nations need to exhibit unity and resolute action in response to China’s perceived exercise of imperial influence and coercive strategies (Ratuva, 2022).
In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic is projected to significantly surge debt levels in 2020. According to estimates provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), total government debt in the "advanced" nations is anticipated to reach $66 trillion, equivalent to 122% of their respective real domestic product (GDP). This is a notable increase of 17% in comparison to previous levels. Additionally, the United States is expected to have a deficit of 15% in its budgetary operations. In contrast to the prevailing situation in the 1970s and 1980s, whereby debt was primarily concentrated in the "global South," the present scenario reveals that most of the global debt (75.4%) is now owned by the "advanced" nations. Suppose the interest rate decrease, close to zero since 2009, does not reduce debt levels compared to GDP. In that case, investors taking advantage of this favorable economic situation use their earnings for speculative gains rather than investing in tangible production and employment opportunities. Essentially, the significant government debt in the "advanced" economies may be attributed to the limited industrial output levels and the predominant focus on services and consumption, which therefore hampers the generation of tangible utility and exchangeable worth. The growth trajectory is propelled by the emergence of speculative bubbles originating within the banking and financial services sector. The prevalence of "gig" and insecure employment has significantly increased since the 1980s. The dissolution of the Fordist/Keynesian consensus increased part-time and flexible jobs. Additionally, following the great recession, there was a further intensification of labor exploitation and the incorporation of labor into capital through the emergence of "gig" work and zero-hour contracts. Within the framework of Anglo-American neo-liberal frameworks, there has been a notable reduction in the welfare state, accompanied by the privatization of significant portions of its services, particularly in the United Kingdom. In the context of the ordoliberal Eurozone, the situation underwent a remarkable transformation (Fouskas et al., 2021).

Another competition between America and China is seen in the grain sector and embassies; in the sector, the accumulation of nuclear weapons in China has shown a gradual pace of growth during the specified timeframe. According to the Current Path scenario, there is no substantial projection of a significant rise in the total stockpiles. Specifically, the number of warheads is expected to almost double from 1990-1999 to 2050-2059. In the United States, there has been a notable decrease in the stockpiles of nuclear warheads after the conclusion of the Cold War. However, it is essential to note that these stockpiles were initially at substantially higher levels before this historical shift. The stores were almost 56 times more abundant than those in China from 1990 to 1999. According to the Current Path scenario, it is projected that at the end of the specified period, the fall in this metric would exceed that of China by slightly over nine. From 1990 to 2009, the United States had a more significant number of foreign embassies compared to China. However, China subsequently surpassed the United States regarding the total number of foreign embassies. According to the Current Path scenario, Chinese foreign embassies are projected to maintain their current trajectory and surpass the number of foreign embassies held by the United States by 2050-2059, with an extra 13 embassies (Moyer et al., 2023).

It must be considered that the processes of globalization that intensified throughout the 1990s and 2000s cannot be attributed to the moderation of tensions among the Great Powers. Instead, globalization emerged because of the increased security conditions from the end of the Cold War and the emergence of unipolar world order. Moreover, globalization has played an essential role in strengthening collaboration between the United States and emerging competitors, especially China, as they seek to exploit the economic advantages of globalization to accelerate their ascent. However, it has also created or exacerbated divisions, increasing tensions among major global powers. There is a visible escalation of friction between the United States, China, and Russia. However, it must be noted that deglobalization is not the main factor causing this situation. The effectiveness of explaining the security dynamics of the Great Power can be attributed to structural reasons, including the presence of unipolarity and subsequent disintegration, as well as the influence of populist/nationalist political forces. It is essential to recognize that the geo-economic environment has significance in great power interaction. However, its impact is more complex than the principles of commercial liberalism imply. First, it is essential to note that the political dynamics of the Great Powers significantly influence the geo-economic environment. This includes factors such as the nature of the international trading system, whether open trade regimes, protectionism, globalization, or deglobalization dictate it. In addition, while it does not dictate the political dynamics of the Great Powers, it serves as a conduit for interaction between Great Powers, including cooperative and competitive elements, thereby influencing the manner and magnitude of such interactions (Ripsman, 2021).

However, Tunisia’s conceptualization of 21st Century bipolarity in terms of maritime conflict may have a greater emphasis on political and economic factors rather than physical factors. If China were to engage in proactive efforts to strengthen authoritarianism and weaken democracy globally, it would result in US-led alliance systems encountering China’s authoritarian supporters. Moreover, in a similar vein, if China significantly reduced its reliance on economic globalization and replaced crucial components of the transnational production chain with domestic producers, the likelihood of an ideological struggle within China would become more feasible. This contrasts with the current situation where Beijing’s economic growth heavily relies on maintaining positive relations with allies of the United States. From an analytical perspective, it is imperative to examine the patterns in Chinese foreign policy concerning regions and civil conflicts where liberal political factions oppose authoritarian counterparts. Additionally, it is crucial to research the tendencies in China’s engagement with and disengagement from global supply chains. Whether we are progressing toward two opposed blocs, with China and the United States as respective leaders, will primarily hinge upon these two pivotal variables, surpassing all other concerns.
Without such contrasting factions, the resulting scenario would not manifest as a Cold War but as a distinct manifestation of intense rivalry among major global powers. If the competition between the United States and China differs from that of the Cold War, it would be unwise for the United States to implement policies more appropriate for the Cold War era. This includes exerting pressure on nations that may otherwise engage in beneficial economic and political relations with China but are also potential allies of the United States. Despite encountering recent challenges in terms of its global image, the United States continues to possess a greater level of appeal and trust across a diverse range of countries worldwide compared to the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Strategic rivalry with the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is evident (Christensen, 2020).

The inauguration of Joe Biden was a pivotal moment in the history of the United States. The nation is significantly fragmented along racial, economic, and political divisions. Moreover, the increasing internal polarization poses significant obstacles to the foreign policy of the Biden administration. The United States has long been a prominent participant in ensuring security in the Asia-Pacific region. However, there is uncertainty regarding the future reliability of Washington as a partner due to two distinct yet interconnected factors. First, the potential diversion of President Biden’s attention toward domestic issues may hinder his focus on foreign policy matters. Second, the prevailing political polarization within the United States may result in significant variations in its foreign policy depending on the political party in power. The confounding of these two elements is exacerbated by Washington’s competitive and aggressive posture toward China. Southeast Asian nations express a desire for the continued involvement of the United States in the area as a significant participant in both security and economic matters. They want to balance the influence of the United States and China. Nevertheless, they maintain a steadfast opposition to aligning themselves with either of the two dominant global powers. However, as posited in this study, these nations formulate their judgments by considering several aspects, such as the United States’ capacity to rival China, the enduring dedication of the United States to the area, and their evaluation of their national interests (Narine, 2021).

Previous studies argue that in a dualistic liberal international order, the United States grand strategy faces complex dilemmas involving the interaction between economic considerations and security concerns. The need to reconcile conflicting interests requires that different administrations strike a balance between transnational financial networks and national security concerns. Its difficulties are particularly tough for Washington, D.C., in its interactions with China. Undoubtedly, there is significant interdependence between the Chinese and American economies. However, it is noteworthy that China’s rise persists, accompanied by revisionist aspirations and a penchant for operating outside the framework of US-led alliances. The management of the economy-security problem was undertaken by multiple presidents who shared comparable long-term objectives but used different methodologies, resulting in a consistent mix of strategies and policy modifications across administrations. The current Build Back Better World (B3 W) policy under President Joe Biden, now known as the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), represents a different approach. However, they all share the same goal of pressuring China to adhere to the free market legal framework principles or driving differences between China and Western countries, particularly in strategic and developing sectors (Leoni, 2022).

Previous research has also shown that the Biden administration has shown notable consistency with its predecessors, as evidenced by its approach to China and its decision to withdraw from Afghanistan. This can be partly attributed to the limitations imposed by significant differences in the domestic environment. The article analyzed the core components of President Biden’s foreign policy, with particular emphasis on potential ideological and doctrinal aspects, strategic objectives, and any similarities and differences compared to his predecessors (Tovar Ruiz, 2022).

Past research also offers a thorough examination of United States politics, presenting a unique perspective derived from the perspective of a regional analyst and researcher. The chapter examines US oil diplomacy in the Caspian Sea region from 2001. The analysis examines the foreign policy approaches of the Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations, focusing on the significance of energy developments in shaping the United States’ interactions with nations in the Centre. Asia and the Caspian Sea region. The chapters use several methodologies, including historical research, regional analysis, interviews, and case studies, to examine the development of US interests in the region. The chapters propose potential future policy trends based on the findings. Topics covered include China’s extensive Belt and Road Initiative. The study analyses and compares the energy and foreign policies of the Caspian littoral states of China, India, the European Union, and Turkey. The intensification of differences among the leading members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) throughout the Trump administration. Consequences of the oil price war on the US shale industry. The proliferation of COVID-19 and its consequences for the oil industry. The topic of discussion relates to competition between Russia and the United States in the European Union energy market. The study focuses on the US–China trade conflict and examines the significance of energy in the early stages of President-elect Joe Biden’s US–China trade agreement energy policy. The volume comprehensively analyses the complex geopolitical dynamics surrounding US-Caspian Ocean energy diplomacy (Kalehsar, 2021). Furthermore, authors use VOS viewer in searching for literature reviews as below.

Figure 1 above produces 64 items, 7 clusters, and a total link strength of 393; the authors have not found research that discusses Joe Biden’s foreign policy toward China as a whole (Economy, Human Rights, Taiwan Issue, Technology, and military supremacy) in one article so that the overall aspect discussion becomes a novelty in this article.
2. Materials and Methods

This research is qualitative in that the growth of the Internet has played a significant role in catalyzing recent qualitative methodological innovations (Leavy, 2014). In searching for data, authors use Web Scopus, Taylor, Science Direct, official CIA documents, United States Department of State documents, and United States congressional documents; in searching for novelty, authors use Scopus with the keyword Joe Biden’s Foreign Policy to China to produce 20 papers, which are then exported using RIS files and processed using co-occurrences with VOS viewer Application to create Figure 1 above. After that, it is analyzed using the theory of liberalism in tracing Joe Biden’s foreign policy toward China.

2.1. The theory of liberalism

Achieving harmony or equilibrium among conflicting interests is fundamental to liberalism's many manifestations. Individuals, organizations, and even the state tend to seek self-interest. Nevertheless, it is likely that natural equilibrium will ultimately prevail. At a more profound level, opposing interests complement one another rather than conflict irreconcilably. From a liberal standpoint, it is seen that natural or uncontrolled equilibriums tend to arise in economic activities; similarly, the balance of interest forms among nations in the global arena. Liberals are inclined to have faith in the potential for peace and collaboration. Liberals acknowledge the substantial influence of intercountry rivalry on global politics, suggesting that the international system is inherently and potentially perpetually decentralized. Liberals claim that competition under this system operates within a broader framework that prioritizes harmony. This fosters a tendency among liberals to embrace the ideology of internationalism. Interdependence is a fundamental aspect of liberal thought. This discourse examines two prominent theoretical frameworks in political science: liberalism interdependence and liberal institutionalism. These perspectives provide distinct perspectives on the nature of governance, the role of the state, and the principles that underpin political systems. By exploring the fundamental tenets and assumptions of each framework (Heywood, 2011).

2.2. Liberalism interdependence

The presence of economic interconnectedness serves to diminish instances of international war and concurrently amplifies prospects for achieving peace. The concept of trade interdependence refers to countries’ mutual reliance and interconnectedness in terms of economic exchange and commerce. Economic interdependence is a prominent kind that significantly shapes the character and dynamics of ties between states. The degree of trade interdependence is contingent upon the magnitude of commerce between nations, whereas the determination to initiate armed conflict is contingent upon the extent of economic interdependence. Based on the proposition put out by John Oneal and Russet, it is posited that the state with fewer constraints or lower trade dependence has a more significant degree of control in deciding the occurrence of conflict (Tanious, 2019).

2.3. Liberalism institutionalism

Liberal institutionalism posits that local and international institutions' involvement is paramount in encouraging collaboration and fostering peace among nation-states. The method above yields consequences, as the ability to engage in critical thinking and practical application seems risky. Liberal institutionalism emerges as a counterbalance to traditional international relations theory, which posits that dominant nation-states significantly influence global politics while downplaying the significance of international institutions. In contemporary times, liberal democracies, which include some of the most influential nations globally, seem to exhibit a desire to disengage from intimidating international organizations that
are seen to impose excessive demands. In contrast, nonliberal authoritarian governments are willing to tolerate and even assume more significant burdens (Johnson & Heiss, 2018).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Theory of liberalism in Joe Biden foreign policy

John Ikenberry has identified three distinct historical iterations of the "liberal international order." The first version, the Wilsonian system, emphasizes the concept of "Westphalian sovereignty," which primarily entails an international legal framework that upholds state independence and nonintervention. The second version, "Cold War liberal internationalism," involves a modification of Westphalian sovereignty within a hierarchical order, where the United States provides public goods, establishes rule-based relationships, and engages in patron-client relations, thereby granting voice opportunities. The third and current version is a transitional "posthegemonic" liberal order characterized by increasingly intrusive and interdependent economic and security regimes. In this version, various groups of leading states occupy governing institutions (Hellmann, 2012).

The primary participants in international politics are rational persons and private entities that engage in organization and exchange activities to advance their interests. Liberal theory adopts a perspective that prioritizes analyzing individual and societal group needs above governmental conduct, adopting a "bottom-up" approach to politics. Socially differentiated individuals possess distinct material and conceptual interests, which they strive to promote via political interactions and collective endeavours. The presence of scarcity and difference necessitates a certain degree of rivalry. Liberal theory refutes the ideological belief that there is an inherent harmony of interests among persons and organizations within society. Political order and conflict arise due to the fundamental framework of these relationships. The subject matter under examination pertains to interstate relations, wherein societal demands characterized by a high degree of conflict are prone to coercion to achieve their objectives (Moravcsik, 2001).

On the other hand, proponents of liberal ideology, such as Paine, Kant, and Cobden, contend that economic interdependence diminishes instances of international conflict. Several causal pathways might elucidate this link. Initially, those in positions of authority deliberating whether to start a dispute or intensify a crisis must assess the financial implications of undertaking such a course of action. When two states exhibit a high level of interdependence and their leaders believe that initiating or escalating conflict will harm their relationship, the probability of resorting to force is diminished. However, it should be noted that dependency alone does not guarantee the presence of peace. In the context of a disagreement, it may be argued that, under the assumption of all other variables being constant, the likelihood of escalation is reduced in the case of interdependent nations as opposed to those without economic links. Furthermore, Kant aptly highlighted that those companies and employees engaged in international activities, such as export-oriented corporations or those reliant on imports for production, would influence government officials to seek peaceful resolutions for conflicts between trading nations. While the disentanglement of these various causal pathways remains inconclusive, the empirical literature has shown substantial evidence favoring the interdependence assumption (Geuss, 2022).

Considering the multiple interpretations associated with the word "Liberalism," it is essential to begin by elucidating its significance within the context of this scholarly paper. The term "liberalism," denoted with a lowercase "l," typically encompasses individuals positioned on the left side of the political spectrum in the United States. This includes members of organizations such as Americans for Democratic Action and the American Civil Liberties Union, as well as notable political figures such as former Massachusetts Governor and Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis and Senator Edward Kennedy. Liberalism, denoted by a capital "L," pertains to the ideology of Lockeans, which encompasses a political framework, or a collection of political principles grounded on a blend of individual liberty, equal opportunities, unfettered markets, and representative governance. Historian Arthur Schlesinger coined the "vital center" concept in the U.S. politics (Desch, 2008).

The liberal hawks inside the Biden administration mainly consist of individuals who were part of the established elites under the previous Obama administration. Their current positions of power have been solidified at an unprecedented level. The emergence and decline of liberal hawks after the conclusion of the Cold War may be attributed to the policies and actions undertaken during the Bush administration. Following the inauguration of George W. Bush in the early 21st century, he assembled a cohort of conservative strategists who espoused the principles of complex power diplomacy and the pursuit of regime change. The foreign policy of the Clinton administration underwent a significant shift, prioritizing international economic and commercial interests above unilateral military expeditions. Furthermore, prioritizing global counterterrorism as the central objective of national security has resulted in the growing militarization of foreign policy. During that period, despite the dissent of the liberal hawks within the Democratic Party against this policy direction, their ability to effect change was hindered by their lack of presence in the political forefront (Zhang Zhaoxi, 2022).

China, the main competitor of the United States, was subjected to a siege and was immediately confronted with calls for reform. A written statement by Kurt Campbell, Biden’s chief Asia adviser, and Jake Sullivan, his national security adviser, noted that a period of active engagement and interaction with China had reached an abrupt and informal conclusion. This
statement was made in 2019. During their congressional audience, Trade Representative Tai and Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo expressed their commitment to ensuring China’s compliance with the Phase One agreement and working with other members of the Biden administration to formulate a comprehensive strategy to enhance the United States’ competitive position vis-à-vis Beijing. As a result, the Biden administration has refrained from reversing the policies implemented by the Trump administration to maintain pressure on China. On January 25, 2021, President Biden began his first trade policy move by issuing an executive order on federal procurement. The primary aim of this order is to address deficiencies in existing "Buy American" laws by imposing stricter exclusion rules. One particularly significant loophole, sometimes called the "trade pact waiver," allows federal agencies to designate companies from other countries, including Japan, as US suppliers if they are involved in trade contacts with the United States. Subsequently, a 10% duty was reintroduced on aluminum imports from the United Arab Emirates. This measure was reversed by Trump shortly before the end of his presidential term. On February 24, 2021, President Biden issued an executive order regarding the supply network. The aim is to comprehensively evaluate the supply chain for semiconductors, rare earths, pharmaceuticals, and large batteries over 100 days. In addition, within a year, an analysis was carried out on the industrial base of six important sectors, including military, public health, and ICT (information and communications technology). In addition, it includes collaboration with strategic partners. Government agencies have allocated financial resources to advance technology to increase the local production of essential components. Historically, the Ministry of Finance has played a role in curbing protectionist efforts initiated by other government agencies. During President Biden's administration, Janet Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury, was recognized for her support for the principles of free trade and her concern for the well-being of wage workers (Scherrer, 2022).

Shortly after taking office, President Joe Biden's administration unveiled their comprehensive foreign policy approach, "Foreign Policy for the Middle Class." President Biden places great importance on a rising middle class to emerge victorious in the "fundamental debate" about the comparative advantage of democracy over autocracy. During the Munich Virtual Security Conference 2021, speakers emphasized the need to showcase the capabilities of democracies to effectively meet the needs of their citizens in the context of a changing global landscape. The impetus for this foreign policy approach stems from the need to increase America's competitiveness, given the rise of China. The notion that revitalizing domestic affairs can revive international power is based on the United States' concurrent efforts to restore its economy, democracy, and allies, enabling it to operate from a global power position. The 2021 Chicago Council Survey findings show that many Americans are well-disposed toward these concepts. There is a perceived need among Americans to prioritize domestic regeneration and increase the competitiveness of the United States. There is a broad consensus in favor of implementing stricter measures against China, and support for an alliance with the United States remains strong (Smeltz et al., 2021).

Biden administration exercised considerable care when it purposefully connected its attempts to restore democracy at home with the conflict over the spread of democracy and authoritarianism worldwide. How to handle the US–China relationship is now the top issue for all diplomats, not just those in the United States. Although doing so runs the danger of criticizing and alienating individuals who do not uphold concepts such as democracy and human rights, the other side likewise gave a kind response. Ultimately, the US–China confrontation will be more severe as the US prioritizes value-oriented diplomacy. For instance, if the United States primarily prioritizes strategies to isolate China in fundamental principles, such as the aim of isolating China in basic principles, such as the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) and Quadrilateral Security Dialog (Quad), China will see its activities as coercive. The Chinese, who value appearances, are more inclined to dig in their heels than to agree with such requests (Hatoyama, 2021).

3.2. Joe Bidens economic policies against China

The concept of economic liberty is primarily characterized by the extent of governmental intrusion, which Adam Smith acknowledges but only for a limited time. This alignment with the thinkers of the nineteenth century is an essential aspect of his ideology. In addition to fostering rivalry among people, this assures that one person's economic freedom does not impede the freedom of others. One manifestation of providential finalism may be seen in the concept of Adam Smith’s 'invisible hand.' This concept serves as a mediator between individual and collective interests via the mechanism of free competition, which plays a pivotal role in the overarching theory. The mediation is grounded in the idea that Smith does not see the notion of self-interest as solely about basic selfishness. Instead, he seeks to reconcile this desire, along with the interests of society, by applying reason. This implies that when correctly comprehended, self-interest is inherently logical since the notions of self-preservation and the common good are assumed within the underlying idea of reason. The image of the free economic society is based on a condition of universal harmony that is developed via speculation rather than based only on a concept of liberty centered on one's mind or existence. Economic freedom, as defined, encompasses the idea of freedom within a predetermined framework that combines ethical, moral, and theological-political principles. In another work, Smith delineates the fundamental principles underlying the "system of natural liberty" that governs economic life. He asserts that the responsibility for overseeing the overall well-being of all rational and sentient beings, which encompasses the management of the vast system of the universe, lies with God rather than with humanity. This implies that Smith saw the
operation of the free economy not as a mere economic mechanism but rather as a concept that was developed via speculation and against which economic theory and policy had to align and evaluate themselves (Walther, 1984).

The trade tensions observed between the United States and China represent a singular manifestation of an escalating systemic confrontation among the major global powers. The rivalry between the two regimes included several aspects of the geopolitical landscape, encompassing tangible and intangible forms of energy. The ideological disparities between the two regimes started to affect issues beyond just the trade relations between the United States and China. Regarding the structural inequalities between the United States and China, the interdependent network of the global supply chain has led to an implicit form of strategic partnership during the past three decades (Huda & Fadhat, 2022).

In May 2022, President Biden unveiled a comprehensive plan to address China's economic resurgence in the Asia Pacific area. This economic cooperation framework encompasses 12 nations, including the United States, South Korea, Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The proposed framework encompasses commerce, supply chain management, sustainable energy, infrastructure development, taxes, and anti-corruption measures. The objective of the International Partnership for Economic Cooperation (IPEF) is to facilitate the reestablishment of collaborative economic relations between the United States and Asian nations after the departure of the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) under the Trump administration in 2017 (Cipto, 2023).

Institutions play an important role in increasing the legitimacy of government promises regarding liberalization policies by supporting and countering the influence of anti-liberal and “special” domestic interests. The study of state commitment and compliance with Article VIII of the Articles of Association of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) remains an important area of research. The presence of a stable and well-defined domestic legal system and a strong domestic dedication to upholding the rule of law significantly impacts compliance and contributes to the maintenance of “liberal inertia.” This response underscores the informed impact of the GATT/WTO and preferential trade agreements, arguing that the presence of these institutions will increase scrutiny of state behaviors by all parties involved. As a result, disobedience would soon be roundly criticized, leading to even more swift and severe punishments (Paul, 2010).

The Biden administration is investing heavily in the fundamental foundations of America’s national strength. This initiative begins by implementing contemporary international strategies to maintain and enhance the United States’ economic and technical influence. In addition, the government seeks to increase the resilience of the economy and supply chain while simultaneously strengthening its competitiveness. President Biden has implemented the most important infrastructure investment law in United States history. This law aims to improve the condition of roads, ports, airports, railroads, and bridges, facilitate the transportation of goods to various markets, and increase domestic productivity. In addition, the law seeks to expand access to high-speed internet throughout the nation, fostering economic growth and attracting increased business opportunities and job prospects to the greater Americas. Six decades ago, the United States government allocated a much higher percentage of the national economy to research than today. This spending has been critical in driving private-sector innovation during an economic recovery. President Biden was accompanied by Antony Blinken and Janet Yellen, who were appointed Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury. Their statements indicate that the President intends to adopt a multilateral approach, working with allies in Asia and Europe. This shows a departure from the unilateral attitude of the previous administration toward the People’s Republic of China. The first hint of the general framework for President Biden’s approach to China was seen in the publication of the Interim National Security Strategic Guidelines. Three top strategic priorities: ensuring the safety of the American people, fostering economic growth and opportunity, and safeguarding the democratic principles that underpin the American way of life. President Biden has listed China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran as geostrategic rivals (Rato, 2021).

Based on Wertheim's argument, the reason for global domination is not only aimed at maintaining or promoting democracy. Instead, it revolves around an ordinary and real affirmation of the United States' determination to secure its future economic and political engagement. After achieving its hegemonic position, the United States prioritized strengthening democracy as an important component of its foreign policy, adopting a pacifist and more assertive approach (Rosenboim, 2023). The general negative attitude toward the World Trade Organization (WTO) can be attributed to Washington’s widely held bipartisan consensus, including the legislative and executive branches of government. This consensus is centered on a principled approach to strategically contain China, embodied in the belief that the WTO cannot effectively counter China’s ill-faith trade policies. As a result, this perception makes China’s trade policies a significant threat to the integrity of the global world trading system. The United States insists that the rules set by the World Trade Organization (WTO) are not explicitly designed to address the challenges faced by China, which still needs to have a fully developed market system. The above stance became clearer after a WTO arbitration in January 2022 concluded that China could respond to US$645 million worth of annual exports in a ten-year trade dispute. The case largely revolves around the US anti-subsidy tax levied on Chinese products. The amount disclosed was far lower than China's initial request of $2.4 billion in 2012 when it filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO). China alleges that the United States has imposed unlawful balancing duties on twelve Chinese imports, which include thermal paper, pipes, citric acid, lawn mowers, kitchen racks, magnesia bricks, printed graphics, solar panels, wind towers, and steel sinks. The American perspective said the
decision was "deeply disappointing" and "demonstrates a misinterpretation by the Appellate Body that undermines the capacity of WTO members to protect their workforce and enterprises from subsidies that distort China's trade." The assessment above highlights the need to reform World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and address disputes that previously protected China's nonmarket economic practices while undermining fair competition based on market principles (Menshikova, 2022).

According to a recent publication by the Pew Research Centre in early 2021, findings reveal that a large proportion of 67% of Americans have an unfavorable perception of China. This percentage represents a significant increase from the 46% of respondents who held a similar view in 2018. Approximately 50% of respondents identified limiting China's power and influence as a top goal of US foreign policy. The data agree with findings reported by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, which showed that 55% of Americans view the rise of China as a significant threat to important American interests. Therefore, the Biden administration anticipates the popular support needed if it prioritizes competition with China as a focal point for its foreign policy. However, most Americans are unprepared for a potential military confrontation with China (Olsen, 2022).

According to the argument by Oneal and Russet, countries with fewer restrictions or less dependence on trade have a greater degree of agency in determining conflict. This contrasts with trade between the United States and China, where in 2021, there was a significant jump in US exports to China, reaching a total of $151.1 billion, representing a substantial increase of 21.4% ($26.6 billion) over the previous year. Similarly, US imports from China increased significantly by $506.4 billion, reflecting a 16.5% increase ($71.6 billion). As a result, the trade gap between the two countries increased to $355.3 billion, marking a growth of 14.5% ($45.0 billion) from the 2020 figure of $310.3 billion. In 2021, China will become the third largest trading partner of the United States. In 2021, approximately 8.6% of US exports amounting to $1.8 trillion will go to China. In addition, approximately 17.9% of the total import value of the United States, which amounts to $2.8 trillion, comes from China (Office of Thechnology Evaluation, 2021). The leaders of the United States have developed the ability to adopt a global perspective and implement local strategies, prioritizing strategic thinking over practical approaches. Their primary focus is allocating resources toward potential growth areas and leveraging existing capabilities rather than being overly concerned with potential risks and drawbacks. Additionally, they aim to minimize expenses and mitigate potential hazards. The prioritization of economic development and diplomacy takes precedence over defense matters. As the economic landscape evolves, institutions undergo a process of learning and transformation, resulting in reduced size, decreased redundancy, enhanced adaptability, and increased inclination toward collaboration within groups and networks (Díaz, 2013).

In addition, Biden’s trade policies demonstrate a significant degree of caution and are influenced by political considerations. President Biden has decided that his administration cannot or does not want to engage with trade issues that may generate even the slightest criticism or debate. Individuals believe the likelihood of a substantial trade initiative succeeding in Congress could be higher. This perspective is based on the observation that the Republican Party led by Trump has taken a clear stance supporting protectionism. In contrast, the Democratic Party remains divided on trade-related matters. This implies that the Biden administration plans to adopt a passive approach to trade policy, neglecting to address issues that may benefit the United States. The tariffs and trade restrictions imposed by the Trump administration under Section 232 of the Act above will continue to be enforced and extended through legal channels. The Biden administration further influenced Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala's nomination as Director General of the WTO. However, there is a possibility that American leadership will be revived in the WTO. Additionally, President Biden has stated his intention to enter into any new trade agreements once significant investments are made domestically, prioritizing improving domestic infrastructure and the well-being of American workers (Schoenbaum, 2023).

Joe Biden’s current policies are based on Section 232 of the Act above, which grants the President the authority to levy tariffs contingent upon a recommendation by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, provided that the importation of a particular commodity into the United States poses a danger or detriment to national security, either due to the quantity or circumstances surrounding such importation (Fefer, 2022), Section 201, colloquially known as such, pertains to a specific provision within the Trade Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-618). This provision grants the President the authority to temporarily relieve imports by increasing import duties or implementing nontariff barriers on goods entering the United States. The purpose of such measures is to address instances where these imported goods cause or pose a threat of harm to domestic industries engaged in the production of similar goods. The clause under consideration is comparable to Article XIX of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Article XIX grants GATT contracting parties the authority to provide relief from harmful competition provided that temporary protection facilitates the domestic industry's ability to adapt and respond accordingly (Jones, 2021), and 301, which contains the proposal, aims to grant the President the authority to undertake necessary measures, encompassing tariff and nontariff approaches, without retaliatory intent. These measures are intended to secure the elimination of any action, policy, or practice implemented by a foreign government that obstructs international trade agreements or is deemed unwarranted, irrational, or biased and subsequently hampers or restricts trade activities involving the United States. Section 301 proceedings may be initiated by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) or in response to a petition submitted by a firm or industry association. If the Office of the United States Trade Representative

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Liberalism has significantly shifted toward a priority of rights, resulting in a “rights revolution” in theory and practice. This transformation has led to the adoption of international human rights as a key policy objective. According to Bell, the history of liberalism is marked by a continuous process of reinvention. One of the most significant transformations occurred during the mid-20th century when liberalism began to be widely accepted as the prevailing ideology in Western societies. This perception is further strengthened by linking its roots with the early modern era. As a result, liberalism encompasses almost all nontotalitarian political systems while representing a certain partisan point of view in society. Liberalism, while hiding the peculiarities of its successive mutations, suddenly made significant progress. Today, the political system can be considered fully democratic, mainly due to its unwavering dedication to ensuring electoral participation and the frequent use of written constitutions to establish and regulate authority. Mainly, it shows postimperial characteristics. In contrast to the prominent previous era, the entity in question displays a humbler attitude regarding its beliefs about political goals and potential paths for progress. Liberalism had two important phases in establishing the preeminence of international human rights. One such shift is the movement toward the right to oppose totalitarianism. At the same time, others internationalized these rights after imperial rule (Moyn, 2017).

Domestic security services in China mainly consist of the Ministries of State Security, Public Security, and the People's Armed Police. The People's Armed Police remains under joint jurisdiction of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Central Military Commission. The main responsibility of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) lies in ensuring external security while also assuming special domestic security duties. Local governments often employ civilian municipal security personnel, called “city management” officers, to carry out administrative procedures. Civilian authorities effectively control the security forces. The relational record shows that individuals within the security forces were involved in significant and widespread abuses. Throughout the year, acts of genocide and crimes against humanity were committed against the large Uyghur Muslim population, as well as other ethnic and religious minority groups, in the Xinjiang region. The ongoing violations include a wide range of violations, such as unjustified detention or serious violations of the physical liberties of more than one million civilians. Additionally, there have been examples of forced sterilization, forced abortion, and stricter enforcement of state birth control policies. Other violations included rape, torture of many arbitrarily detained individuals, forced labor, and excessive restrictions on freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, and freedom of movement (Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, 2021).

President Joseph Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken have articulated the Administration’s intention to prioritize human rights and democratic ideals on its foreign policy agenda. Moreover, they desire to increase multilateral engagement in addressing these issues (“multilateral diplomacy”). Biden articulated the concept of “long-term strategic competition with China” in his dealings with allies in Europe and Asia. He characterizes the current international landscape as a state of “fundamental debate” over the future and trajectory of the world. This debate revolves around the different perspectives between those who advocate for autocracy and those who recognize the importance of democracy in addressing global challenges effectively. The individual concerned has expressed his commitment to address issues related to human rights in China and other related domains. In addition, they have articulated the United States’ willingness to cooperate with Beijing, but only if such cooperation is aligned with America’s strategic goals. During bilateral discussions in
March 2021, Secretary of State Blinken and National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan discussed human rights and other contentious issues with the People's Republic of China (PRC). The Chinese side responded in a manner that Secretary Blinken characterized as defensive (Congressional Research Service, 2021).

In accordance with the theory of liberal institutionalism, which considers the involvement of international institutions to be very important in encouraging collaboration and maintaining peace between nation-states. This shows that Joe Biden has adopted a much more collaborative attitude toward the European Union (EU) than his predecessor, President Trump. Consistent with President Biden's expressed penchant for working with international counterparts on foreign policy issues, his administration quickly began a dialog with the European Union on security, trade, climate, and several other areas of concern. President Biden has initiated several important actions since taking office on January 20, 2021. These include increasing the allocation of funds by the United States to the international COVAX Facility, the country's re-engagement with the Paris Agreement, and the establishment of more ambitious decarbonization targets in collaboration with the European Union (EU) and the United States (US). In the case of human rights, in accordance with liberalism theory, human freedom and inclusiveness must be maintained and implemented. This is shown in Joe Biden's efforts to revive EU-US dialog on China, and there has been coordination between the EU and the US in imposing sanctions on Chinese officials in response to alleged human rights violations in Xinjiang, China (Parry, 2021).

3.4. Taiwan issue

One kind of liberal philosophy, emancipation liberalism, has a complex and extensive historical association with violence and participation in global affairs. The ideological agenda has garnered significant attention in forming global political interactions since the mid-19th century. Emancipatory liberalism may be seen as a variant of paternalist liberalism, whereby the central objective is to liberate people from the many constraints that restrict their freedom. This entails seeing the liberal endeavour as a comprehensive undertaking: the work that necessitates the privileged and enlightened to "rescue" people in distress (Tatum, 2021).

In 1979, the United States' diplomatic ties with Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China, were affected by the American administration's choice to acknowledge the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the only legal government of China. Subsequently, the United States' informal interactions with Taiwan have been established within the parameters of the Taiwan Relations Act (P.L. 96-8) and influenced by three official communications between the United States and China. Within the framework of these accords, the United States retains its formal diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China (PRC) while concurrently engaging in the sale of military weaponry to Taiwan and maintaining substantial economic, political, and security stakes in the region. However, the evolving political systems in the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Taiwan present U.S. policymakers with ongoing policy dilemmas. The trends above encompass continuous changes in the political systems of Taiwan and the People's Republic of China (PRC) and fluctuations in their economic and trade cycles. Additionally, in 2008, interactions, negotiations, and accord were resurgent between the two entities (Dumbaugh, 2009).

Taiwan occupies a significant strategic military position due to its geographic placement between China and the United States, two main allies, Japan, and the Philippines. In addition, its proximity to South Korea further enhances its importance. Instead, exercising physical authority over Taiwan would provide a geographic wedge between the People's Republic of China and its territories. Two allies of the United States and a strategic access point to the natural open sea prevent counter forces from exploiting Taiwan's geographical proximity to China for military purposes. What "performing place" means is an area or location determined and used as a basis for organizing and preparing for various activities. From a strategic perspective, Taiwan presents significant implications for long-term naval operations. The topics under consideration relate to the disputed exercise of military power and dominance in the Pacific region. The PLAN (People's Liberation Army Navy) coordinator considers the challenging geographical conditions of the area. In contrast to the coastal areas of the United States, many obstacles hindered the rupture process in the context of an extended maritime mission regarding fleet operations with comprehensive geographical coverage. Examination of geographic maps reveals strategic plans. It was impossible for a fleet operating in a hostile environment to transport resources through the South. The difference between Korea and Japan, which are friendly to the United States, can be observed through various factors. The islands are under the jurisdiction of the Philippines, which is also an ally of the United States. Traveling southward, traversing several complicated island chains of Indonesia and Malaysia, China's strategic interests in the Central and Eastern Pacific are far from any destination. Although Indonesia and Malaysia are not considered allies of the United States, they are also not allies of the People's Republic of China (PRC), which is in flux. Traversing hostile territory, many land barriers make the terrain treacherous (Bellocci, 2023).

From the point of view of paternalist liberalism, the main goal is to liberate people from the constraints that limit their freedom. This can be seen from the United States cabinet, which emphasized its support for Taiwan. Both Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd During their confirmation, Austin expressed strong support for Taiwan. The United States Senate presided over the trial. In his statement, Blinken stated the United States' commitment to ensure Taiwan's security and sovereignty. “Holding under a Biden administration,” he said, “I also tend to see a continued presence of Taiwan.” The statement demonstrates increased engagement on a global scale and emphasizes the dedication to this...
engagement. Taiwan is a critical issue, and we maintain a solid commitment. Regarding the State Department, the individual mentioned meeting arrangements between United States and Taiwan officials. They want to provide more capacity to store contact information. After several days, Chinese aircraft were detected within Taiwan’s air defense identification zone. When Joseph R. Biden became president on January 23, 2021, authors saw Joseph R. Biden’s efforts as a liberal with a comprehensive endeavour that needed privileged and enlightened groups to “rescue” people who were in trouble (Taiwanese) through its Foreign Ministry issued a statement expressing concern over China’s intimidation efforts neighboring countries, such as Taiwan. The statement called on the Chinese government to stop its military activities. Diplomatic and economic coercion against Taiwan must be replaced by constructive engagement. They engage in substantive discourse with democratically elected Taiwanese officials. The assertion confirms that the United States’ commitment to Taiwan is unwavering. According to the Statement, the United States upholds its obligations because the Three Communiqués, the Taiwan Relations Act, and Six Communiqués are essential documents that describe critical aspects of Taiwan’s diplomatic relations. "Assurance" refers to giving confidence or guarantees about Joe Biden's foreign policy (Curtis, 2021). In addition, the Joe Biden administration is also working to promote peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, the Korean Peninsula, the East China Sea, the South China Sea, and the broader Indo-Pacific region. Plus, the United States partnership actively promotes the consumption of American products and services while developing technical competitiveness in the United States (U.S. Department of State, 2023).

The contents of the three communities are as follows. First, the United States officially recognizes the perspective shared by individuals of Chinese descent living on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, where there is a consensus that a single China exists. Second, the Joint Communique on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations, issued on January 1, 1979, marked the official start of diplomatic relations between the United States and the People’s Republic of China. Therefore, the United States recognizes the official government of the People’s Republic of China as the only recognized government of China and recognizes the PRC’s stance that Taiwan is an integral part of China. The third communique, often referred to as the August 17 communiqué, reaffirmed the two sides’ mutual intention to enhance economic, cultural, educational, scientific, and technical relations. The two sides also repeated statements on the Taiwan issue in previous communiqués. Although a conclusive resolution on arms supplies to Taiwan remains elusive, the United States has stated its intention to continue providing weapons to Taiwan. In addition, it also indicates a progressive adjustment in the number of shipments made by the People’s Republic of China’s military activities in the Taiwan Strait. In addition, it also indicates a progressive adjustment in the number of shipments made by the People’s Republic of China’s military activities in the Taiwan Strait (CIA, 2006).

3.5. Technology rivalry between the US and China

The primary focus of research on neoliberalism and ‘advanced liberalism’ has utilized Michel Foucault’s concept of governance. Governance refers to a set of power technologies or rules that influence the behavior of individuals and groups by shaping their subjectivity through a range of discursive, material, and economic techniques. In this conceptual framework, liberalism functions using, and is associated with, frameworks of ideas and understanding deeply ingrained in diverse manifestations, actions, and objects that regulate how individuals exercise their autonomy and cultivate personal growth (Fedirko et al., 2021).

Artificial intelligence (AI) has recently emerged as a prominent subject of interest among governments on a global scale. Artificial intelligence (AI) is an expanding tool with interactive, autonomous, and frequently self-learning capabilities. It has a wide range of applications and holds the capacity to transform societal structures significantly. The United States of America (US) and China are widely recognized as leading contributors to advancing artificial intelligence (AI) globally. The relationship between the United States and China in artificial intelligence (AI) is frequently portrayed as a competition for supremacy. This portrayal raises concerns due to both nations’ geopolitical rivalry and military capabilities. Both nations have recently established their national artificial intelligence (AI) strategies, with China implementing theirs in 2017 and the United States following suit in 2019 (Hine & Floridi, 2022).

The United States carefully allocates resources for the education and training of its workforce to equip American employees, recognized for their outstanding skills, to innovate, build, and manage the technologies of tomorrow. In addition, the United States has a strategic industrial planning technology aimed at allocating resources for research, development, and advanced manufacturing. Six decades ago, the United States government spent much more of the national economy on research than today. This spending is critical in stimulating private sector innovation during an economic recovery. This is how the United States emerged victorious in the space race, pioneered semiconductor development, and laid the foundations of the internet. The United States intends to address this trend by garnering bipartisan legislative support and spending significantly on research and innovation. These efforts will cover several domains, including artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and healing processing. Beijing has now made clear its desire to take over leadership on several fronts. However, given the United States’ existing dominance, the competition rests primarily on the potential for the US to maintain its position. This concerns the advancement of new technologies and the shaping of their global use in a way harmonizing with democratic principles (Secretary Blinken, 2022).
China possesses a robust infrastructure for the advancement of artificial intelligence. The Chinese government has strategically devised extensive national research and development initiatives, encompassing significant undertakings in artificial intelligence. A three-year implementation plan for integrating the Internet and artificial intelligence (AI) has been released. This plan proposes a range of initiatives for technology research and development, industrial applications, and overall progress in this field. After years of dedicated endeavours, China has achieved significant advancements in artificial intelligence (AI). It currently holds the second position regarding the quantity of published technical papers and patents, demonstrating its notable contributions. Furthermore, China has successfully achieved crucial breakthroughs in critical technologies across several domains. China is at the forefront of global advancements in speech and visual recognition. It can rapidly progress in adaptive self-learning, intuitive awareness, comprehensive reasoning, hybrid intelligence, and group intelligence. Furthermore, China is actively engaging in the practical implementation of Chinese information processing, intelligence monitoring, biometric recognition, industrial robots, service robots, and unmanned driving. AI innovation and entrepreneurship are experiencing rapid growth, with a cohort of prominent companies garnering significant global attention and acclaim. China has a distinct advantage in developing artificial intelligence (AI) due to its technological prowess, abundant data resources, high demand for AI applications, and an open market environment (China, 2017).

The recent findings of a Chinese research team in December 2020 show the rapid advancement in quantum computing. Their all-photonic system, Jiuzhang, achieved a computational task in a mere 200 seconds, a feat that would hypothetically need a conventional supercomputer almost 2.5 billion years to accomplish. The status of quantum computing and its possible fulfilment of promises remains to be determined, as several firms are vigorously pursuing rival technologies to determine its viability. The Chinese team has accomplished a remarkable feat. However, Cold Quanta, a neutral-atom firm based in Boulder, Colorado, United States, announced its intention to introduce a 100-qubit quantum gadget by the end of 2021, followed by a 1000-qubit iteration scheduled for delivery in 2023. Ion computing has significant strengths, notably in Europe and the United States, while neutral-atom computing is also making notable progress. Additionally, several startups assert their potential to achieve dominance shortly. The competition to determine the optimal system is now ongoing (Palmer, 2021).

The National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI) serves as an important illustration of the strong cooperation between leading technology companies and government entities. The group is under the leadership of Eric Schmidt, who previously served as chairperson of Google. The people in question include the director of the Artificial Intelligence business at Google Cloud, the Chief Scientific Officer at Microsoft, Andrew Jassy, founder, and former CEO of Amazon Web Services (AWS), who assumed the role of CEO at Amazon on July 5, 2021, examples of additional cooperation can be seen under the National Science Foundation’s Program on Justice in Artificial Intelligence, where financial assistance is provided through a joint grant with Amazon. Furthermore, the governor of New York invited Eric Schmidt and Bill Gates to work together to revise the educational environment after the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative explicitly emphasizes the use of the latest technology. The main opinion put forward by the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI) is that the United States needs increased readiness to maintain its significant position in the era of artificial intelligence (Rikap & Lundvall, 2021).

Under President Joe Biden, the current administration has intensified United States efforts to counter China, firmly believing that China has a growing purpose and capacity to restructure the global order in several domains, including economics, diplomacy, military, and technology. Recent measures implemented by the Biden administration, especially those governing restrictions on vital exports and new technology, aim to reduce the United States’s dependence on China. Currently, the ongoing technology conflict between the United States and China covers a wide variety of issues, including matters such as intellectual property rights, economic policy, and national security. The start of technology competition can be traced back to the trade war between the United States and China. The conflict was initiated by the United States’ imposition of a ban on the sale of Huawei and ZTE products within its borders in December 2022, claiming concerns related to national security. Both countries have adopted policies aimed at protecting their technology sectors and encouraging the growth of their domestic companies. The United States, for example, imposes tariffs on various commodities, including technology goods imported from China. In response, China has primarily prioritized its interests through initiatives such as the ‘Made in China 2025’ campaign, which aims to establish itself as a dominant force in advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and 5G. The anticipated succession of innovations emerging from this competition will have a major impact on the global landscape of technology and innovation. Competition, although often associated with development and breakthrough, can also result in fragmentation and violence as states seek to protect their interests and establish supremacy. In the modern liberal view, governance refers to a set of power technologies or rules that influence the behavior of individuals and groups by shaping their subjectivity through various discursive, material, and economic techniques. Since becoming president, President Biden has implemented a series of steps to overcome the problems posed by China’s technological advances using discursive techniques to maintain technological supremacy. In February 2021, a new technology task force was formed to examine vulnerabilities in the United States supply chain. This includes a comprehensive assessment of important semiconductors, advanced computing, and telecommunications technologies. Additionally, Increased resource allocation for technology research and development: In March 2021, President Biden enacted the

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Survivor America Plan Act, a comprehensive bill worth US$1.9 trillion. This law includes substantial financial provisions devoted explicitly to scientific research, technological advancement, and manufacturing (Mishra, 2023).

3.6. American and Chinese military supremacy rivalry

Richard Price and other prominent liberal writers of the time contended that only free governments can provide equitable protection against tyranny. Furthermore, they asserted that free governments are uniquely conducive to the development and advancement of individuals since they provide opportunities to exercise human capabilities. Recently, there has been a prevailing focus on free government, leading to a growing interconnection between liberalism and democracy. This development has somewhat reduced concerns about mob influence, as a specific form of democracy, namely, representative democracy, has gained significant prominence. Representative democracy guarantees the control of government by the elite. The current governing body exercises civilized and democratic oversight over its coercive powers, which include its armed forces. Moreover, the administration in question aligns with the principles of liberal international relations theory since it highly emphasizes endorsing international institutions, recognizing economic interdependence to foster peace, and upholding the tenets of international law (Greener-Barcham, 2007).

The convergence of domestic and foreign policy has once again occurred, resulting in a notable success of liberal hegemony in both theoretical concepts and practical implementation. Within foreign policy, a significant shift in language emerged, emphasizing the need for an “ethical” approach. This approach included prioritizing human rights advocacy and the overarching premise of humanitarian intervention aimed at toppling oppressive regimes and safeguarding vulnerable people. This scenario bore a resemblance to the culmination of Woodrow Wilson’s ideology, the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), and the perspectives of liberal pundits over the last century. The global interest was increasingly seen as aligning with the national interests of the foremost liberal countries, particularly the United States (Williams, 2006).

The present government under President Biden has expressed its commitment to upholding a free and open Indo-Pacific area. It has also designated Vietnam as one of its prominent regional allies. Considering this statement, Vietnam has assumed a significant position in the strategic engagement pursued by the United States. This is evident as successive U.S. Presidential administrations, ranging from Obama to Biden, have actively endeavored to extend their influence in the area. The primary objective behind these efforts is to uphold U.S. dominance and effectively address China’s growing influence (Van Quyet & Nguyet, 2023).

The foreign policy of the Joe Biden administration is in line with the principles of liberal international relations theory because it places a strong emphasis on support for international institutions, recognizes economic interdependence to promote peace, and upholds the principles of international law, where this can be seen by building relations with China, driven by several driving factors. Given the bipartisan agreement around the “China issue,” J. Biden will continue implementing a proactive countermeasures plan against China’s growing influence. The United States will seek to influence Beijing’s behaviors in the Asia-Pacific region and limit its activities using various methods, with a preference for minimizing the escalation of military tensions between the United States and China. J. Biden’s strategy is characterized by a commitment to act multilaterally, in which efforts are made to coordinate measures to limit China’s activities and impact through cooperation with allies and partners. At the same time, the individual expressed willingness to partner with Beijing in areas that align with the interests of the two countries, such as climate change, nuclear weapon nonproliferation, and international health-related security (Prihodko, 2021). The Biden administration’s multilateral approach has led to France being the sole European Union (EU) member with a substantial military presence in the Indo-Pacific region. Furthermore, France is the only EU country demonstrating the resolve to become a credible actor in regional security through a multiparty partnership approach (Haar, 2021).

Additionally, in his foreign policy inaugural address, President Biden expressed his admiration for the allies and partners of the United States and emphasized that this alliance is the most important thing. He stressed the need for diplomatic leadership and highlighted the need to forge close relationships with key allies and partners. The Secretary of State Blinken underscored the importance of friends and partners of the United States in relation to the strategic goals of the United States. He articulated that this alliance served as a force multiplier, a term used by the military to denote increased strength and seen as a distinctive asset. The individual committed to enhancing diplomatic relations between the United States and its international partners. They stated their intention to rebuild relationships with friends and allies and to adapt and strengthen relationships built in previous years to align with current and future circumstances. Upcoming obstacles. The Secretary of State Blinken and Secretary of Defense Austin are scheduled to embark on diplomatic missions to Asia and Europe to reaffirm the United States' commitment to its regional allies and partners. In March, Minister Blinken and Defense Secretary Austin began official visits to Japan and South Korea, and South Korea is also visiting India. During his visit to Tokyo, Blinken emphasized that choosing Japan as the destination for his first cabinet-level international trip was a deliberate decision and not just a coincidence. This trip emphasized the main and important goals of recovery, namely, to strengthen the United States' dedication to the alliance and promote harmony between Japan and Japan. The United States faces several major challenges, including war, climate change, cybersecurity, and global health security. Blinken further emphasized the importance of the alliance between the United States and Japan. The alliance, considered a fundamental
element for promoting peace, security, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and globally, promises to enhance relations between the United States and Japan. This will involve increased collaboration in climate change, green energy, cybersecurity, supply chains and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Its main objective is to advance the principles of a “free and open system” in the Indo-Pacific region. At a recent event in New Delhi, Secretary of Défense Austin provided the latest statement on behalf of the United States. The statement emphasized the United States’ unwavering commitment to its allies and partners while affirming the US-India relationship as an important pillar in maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific region. Minister Austin stated his intention to enhance collaboration with India in various areas, including information exchange, logistics cooperation, artificial intelligence, and new domains such as outer space and cyberspace. Even amid efforts to repair and rejuvenate old alliances with allies by sending senior government officials on international visits, President Biden has also taken personal initiatives to strengthen ties with foreign leaders. Drawing on his extensive experience as a seasoned Washington insider and foreign policy expert, President Biden aims to reclaim America’s leadership position on a global platform. Within 10 months of taking office as president, Joe Biden has participated in a series of important international meetings, including the G-7, US-NATO, US-EU summit, the G-20 summit, and the UN Climate Conference. Japanese Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide received guests at the White House, marking the first visit by a foreign leader under the current presidency. The leaders’ official statements stressed the enduring nature of the US-Japan Alliance and described it as an "unshakable" alliance. They further stated their commitment to developing a collective vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific region, which is based on a dedication to universal values and fundamental principles and promotes inclusive economic development. During the discussion, the two presidents emphasized their concern over China’s activities, highlighting their inconsistency with the international rules-based system. The party opposed any unilateral endeavours to alter the existing situation in the East China Sea. They also reiterated their objection to China’s illegitimate and unauthorized maritime assertions and actions in the South China Sea. Furthermore, they emphasized their collective commitment to a South China Sea that is both free and open and subject to international regulations (Wei & Zhang, 2021).

The United States has made significant advancements in detecting and prioritizing targets associated with the People’s Liberation Army Navy (PLAN). The United States Navy (USN) has a fleet of 426 C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) aircraft, in contrast to the People’s Liberation Army Navy (PLAN), which has a much smaller inventory of just 22 aircraft of this kind. The PLAN has a total of 441 fixed-wing aircraft and 118 helicopters. However, the United States Navy (USN) and the United States Marine Corps (USMC) possessed a far more extensive fleet of 2,448 fixed-wing aircraft and 1,249 helicopters. The People’s Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has a fleet of two aircraft carriers (ACs) with a combined capacity to accommodate 70 aircraft. In contrast, the United States Navy (USN) operates 11 aircraft carriers, which can house over 800 aircraft together. The Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group (CSG) comprises the United States Navy’s only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, the USS Ronald Reagan. It is currently engaged in joint operations with the Nimitz CSG 11 and Theodore Roosevelt CSG in the Pacific region, specifically focusing on activities aimed at countering China’s influence (Sawant, 2021).

As President Biden’s National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and his National Security Council (NSC) colleague Kurt Campbell acknowledged in 2019, “The United States must accept that military primacy will be difficult to restore, given the reach of China’s weapons, and instead focus on deterring China from interfering with its freedom of maneuver and from physically coercing U.S. allies and partners. “One of the architects of the Trump Administration’s 2018 National Defense Strategy put it less diplomatically and more briefly: “The era of untrammeled U.S. military superiority is over.” Second, America’s position as a global military superpower remains unique, with power projection capabilities no one can match, more than 50 allies bound by collective defense arrangements, and a network of bases on almost every continent, both China and Russia, are now serious military rivals and even peers in particular domains. Russia’s nuclear arsenal has long been recognized as equivalent to America’s. While China’s nuclear arsenal is much smaller, Beijing has deployed a fleet of survivable nuclear forces sufficient to ensure mutually assured destruction (MAD). The Défense Department’s designation of China and Russia as “great power competitors” recognizes that they now have the power to deny the U.S. dominance along their borders and in adjacent seas (Allison & Glick-ungerman, 2021).

4. Final Considerations

Joe Biden, from a liberal perspective, has embarked on a comprehensive foreign policy strategy called “Foreign Policy for the Middle Class” with a particular focus on China. Joe Biden’s efforts to revive EU-US dialog on China and coordination between the EU and the US in imposing sanctions on Chinese officials in response to alleged human rights violations in Xinjiang, China. President Biden began his first trade policy action by implementing an executive order on government procurement. From a technological foreign policy perspective, the United States adopts a strategic approach to industrial planning to effectively distribute research, development, and advanced manufacturing resources to maintain competitiveness with China. The United States is also dedicated to maintaining Taiwan’s security and sovereignty. In addition, President Biden continued tariffs and trade restrictions under Article 232 of the Trade Expansion Act and Articles 201 and 301 of the 1974 Trade Act in the economic sector. Biden’s military policy is characterized by a dedication to multilateral action, in which efforts are made to effectively coordinate initiatives to limit China’s operations and reduce the impact of collaboration.
with allies and partners. Joe Biden’s leadership is characterized by a serious approach to addressing the challenges posed by China. The authors determined that Biden’s foreign policy agenda prioritizes many aspects of countering China, including the economic, human rights, military, Taiwan-related issues, and technology sectors. The above phenomenon cannot be separated from the growing influence of various sectors from China, which is expected to continue to dominate the world. The limitation of this article is the liberal perspective in studying the foreign policy of the Joe Biden era toward China. In future research, the researcher recommends scientific studies of China in dealing with the foreign policy of the Joe Biden era.

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Ethical considerations

Not applicable

Conflict of Interest

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