

A Paradigm Shift in Geopolitical Risk Assessment: Critical Re-Evaluation of Deterrence Theory in the Multipolar World Order

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Abstract. Amidst the evolving multipolar global landscape, the traditional deterrence theory requires a nuanced reevaluation. This article employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative geopolitical risk modeling with qualitative case studies from pivotal international conflicts. The findings suggest that conventional deterrence mechanisms may be insufficient in contemporary geopolitical contexts, necessitating strategic innovations. The study concludes with recommendations for policy adaptations designed to enhance international stability.

Keywords: Geopolitical Risk, Deterrence Theory, Multipolar World, International Stability, Policy Adaptation, Strategic Innovation, Mixed-Methods Approach

Introduction

The contemporary geopolitical landscape is characterized by a complex interplay of state and non-state actors, leading to an erosion of the unipolar world order that predominated in the late 20th century. This shift towards a multipolar global system has brought about significant changes in international relations dynamics, calling into question the efficacy of long-standing theories such as deterrence theory. Originally conceived during the Cold War era, deterrence theory has traditionally relied on the notion of mutual assured destruction to prevent conflicts between superpowers. However, the emergence of new nuclear states,

coupled with the rise of influential non-state actors, has rendered traditional deterrence strategies potentially obsolete. This article critically examines the traditional deterrence theory, interrogating its applicability and relevance in the 21st century's multipolar world order. By employing a rigorous mixed-methods approach, this study integrates quantitative geopolitical risk assessments with qualitative analyses of recent international conflicts, providing a comprehensive understanding of deterrence dynamics. The analysis draws from case studies involving key geopolitical hotspots, offering insights into the limitations of existing strategies and the need for innovative policy adaptations. In the sections that follow, we explore the theoretical underpinnings of deterrence, assess empirical evidence from recent geopolitical events, and propose a framework for reimagining deterrence in a multipolar context. The article concludes with strategic recommendations aimed at policymakers, emphasizing the importance of tailored deterrence strategies to maintain global stability.

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