

***TOP 20 INSIGHTS
on How China is
Shaping the World
Amid U.S. Containment
& Global Crises?***

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China's Pragmatic Rise in a Fragmented World



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Amid escalating U.S. tariffs, renewed great-power rivalry, and global crises from Gaza to Ukraine, China is shaping the world not by confrontation, but by repositioning itself as the steady hand of multipolarity. Beijing's message is clear: it does not seek to upend the global order -- it seeks to restore the one it helped build in 1945. By invoking its wartime sacrifices and its role as a founding member of the United Nations, China frames its global ambition as a defense of the international system against unilateral dominance.

At the heart of China's strategy lies continuity -- stability at home, peace abroad and relentless development. The country's leadership believes that economic growth is the truest form of legitimacy, both internally and internationally. Rather than exporting ideology, Beijing exports infrastructure, investment, and technology. The Belt and Road Initiative, often portrayed as debt diplomacy, is recast by China as an effort to close the "connectivity gap" that stifles development across the Global South. Its call for cooperation is rooted in practicality: nations should not be forced to choose between Washington and Beijing but rather align with policies that deliver tangible benefits.

China's worldview rejects the binary logic of the Cold War. In its narrative, the aberration is

not multipolarity, but the decades of unipolar dominance that followed the Soviet collapse. The rise of populist nationalism in the United States -- exemplified by Trump's "America First" politics -- is seen as a symptom of a deeper structural shift toward protectionism and retreat. Beijing's counteroffensive is one of openness: open trade, open technology, and open-source artificial intelligence, which it claims will prevent an "AI divide" from mirroring the inequalities of globalization.

Yet China's assertive confidence is tempered with awareness of risk. Its unity and discipline -- its greatest strengths -- can amplify the consequences of wrong decisions. To offset that, Beijing emphasizes learning, adaptation, and engagement with other models of success, from Singapore's governance to U.S. innovation. Even its expanding military capability is framed not as aggression, but as deterrence in a world where peace requires strength.

In a fractured international landscape, China is positioning itself as the pragmatic power--seeking to lead through stability rather than shock, cooperation rather than coercion. Whether the world accepts that vision may determine not only China's future, but the nature of global order in the post-American century. ■

TOP 20 INSIGHTS on How China is Shaping the World Amid U.S. Containment & Global Crises?

1. China's Leadership Begins at Home

China's path to global influence depends first on maintaining domestic stability, peace, and continuous economic development. The leadership believes that a strong, orderly, and united home front is the foundation for credible global leadership.



2. Development as the Core Strategy

Since Deng Xiaoping, China's ruling philosophy has been "development, development, development." Sustained economic growth and technological modernization remain Beijing's central tools for achieving both domestic legitimacy and international leverage.

3. Peace as a Foreign Policy Principle

China positions itself as a global peace advocate, emphasizing non-intervention and calling for immediate ceasefires in conflicts, contrasting itself with what it perceives as U.S. "fueling of wars."

4. Rejecting Bipolar World Orders

China argues that nations should not be forced to "choose" between Washington and Beijing. It promotes a multipolar global order where countries engage based on merit, not ideological or military alignment.

5. Defender of the 1945 Multilateral Order

Beijing frames itself as a "founding father" of the post-WWII international system and insists that its rise is a defense, not a challenge, of that order. It rejects the narrative that China seeks to upend global governance structures.

6. Multipolarity as Restoration, Not Revolution

China claims the original design of the UN Security Council enshrined multipolarity. By pushing for a multipolar world today, Beijing portrays itself as restoring the intended balance, not breaking from it.

7. China's Historical Legitimacy

Beijing stresses its WWII sacrifices—losing 35 million people—as moral justification for its current global status. It insists that challenging China is tantamount to challenging the legitimacy of the international order itself.

8. U.S. as the Disruptive Actor

China depicts the U.S. as the aberration—dominating global institutions, weaponizing sanctions, and accruing debts to the UN—while Beijing positions itself as the responsible stakeholder paying the bills and defending multilateral legitimacy.

9. Rejection of Decoupling and Containment

China warns that economic “decoupling” or tariff barriers risk recreating Cold War conditions. It argues that the world should avoid division into opposing blocs and pursue interdependence as a safeguard for peace.

10. Vision of Cooperative Competition

China advocates for nations to work with both powers based on right or wrong actions, not allegiance. The goal is pragmatic cooperation over ideological confrontation.

11. Reframing the “Trump Phenomenon”

Beijing views the Trump era not merely as a political anomaly but potentially a decades-long “long-wave” shift in U.S. leadership style—one emphasizing transactional nationalism over multilateralism.

12. Capitalism with “American Characteristics”

In a rhetorical reversal, China suggests the U.S. should practice “capitalism with American characteristics,” mirroring China’s own hybrid model of “socialism with Chinese characteristics.” This reflects Beijing’s confidence in its development template.

13. Energy Security and Global Stability

China prioritizes three energy imperatives—availability, diversity, and affordability—and maintains no single supplier provides more than 20% of imports. This diversified strategy underpins China’s diplomatic outreach to Gulf producers.

14. Strategic Non-Alignment with Military Blocs

China contrasts its single Djibouti “supply depot” with hundreds of U.S. bases worldwide, framing its minimal military footprint as evidence of peaceful intent while warning it can counter any aggression through modern deterrence capabilities.

15. New-Era Deterrence Doctrine

With hypersonic “DF-61” weapons and integrated space, naval, and AI defense systems, China claims it no longer needs traditional bases. Its deterrence lies in technological parity with the U.S., ensuring mutual destruction prevents conflict.

16. Open-Source AI as Global Public Good

China promotes “open-source AI” in opposition to U.S. “closed-source dominance.” It argues that monopolizing artificial intelligence by one country would create a catastrophic “AI divide” akin to digital colonialism.

17. Belt and Road as Connectivity, Not Colonization

Beijing defends the Belt and Road Initiative as necessary for global “connectivity,” arguing that infrastructure debt is integral to growth, not a “trap.” Failures, it says, stem from instability or poor local governance, not Chinese intent.



China’s global strategy rests on pragmatism: embracing peace, development, technological openness, and cooperation.

18. Learning Culture as Soft Power

China positions its success on humility and constant learning—from Singapore’s state governance to U.S. innovation systems—casting itself as a civilization eager to evolve, not dictate.

19. Risk and Unity in Chinese Governance

Beijing acknowledges that its greatest strength—unity and discipline—can also be a risk if misdirected. Wrong policies can have amplified effects due to China’s execution power and centralization.

20. Pragmatism Over Ideology

China’s global strategy rests on pragmatism: embracing peace, development, technological openness, and cooperation. It seeks to redefine leadership not through coercion or ideology but by offering a practical, alternative model to Western dominance. ■

