

A World of Disorder
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The world is no longer transitioning—it is fragmenting. Since 2022, this is not evolution but rupture: the post-Cold War order is breaking, giving way to a more contested and unpredictable system.

In February 2022, at the Beijing Winter Olympics, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping declared a “friendship without limits”—not symbolism, but strategy. It signaled a direct challenge to U.S.-led rules, recasting Western influence as contested rather than universal. Just weeks later, Russia started the invasion of Ukraine.

The sequence was not accidental. It marked the first major kinetic expression of a broader geopolitical *realignment* already underway. From that moment, the war in Ukraine ceased to be a regional conflict. It became the *opening phase* of a much wider contest over power, norms, and the future structure of the international system.

We are already in a *Second Cold War*—more complex and less stable than the last. Not a binary clash, but a fluid, multi-layered competition with flexible alliances, transactional interests, and power exercised across domains.

At its core is a loose alignment between Russia, China, and Iran—less an alliance than a coordinated axis of disruption. Russia brings military force, China economic and technological scale, and Iran [operating through Hezbollah-Venezuela, Hamas and Colombia] asymmetric reach. Together, they challenge Western influence through sustained, multi-front pressure.

What defines this new era is that conflict is no longer confined to battlefields. It is simultaneous, interconnected, and constant. Technological competition now sits at the core of geopolitical power, with control over artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum computing, and data shaping not only economic leadership but global influence itself.

Military tensions are steadily escalating across major global flashpoints—from Eastern Europe to the Indo-Pacific and the Strait of Hormuz. Taiwan and the South China Sea stand out as particularly volatile hotspots, each with the potential to trigger consequences on a global scale. At the same time, economic and financial tools—sanctions, trade restrictions, and competing monetary systems—are being weaponized to fragment globalization into rival spheres.

Energy and critical resources are no longer just commodities—they are instruments of leverage. Oil, gas, rare earths, and lithium are reshaping alliances and dependencies in the global energy transition. At the same time, the information space is a battlefield, where narratives, disinformation, and digital operations compete to shape perception, legitimacy, and power.

The idea that the international system is moving through a manageable transition is increasingly untenable. What we are seeing instead is the normalization of disorder. Institutions

designed for cooperation are struggling to respond to coordinated and fast-moving geopolitical strategies. Fragmentation is no longer a risk—it is the operating condition of the system.

At the same time, the United States is redefining its role within this environment. Under a renewed “America First” logic, its foreign policy is becoming more selective, more interest-driven, and less predictable. The world is being organized into strategic layers, from the Western Hemisphere to the Indo-Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, reflecting a hierarchy of priorities rather than a universal commitment to global leadership.

For allies, this creates a new reality in which alignment is expected but no longer guaranteed, and where relationships are increasingly shaped by tangible contributions rather than shared assumptions.

Geopolitical competition is expanding into new and previously peripheral arenas. The Arctic is emerging as a strategic frontier where major powers seek to shape access and influence. The Middle East remains a center of volatility, with escalation risks carrying global economic consequences—especially around critical chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz. Given its importance, there is a growing case for placing the strait under international governance to ensure stability and open access.

Formal diplomacy is no longer enough. Power now moves through informal channels, personal ties, and quiet deals in a low-trust system. The question is no longer whether the global order is changing, but whether it can adapt. Whether through institutional reset or technological disruption, the conclusion is the same: the current system is unsustainable.

International organizations have also struggled to respond effectively to this crisis. In part, political bias—particularly framing opposition to Trump-era policies as a defining mandate—has diluted their focus¹. At the same time, this preoccupation has limited their ability to act with speed and flexibility when it mattered most.

What's emerging isn't just multipolarity, but fragmentation—marked by uncertainty, competition, and constant recalibration. Stability will come not from restoring order, but from operating within disorder. The winners will be those who adapt quickly, build flexible alliances, and act with clarity under pressure. Disorder isn't temporary. It is the system.

At the same time, authoritarian regimes have refined a method: they don't reject international norms—they weaponize them. They speak of sovereignty, international law, and rights while violating all three. *This is not contradiction. It is strategy².*

Ultimately, many world leaders are seeking a *San Francisco moment*—a decisive reset of the international order, echoing 1945, in which institutions rise above political bias, return to their core mandates and values, and act with clarity and purpose to secure a durable path to peace.”

Bogotá, Colombia April 7 2026.

¹ The U.S. intervention in Venezuela exposed contradictions within the UN, as officials criticized the Trump administration's arrest of Maduro as an attack

on a “legitimate leader,” even amid longstanding allegations of electoral fraud and evident domestic opposition and 9 million Venezuelans abroad.
² 20260309 Strategic Impunity *www.360geopolitica.org*