



Technology And Trade Wars: How US-China Competition Shapes The Global South

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Abstract: Affecting global socio-economic and geopolitical portraits are the escalated competition of trade and technology between the U.S. and China - making it a turning point with consequential repercussions for the Global South. It started out in 2018 as a mere trade dispute between the two countries and subsequently involved contestation for high-tech supremacy, which enlarged into rivalry over supply chains and strategic influence. Thus, the U.S. imposed tariffs, sanctions, and restrictions with the main target to slow China's progress in AI, semiconductors, and telecommunications; while China reconfigured its trajectory toward self-reliance and strength of economics with developing countries.

This article evaluates the pertinent trade provisions, access to technology, and economic dependency with which countries in the Global South find themselves impacted by U.S.-China rivalry. Some countries, on the one hand, benefited generally in terms of increased investments and industrial opportunities, while others suffer strategic dilemmas coupled with increasing dependency brought about by realignment in the supply chain and geopolitical stresses. The growing polarization of international technology standards does even more to complicate the decision-making process for developing economies. The paper will thus seek to answer strategic questions around such changes, arguing that emerging economies must think adaptively to address the tension between economic and strategic options. Findings on how this rivalry plays out in the long run are imperative in determining the dynamics of future global trade, technology governance, and economic resilience in a fast-multipolarizing world.

Key Words – Trade, Technology, Influence, Geopolitics, Supply Chain, Economy, Rivalry

INTRODUCTION

Politics, technology, and trade negotiations intertwine to make a complex weave of contemporary global economic relations. The U.S. and China, yet again, are engrossed in bitter rivalry across trade issues, technology superiority, supply chain security, and geopolitics. The current dispute is framed as a trade war between the two countries that erupted in 2018 and has long since characteristically defined the discussion; however, the ramifications and its ripple effects machinate far beyond this bilateral arena and into the domain of very shaping global economic relationships for the Global South.

Historically, the motivations behind the trade wars were usually in relation to issues of economic dominance, industrial policy, and protectionism. But technology has formed the next main battleground. China, although undergoing rapid emergence, whose economic rise was facilitated by international integration into global markets and sweeping technological forays like "Made in China 2025," began to upset the traditional economic order dominated by West (Lardy, 2001; Kapustina et al., 2020). The U.S. and its allies have since put in place a variety of embargoes, sanctions against Chinese tech firms, export controls, and the relocation of key industries, with the aim of curbing what they deem China's rise into stronger sectors of artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and 5G technology (Plender, 2019).

For the Global South, this technological and trade conflict can offer the advantageous path or the tough road. On the one hand, these emerging economies can use the opportunity given by the shift in supply chains and trade realignments to gain manufacturing competencies and infrastructure technology of gratification. Conversely, the tension for these nations to align with either the U.S.-led or China-led economic blocks will exert pressure in an environment where reaching consensus on economic policy-making has never been harder (Rodrik, 2018). Emerging multipolarity becomes vital to Global South countries' maneuvering through the unfolding landscape, as it shall be fundamental in determining their long-term economic development.

Rather, this paper will concern itself with wide consequences of the U.S.-China rivalry for the Global South regarding how trade sanctions, technology transfers, and geopolitical considerations are reconstituting global economic arrangements. This study wants to analyze how this conflict impinges upon supply chains, digital infrastructure, and trade governance, thereby generating a better understanding of how technology and trade wars are influencing the economic terrain of developing nations.

THE EVOLUTION OF US-CHINA TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY WARS

This rivalry, in the guise of a struggle over trade and technology between the United States and China, has undergone several changes and evolutions for decades due to changes in the economy as well as strategic policy issues and geopolitical calculations. It has seen a transformation from being entirely an economic partnership in terms of globalization with China's shoulder participating in global markets to becoming a heated contest for economic and technological domination. The conflict started from China joining the WTO as a member state in 2001. This accession meant that it has begun being a manufacturing giant for the entire world and, since then, a lot can be said to have revolved around that. Over the decades, China's industrial policies with a state orientation have together with rapid technology advancement contrived this challenge to the U.S. economic hegemony. Gradually, this challenge has metamorphosed into an all-out trade war marked by tariffs, export restrictions, and sanctions-far-reaching measures aimed at stifling China's access to technologies and markets vital for its growth. This sequence of events should have been flowering in the late 2010s.

From Economic Cooperation to Strategic Rivalry

An economic engagement between the U.S. and China characterized the 1990s and early 2000s. Washington supported China's WTO membership, after which they were expected to live up to market liberalization and economic integration through which they could grow to a more Western-style economy. China was luring global investments into its economy as a low-cost beachhead, thereby significantly boosting its GDP, which grew nearly 44 times during 1979 to 2023 (World Bank, 2024). By failing to develop in the style of a Western free-market economy, China opted for its own version of state-led capitalism, heavily investing in select industries viewed as "strategic," such as telecommunications, semiconductors, AI, and advanced manufacturing (Kapustina et al., 2020).

Also, the rise of the technology-the new entry into the scene by the mid-2010s. By this time, China had emerged as a global technology pacesetter, much so in 5G, AI, and renewables. Washington viewed things that way after China's 2015 "Made in China" policy, which saw Beijing angling to end its dependence on foreign technology and win the race to high technology sectors. Thus, China was increasingly regarded as a threat to U.S. economic and national security interests, resulting in the increased tensions regarding trade issues, tech transfers, and intellectual property rights (IPR) (Rodrik, 2018).

The Escalation of the Trade War (2018-Present)

Formally, the US-China trade war kicked off in 2018 during the Trump administration with tariffs being imposed worth over \$360 billion on Chinese imported goods based on claims of unfair trade practices and national security grounds. China reciprocated by imposing tariffs on \$110 billion worth of US products, essentially turning the conflict into wider economic stonewalling. Key aspects of the dispute entailed:

- US tariffs on Chinese goods between 2018-2019, peaking at 21% on certain items.
- China's tit-for-tat tariffs:
- Phase One Agreement: An attempt to ameliorate the situation, but its effectiveness was disparate from the broad contours of the dispute.

The trade war then moved from tariffs to technology denials, specifically in the dominant areas of semiconductors and telecommunications. China was being accused by the U.S. of having forcefully taken technology, cyber-espionage, and unfair state-funded activities, with the result being more stringent regulatory scrutiny on a number of Chinese firms. Restrictions followed on tech giants like Huawei and ZTE after Washington resumed the blacklist on the US semiconductor technology. (Steinbock 2019).

Technology and Data Security as the New Battleground

Beyond typical trade disputes, technology has become the new battleground of contest where both countries are spending massively on emerging industries such as AI, quantum computing, and 5G, without which the global hegemony will be forever elusive. The U.S. has initiated some significant measures on the strategic front under both Trump and Biden administrations:

- CHIPS and Science Act (2022) - \$52 billion worth of effort to try to ramp up U.S. semiconductor production and reduce American reliance on Chinese supply chains.
- Export controls in AI and semiconductor technologies - restriction evidenced by denial access of advanced chip-making equipment to China.
- Restrictions regarding security on Chinese firms - as the ban on TikTok and greater scrutiny against Chinese investment in U.S. tech businesses.

China, in return, is rapidly picking up the pace of localization/self-reliance on technology through ramping up home-grown semiconductor production, extending state subsidies to AI and 5G, and schemes such as the Digital Silk Road aimed at expanding its footprint in the Global South. The Huawei 5G hardware projects in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia conform to the Chinese model of bypassing Western technology hegemony and building an alternative digital ecosystem..

The present US-China trade and technology war is the momentous event in the changing economic power balance in the world. While both countries in the present time adopt economic nationalism and strategic decoupling, their rivalry generates a new habitat for global trade, technology standards, and investment

flows. The outcomes for the Global South threaten to be severe, since they are already being manifested in the situations developing countries find themselves trying to negotiate between competing economic blocs while trying to build their own path to technological progress and economic resilience.

KEY DRIVERS OF THE US-CHINA TRADE AND TECH WAR

The US-China trade and technology war has been seen less and less as an economic dispute and more as an argument deeply entrenched in structural issues, namely national security, global economic supremacy, and technological hegemony. Initially, the trade war burgeoned out of concerns over trade deficits and market imbalances; now it has become a wide-ranging strategic competition in other spheres: intellectual property, semiconductor supply chains, and control over digital infrastructures. This section gives an overview of the core motivators behind the US policies and China's synoptic responses.

Economic and Security Concerns of the United States

Trade Deficit and Protectionist Measures

The U.S. trade deficit with China has been a perennial concern, whereby policymakers have always argued that China's trade practice distorts global markets. In 2018, the Trump administration imposed tariffs on importations from China worth over \$360 billion, citing unfair competition and state subsidies in justification. Although partial trade agreements were made, the Biden administration's mindset has continued with most of these tariffs, stressing as the two main objectives reducing the dependence on Chinese manufacturing and boosting production for domestic consumption (Schneider-Petsinger et al., 2019).

Intellectual Property Theft and National Security Risks

One of the chief grievances of the United States against China covered forced technology transfer, cyberespionage, and state-sanctioned taking of properties. Reports suggest that aggressive acquisition of foreign technology through means of corporate espionage and joint ventures was perceived by China on its road to AI supremacy, semiconductors, and advanced manufacturing under the nomenclature of "Made in China 2025." Ultra-strict export controls were carried out by the U.S. to keep Huawei, ZTE, and SMIC out of market transactions (Schneider-Petsinger et al., 2019).

China's Strategic Goals and Technological Ambitions

Self-reliance in semiconductors and artificial intelligence

This has led China to pursue self-sufficiency in high-tech industries, owing to the imposition of semiconductor technologies by the US. While several billions from the government have poured into semiconductor research and in artificial intelligence, major investments in companies such as SMIC and ByteDance were also made. Beijing's "dual circulation" strategy seeks to promote indigenous innovation in the near term, while at the same time utilizing global supply chains to offset economic vulnerabilities in the far future (Schneider-Petsinger et al., 2019).

The Digital Silk Road: China and its Expanding Influence

The Digital Silk Road forms an important manifestation of the Belt and Road Initiative, aiming to project influence in telecommunications and global digital infrastructure. Consequently, companies like Huawei and Alibaba are developing 5G networks, e-trade platforms, and cloud computing services in Africa,

Latin America, and Southeast Asia, fortifying the technological imprint of China in the Global South. This has prompted the US to seek alternatives led by the West-including the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)-to combat China's growing digital superiority.

The Role of Emerging Technologies in Global Power Shifts

5G, AI, and Quantum Computing as Strategic Frontiers

Control over emerging technologies has become one of the distinguishing features of US-China strategic competition. China remains ahead in 5G deployment and has made rapid advances in AI research, stirring fears in Washington that Beijing may come to surpass the US in technological innovation. The US has responded by forming alliances such as the CHIPS Act (2022), aimed at boosting domestic semiconductor production and restricting China's access to cutting-edge technology (Schneider-Petsinger et al., 2019).

Cyber security, Digital Sovereignty, and the Splinternet

This fragmentation within the global Internet ecology, otherwise known as the "Splinternet," has once again become a flashpoint in the emerging rivalry between the US and China. While the hype for such issues in the USA includes banning Chinese apps like TikTok and Wechat for alleged risks to data security, China has pushed forward data localization as well as stringent cybersecurity regulations to ensure its sovereignty in a domestic context. This divergence in cyber governance models could result in a longer-term orientation towards two competing digital ecosystems into which nations in the Global South will have to find their way between American and the Chinese-led standards.

THE IMPACT ON THE GLOBAL SOUTH

The US-China trade and technology war has altered the course of events for the developing world with respect to economic stability, investment flows, technological access, and geopolitical alignments. Currently, as global supply chains are being restructured, the Global South is at a juncture wherein it must weigh economic opportunities against strategic risks.

Economic Consequences and Supply Chain Realignments

One of the factors behind the shorter timing between the two events in the USA and China is disruption in supply chains, leading to the creation of new manufacturing sites. Countries such as India, Vietnam, Mexico, and Indonesia are locations attractive for investment as companies look to diversify production locations beyond China-with creating economic opportunities, however, it puts an economic burden on developing countries to side with either the US or China in the trade and regulatory frameworks (Steinbock, 2019).

Supply-chain dynamics have also changed labor markets in the South. New places getting fresh investments in manufacturing and high-tech are beginning to register the goad in demand for workforces with an up-skilled ability to the orientation of new high-tech industry requirements. Some countries can make headway with new employment opportunities and industrial expansion; others are experiencing the phenomenon of structural unemployment due to the obsolescence of the traditional sectors. The future impact on economic resilience will depend on how well countries adapt to the transformed trade and investment environment.

Foreign Investment and Infrastructure Development

US and Chinese investment strategies are clashing, especially in the Global South. With the BRI seeking to make China the largest investor in infrastructure projects, the US and their allies have set out alternative investment frameworks to compete, basically presenting B3W to counter China. The rivalry will affect debt sustainability, technology access, and governance structures, thus placing an extra burden on the developing countries to maneuver through complex diplomatic and economic realities (Steinbock, 2019).

More investment trends depict a keen rivalry in the areas of digital finance and fintech sectors. While Chinese companies Ant Group and Tencent have entered the limelight through mobile payment platforms and digital banking systems, US-backed financial institutions have promoted systems of Western-led digital payments. Whether Chinese technological finance or American will prevail will determine the future of financial inclusion, legal standards, and economic dependence in developing marketplaces.

Dependence on US and Chinese Technology

Beijing's Digital Silk Road has facilitated the establishment of Chinese technology into Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia, particularly in the fields of 5G infrastructure, digital finance, and AI-powered governance systems. However, data privacy, cybersecurity, and dependencies on Chinese tech firms have raised the question of whether to establish more digital sovereignty. US and European partners have attempted to counter China by offering an alternative tech investment, although the feasibility and scale of such investment are unknown (Schneider-Petsinger et al. 2019).

Developing countries now have crucial choices to make in their digital ecosystem. The choice of Chinese-built 5G networks, AI surveillance systems, and cloud computing services brings into question data governance and technology sovereignty. Countries allied with the US demand tighter digital regulations and deterrent-based cybersecurity frameworks led by the West, while others see Chinese digital expansion as an opportunity for economic growth and infrastructure modernization. This fragmentation in digital governance obliges countries to weigh the security risks against the economic benefits.

Geopolitical Dilemmas and Strategic Alignments

The United States and the People's Republic of China are forcing developing states to balance an increasingly delicate geopolitical world. States of ASEAN, Africa, and Latin America have increasingly found themselves between competing diplomatic pressures. Regional alignments such as BRICS and RCEP offer alternative cooperative frameworks, but the levels of economic coercion from two superpowers still remain high. The burden on developing nations is to hold the economic sovereignty needed to concurrently engage both the US and China, ensuring long-term stability of their economies and major autonomy in governance (Schneider-Petsinger et al., 2019).

Thanks also to the thrust of military and security associations, it is becoming an economic- and technological-aiding competition. While strengthening the collaboration with regional powers through various agreements such as AUKUS and the Quad, the United States has now been trying to build up the economic as well as military cooperation for African and Latin American countries. This dual development has produced an environment in which developing countries need to tread carefully between security alliances, lest they compromise the economic gains of either superpower.

Challenges for Local Innovation and Economic Growth

Technological dependency on both Chinese and American campuses has been undermining the local innovation ecosystem of developing countries. Concerns revolve around economic sustainability in the Global South due to brain drain (migration of skilled labor) issues, job displacement due to automation, and disparity in access to AI and digital resources. For developing countries, investments in local technological capabilities are critical to avoiding overdependence on either the US or China's digital landscape (Steinbock, 2019).

Failure to grow local innovation hubs will result in many countries instead of creating high-value digital goods and services, being forever consumers of foreign technologies. The absence of stringent intellectual property laws and research funding in many Global South countries has stalled the growth of domestic tech industries. For the developing nations to survive in the digital economy, it must find incentive for STEM education, incubate local startups, and adopt policies that promote innovation within their borders.

Even more severe an issue, because US-China trade and technology relations are long-term altering the economic and technological taste palate of the Global South. As this rivalry continues to unfold further and further, policy frameworks ought to be strategically negotiated by developing countries generated by this increasingly complicated geopolitical environment. In the near future, a proactive framework based on economic diversification, investment in local innovation, and building strategic partnerships will be a prerequisite for sustainable growth and technological independence.

HOW THE GLOBAL SOUTH IS RESPONDING

The trade and technology war between China and the United States has made developing countries to strike strategic responses in order to protect their economic and technological yearnings. Some are diversifying trade and investment partners, while others are technologically localizing production and strengthening sovereignty over the digital space while engaging in serious strategic diplomacy to equalize superpower relations. In addition to the direct implications, these transformations have far-reaching effects on global governance as emerging economies reconfigure the rules of international trade, investment norms, and policies for the digital space.

Through the US-China trade and technology war, developing nations have been pushed to come up with some strategies to protect interests that touch on economics and technology. Some countries diversify trade and investment partners, while some localize, strengthen their digital sovereignty, and engage in strategic diplomacy to balance between the two superpowers. These shifts will also have further implications for global governance since emerging economies are wrangling to reshape the international rules of trade, investment norms, and digital policies.

Diversification of Trade and Investment Partners

An extension of trade relations with various partners in concert with the Global South in order to relieve itself from an over-dependence upon one economic power. Countries like India, Indonesia, Brazil, and South Africa are creating bilateral and regional trade agreements to enhance economic resilience.

- India's Act East and Make in India Policies: With foreign investment being encouraged by engagement of its growing economy, India wants to shake off the dependence on Chinese imports through domestic manufacturing.

- Africa: Growing Economic Relations with the EU and Japan: By deepening their economic cooperation with the European Union, Japan, and emergent Asian economies, African nations are diversifying their partnership relations.
- Latin America: Expanding Trade Agreements: Countries such as Mexico and Brazil are forging deeper relations with European nations and regional alliances such as Mercosur to dilute uncertainties posed by the US-China trade war.

Such changes will also influence global governance institutions in which the WTO, UNCTAD, and regional economic organizations will be challenged to review their trade frameworks in recognition of a changed balance in economic power.

Localizing Technology Production: The Case of India and Brazil

With many nations in the Global South promoting domestic technology ecosystems so as not to rely entirely on either China or the USA. Indian Semiconductor and Digital Initiatives: Among the major investments in the semiconductor manufacturing and digital service sectors, India is developing capability in self-reliant technologies to counteract supply chain vulnerability.

- Brazil Pushes for an Industrial and Technology Sovereignty: The country invests in AI, cyber security, and other related digital infrastructure to free itself from dependency on the Chinese and Western technology companies.
- Growing technological hubs in Southeast Asia: Countries like Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia are establishing local innovation ecosystems, mainly to develop alternative supply chains. The above efforts generate not only economic self-sufficiency but also create foundations for the global digital economy. Significant among these new areas of South-South technology partnerships is that emerging such as India with African nations are emblematic of a new face of how developing economies cooperate outside the influence of US-China.

Digital Sovereignty and Cyber security Regulations

The interest of countries in the Global South in digital ecosystems is articulated in new data protection laws, cyber security regulations, and artificial intelligence governance frameworks that give a country the ability to control its digital infrastructure:

- Africa's Growing Focus on Data Governance: On that note, more African countries are strengthening data localization regulations and would also introduce national cyber security frameworks.
- ASEAN Driving Digital Sovereignty: The next stage for Southeast Asian countries is to consider formulating policies managing the access of foreign technologies to their domestic cloud computing and AI ecosystems.
- Cyber security Trends in Latin America: Strongest regional efforts to create a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for cyber security for protecting digital assets from geopolitical disruptions come from Brazil and Mexico.

As it continually deepens, this interest in digital sovereignty speaks to how developing countries are redefining the international norms under which data controls and cyber security apply, thereby challenging US and China monopoly in establishing global standards for technology.

Strategic Diplomacy: Navigating Between the US and China

Developing nations are now on an increasing trajectory for a balance-of-power strategy that would favor a bilateral non-alignment with Washington and Beijing to derive their economic benefits and take on roles in global geopolitics, as follows:

- Non-aligned policies in digitization: Neutral postures are taken in most countries regarding 5G deployment, AI regulations, and technology governance on a global scale.
- Regional Cooperation by BRICS and RCEP: Facilitate negotiation platforms for the Global South in their interest
- Competitions-and-they-flex: Countries such as Indonesia, Nigeria, and South Africa are having their cake and eating it, negotiating great trade and investment deals with both sides, using bilateral rivalry for gain.

Such maneuvers are anything but trivial regarding their glory within the international architecture. Future global governance could change into more "heavily influenced" forms, with growing impacts by emerging nations in shaping transformation in multilateralism and trade negotiations. How these nations refine their coordination in policy formulation would determine whether the new global political order could create more space for economic and technological autonomy.

FUTURE SCENARIOS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

As the US-China trade and technology war continues to form the political and economic soil on which Global South decisions are made, the South itself sees multiple possible futures based upon such decisions. In general, three sets of political and economic scenarios may unfold, each of which will carry implications for global governance, economic development, and technological sovereignty.

Three Possible Futures for the Global South

Scenario 1: A Polarized World – Aligning with Either the US or China

The current scenario warrants several formulations for choosing between the US and Chinese economic spheres by developing nations, in which they might align themselves either with the West's economic and technological tempo or with China's alternative global networks. This bifurcation can lead to:

- Dependency upon one superpower, thereby limiting its strategic flexibility.
- Economic fragmentation with different digital ecosystems, supply chains, and financial systems emerging independently.
- Enforcement of trade and investment restrictions along the lines of political alignments rather than grounded economic interests.

Scenario 2: Strategic Neutrality – Engaging Both Superpowers

Numerous countries might be pursuing a diversified engagement policy or another strategy under which countries can cooperate with both the US and China, whilst maintaining an autonomous policy. This approach allows:

- Different markets, technologies, and investment sources to be accessed;

- Strengthened negotiation leverage from the ability to propose less-than-favorable trade deals and/or infrastructure investments;
- Consistent diplomatic flexibility in shaping multilateral institutions and the rules of global trade.

Scenario 3: Regional Integration – Strengthening South-South Cooperation

The third pathway is about regional economic and technological collaboration among Global South nations, which would entail:

- Emphasizing intra-regional trade agreements to curb reliance on external superpower interests.
- Strengthening regional finance institutions, digital platforms, and innovation incubators.
- Establishing collective bargaining power over global trade and technology governance.

Key Policy Recommendations for the Global South

The developing countries should take proactive policy initiatives to strengthen economic resilience and governance autonomy to navigate those issues successfully:

- **Establishing Indigenous Technological Capabilities:** Investing in STEM education as well as improving the digital infrastructure and research funding to lessen dependence on technology from other countries. One such example among various industrial policies to ensure self-sufficiency is India's Production-Linked Incentive scheme for electronics manufacturing.
- **Strengthening Regional Economic and Digital Alliances:** Such as opening trade blocs like RCEP, AfCFTA, and Mercosur for South-South Cooperation. Examples include digital trade frameworks that Africa has started establishing, led by AfCFTA.
- **Common Cybersecurity Framework Formulation:** An essential component of national digital sovereignty embodies the acceptance of the common laws on data protection, governance of AI standards, and sovereign protection from collaboration in cybersecurity.

A regional undertaking like the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 reconciles the dichotomy relating to economic growth versus digital security.

Thus, with the adoption of such policies, the Global South will be able to insulate itself against risks, maximize opportunities, and actively influence the future of global governance and economic development.

CONCLUSION

The trade-and-technology war between America and China is fundamentally changing the global economic and geopolitical landscape, with the new Global South as heftily settled on the scene of this change. Increasing intensity of competition between the two superpowers, along with an emerging complex scenario of economic realignments, supply chain reconfigurations, issues concerning digital sovereignty, and political pressure, has forced many developing nations into contention.

An important learning from the study is that while the Global South faces ointments of risk, it also holds considerable agency in shaping the future of global governance by using strategic trade diversification, investments in domestic technology ecosystems, boosting regional cooperation, and maintaining flexible diplomacy that can reduce vulnerabilities while leveraging new avenues. The developing ground for

South-South trade alliances, regional digital infrastructure projects, and independent innovation hubs emphasizes the slow but steady shift toward increased self-sufficiency economically and technologically.

Active governance, regional cohesion, and fostering institutional capacity-building will determine success in the longer term. Hence, the fortification of the Global South's position in multilateral organizations such as WTO, UNCTAD, BRICS, and RCEP increases its ability to shape global decision-making processes. Furthermore, the iron balance of power to be maintained in cybersecurity, digital regulation, and investment policies will serve as the greatest channel through which to safeguard national interest with respect to both the US and China.

This is the challenge presented to developing nations by the future: asserting what they consider their economic sovereignty without falling into the trap of over-dependence on either superpower. Regional integration, promotion of local innovation, and what the Global South must fight for in the transformation of the international trade and technology governance system make the Global South a independent force in the multipolar world.

In the end, it will be shaped not simply by the United States and China but by how well the Global South itself rides this changing competition to turn difficulty into opportunity.

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