

CHANGING GLOBAL POLITICS UNDER TRUMP PRESIDENCY: A THEORETICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Donald Trump's election slogan was "Make America great again," which means boosting the economy by raising US production, taking a tough stance against foreign allies, and taking hardline policies on immigration. Major policy decisions of Trump administration have a great impact on US bilateral relationships with other countries as well as on global political dynamics. This research aims to analyze how his policies are affecting the global balance of power through the window of Hegemonic stability theory (HST). HST indicates that the international system is more likely to remain stable when a single state is the dominant world power or a hegemon. This theory has successfully proved its point regarding the rise and fall of the world's known hegemons. According to HST, the declining process includes the presence of a rising power which exceeds the hegemon in a number of areas like the economy or military strength. Today China and the rising powers challenge the hegemonic position of the US strongly. Withdrawal from International institutions and agreements (UNESCO, Paris Climate Agreement and Iran deal), deteriorating relation with traditional EU allies; tough stance regarding NATO, loathness for Free Trade Agreements like TPP or NAFTA are the examples of Trump's major foreign policy decisions. After the US's withdrawal from multilateral treaties other countries like the EU and China are taking the responsibility of these agreements. Thus, there remains no vacuum of leadership which the USA had created by denying it's responsibly towards the world. Economic ties between EU and Asian countries are getting stronger after trade war initiated by Trump against major economies especially China. The finding of this qualitative study shows that US hegemony is gradually decreasing since the 90s, and the process has been accelerated through the policies of Trump administration and paving the way for a new power balancing of global politics.

Keywords: International Relations, Hegemony, Qualitative research, USA