International Academic Institute for Science and Technology

International Academic Journal of Humanities
Vol. 12, No. 3, 2025, pp. 24-31.

ISSN 2454-2245

International Academic Journal of Humanities

www.iaiest.com

A Dynamic Model of International Relations Focused on Geopolitical Shifts and their Economic Implications

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Abstract

This paper discusses the connection between geopolitics and economic influences in terms of a dynamic model of international relations. In case the balance of power between countries varies due to the development of the actively interlinked world, the changing of the balance of power between countries can be considered highly influential to the development of trade structures, investments and economic stability. Nevertheless, it should be noted that these processes are characterized by non-linearity and, thus, require special attention in order to be considered thoroughly. For that reason, this study will introduce the concept of dynamic modeling of international relations which involves taking into account the time component as well as the feedback mechanism and mutual influence of political and economic systems. The proposed research will be conducted through the use of a mixed methodology study when the qualitative assessment of the documents will be combined with the quantitative evaluation of the secondary data on trade flows and foreign direct investment. The result indicates that global economic systems are becoming increasingly dominated by selective interdependence, rather than globalization, whereby countries pursue strategies aimed at achieving both economic integration and resiliency. In addition, the study also defines a strong difference in the way the various areas respond to the changes that occur in geopolitics as compared to the developing regions. The paper concludes that geopolitical shifts, and economic dynamics are very interrelated and can be learned through dynamic and systems approach. This approach can offer a more profound idea of the changes that occurred on a global level and will result in a more accurate comprehension of the future risks and opportunities. The implications of the findings on policy makers are evident in that in an age where geopolitical uncertainty is on the rise, there is a lot that can be done by policy makers in order to come up with robust economic policies.

Keywords: Geopolitical Shifts, International Relations, Dynamic Model, Global Economy, Trade Patterns, Foreign Direct Investment, Economic Resilience.

DOI: 10.71086/IAJH/V12I3/IAJH1211
Received: 14 June, 2025/Revised: 19 July 2025/Accepted: 25 August 2025/Published: 30 September 2025

Introduction

Changes in geopolitics have been on the frontline in defining international relations and economic stability in the world which are increasingly permeated by globalization. Some of the factors that have major effects on the economic performance in terms of investment inflows, supply chain make-ups, and market volatility are the shift in the power structure, strategic alliances, trade policies and regional conflicts (Flint & Xiaotong, 2019). The necessity to study these shifts is explained by the fact that not only policymakers, but also economists, businesses, and international institutions need to comprehend such shifts to be able to predict risks and opportunities in the rapidly changing international environment (Chaudoin et al., 2015). The fact that the international system is increasingly fluid as well as increasingly solid, accentuating the need of analytical frameworks which are able to capture both the fluidity and the solid dimension of the structural aspects of the geopolitical changes (Wang et al., 2024).

Traditional conceptualizations of international relations are often based on the presence of some form of static or linear model of geopolitical interactions that fails to encompass the dynamic and adaptive nature of geopolitical interactions (Ding et al., 2021). A dynamic model approach, in contrast, considers the temporal development, feedback, multi-level interaction between the state and the non-state actors. It is an approach which is slightly less evident in examining how geopolitical factors like shifting allegiances, economic sanctions, and new regional powers take shape and affect the economy through a cascade process. Its dynamic nature helps model how these relationships develop and affect each other in terms of politics and economics.

The significance of the study is in obtaining an overall view of the effect of geopolitical changes on global economic structure through the use of dynamics and systems theory. The research is not in the traditional framework of static theories of international relations that exist in today's rapidly changing multipolar international environment characterized by strategic competition and economic division. Rather, the research provides a dynamic model of global changes which can be analyzed. The study makes a contribution both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the study adds value to the international relations body of knowledge through feedback loops and time dynamics considering economic variables. The research may be used as one way of bridging the gap between political science and economics as well as providing a holistic view of global changes. Practically, the findings have high applicability value in terms of policy makers, international organizations, and firms since it reveals the potential risks associated with disruptions in supply chain, trade fragmentation, and re-allocation of investments because of geopolitical tension.

Also, the paper highlights the need for regional adaptation policies and exposes a number of gaps in the reaction of the developed versus the developing countries to global events. This information is crucial when designing effective economic policies. In summary, this research is very helpful in developing an analysis method of predicting future geopolitical risks and their economic consequences in a highly volatile international environment.

This paper utilizes a dynamic theory of international relations with the aim of gaining insight on how geopolitical changes affect economics. The paper tries to examine how political events shape international trade, investments, and the overall economic stability in the world. The main thesis statement of the paper is that geopolitics, when analyzed in a dynamic and systemic manner, shows some of the most tangible and predictable economic implications.

Key Contribution

- Proposes dynamic model structure that integrates the geopolitical change with economic outcome in view of the feedback loop and time-based analysis.
- Demonstrates that recent alterations in power (especially the rise of China and evolving U.S. policies) are changing the pattern of global trade and investment.
- Determines how selective interdependence and regionalization are some of the new trends that are replacing traditional globalization.
- Brings out differences in regional adaptation to geopolitical changes, emphasizing differences between developed and developing economies in terms of economic resilience.

The article is separated into eight sections. Section II examines the literature on geopolitical changes and economic dynamics, which are relevant to the study. The theory and dynamic model are presented in section III. Section IV shows the methodology of the research. Section V discusses the selected case studies. The major findings are presented in Section VI. Section VII contains a discussion and interpretation and Section VIII contains some conclusions in the implications and direction of future research.

Literature Survey

Recent literature points out the increasing sophistication of geopolitical changes and their extensive incorporation into the world economic systems. The process of multiploidization of the world order and the formation of international relationships under the influence of shifting alliances and the strategic competition are the issues of concern of modern literature. The previous studies also argue that the current world disorder is a change of paradigm of international relations and that it requires more adaptive and dynamic theoretical explanations (Muhammad, 2023; Luo, 2024). This analysis supports these views by showing how geopolitical factors are the direct cause of international trading patterns, beyond the explanations which are purely market-based (Barbieri, 2024; Sattich et al., 2021).

The discussion of the intersection of geopolitics and economies based on the concept of geoeconomics is one of the main streams of literature. These studies explain why states are increasingly employing economic instruments such as sanctions, trade policies and investment controls as a form of power (Scholvin & Wigell, 2018; Wigell & Vihma, 2016). Similarly, it highlights that economic interdependence between the United States and China is transforming and how strategic competition is reinventing the global supply chains (Wyne, 2022; Hommel & Murphy, 2013). This is further elaborated in another study which is the Belt and Road Initiative of China which is a mixture of infrastructure investment and geopolitical influence (Li, 2020; Pflugmann & De Blasio, 2020).

Other new dimensions are the geotechnology and techno-geopolitical uncertainty brought about by the new studies (Nedelcu, 2024; Luo & Van Assche, 2023). It defends this by underlining the significance of technological advancements in changing international relations (Drezner, 2019). Also, these works underline the significance of crucial resources and energy security in the process of shaping geopolitical strategies and economic dependencies (Ibekwe et al., 2024; Vivoda et al., 2024). It also demonstrates how the geopolitical conflicts such as the war between Russia and Ukraine influence the energy policies and economic discussions in Europe (Wiertz et al., 2023).

Despite these contributions, there is also a gap in the literature in integrating these varied views into a coherent framework of analysis. Most of the studies focus either on the geopolitical theory or the performance of the economy on its own. The study addresses this gap by proposing a dynamic model that considers the feedback loop and the changing interactions between geopolitical changes and the economic systems that provides a more comprehensive understanding of the current international relations.

Theoretical Framework

Geopolitical shifts are the dramatic shifts in the shift of power, influence, and strategic interests among nations and regions over time. Such changes may be due to differences in economic growth, technological variations, military variations, policy variations or world crises. The extent of their influence on the balance of world powers is enormous, and can very often lead to the restructuring of alliances, the formation of new centers of power, and the reorganization of international norms and institutions. The fact that the establishment of new economies and the relative decrease in the traditional powers can alter the patterns of decisions in the global governance, and the conflicts and strategic competition in the region can redefine the trade routes and energy security as well as investment flows. Thus, the geopolitical changes are not single political events but rather systematic changes with extensive economic and institutional repercussions.

Theoretical models of international relations that are currently present may be used to contribute the theoretical input to understand such changes. The rivalry of power and state-centered interests is concerned with realism, and geopolitical change is regarded as the result of the rivalry of power and state-centered interests. Conversely, Liberalism emphasizes collaboration, interdependence and the functions of international institutions in lessening strife and increasing economic integration. Constructivism presents the ideational elements, identity, norms and discussion, in the determination of the state behavior. Such models, useful as it is, are more likely to assume relatively fixed or partied approaches and thus constrain their ability to capture the dynamism, interconnectedness, and feedback-drivenness of the contemporary processes of geopolitics. In addition to this, the traditional models might lack the capability of dynamically integrating the political variables and economic variables and, therefore, limit their predictive and explanatory abilities.

To overcome these shortcomings, this paper develops a dynamic model as a more dynamic and versatile model of analysis. The dynamic model involves the temporal development, non-linear interaction and feedback between the geopolitical processes and economic performance. It allows the continuing assessment of the impacts of change in political power to economic systems and vice versa in a mutually reinforcing loop. The ideas of systems theory and computational modeling are included in the framework and can, therefore, be specifically applied in studying the contemporary international relations. This would not only enhance the knowledge of the geopolitical changes but also

provide a more concrete base on which the changes and their economic effects can be predicted and used to make strategic decisions.

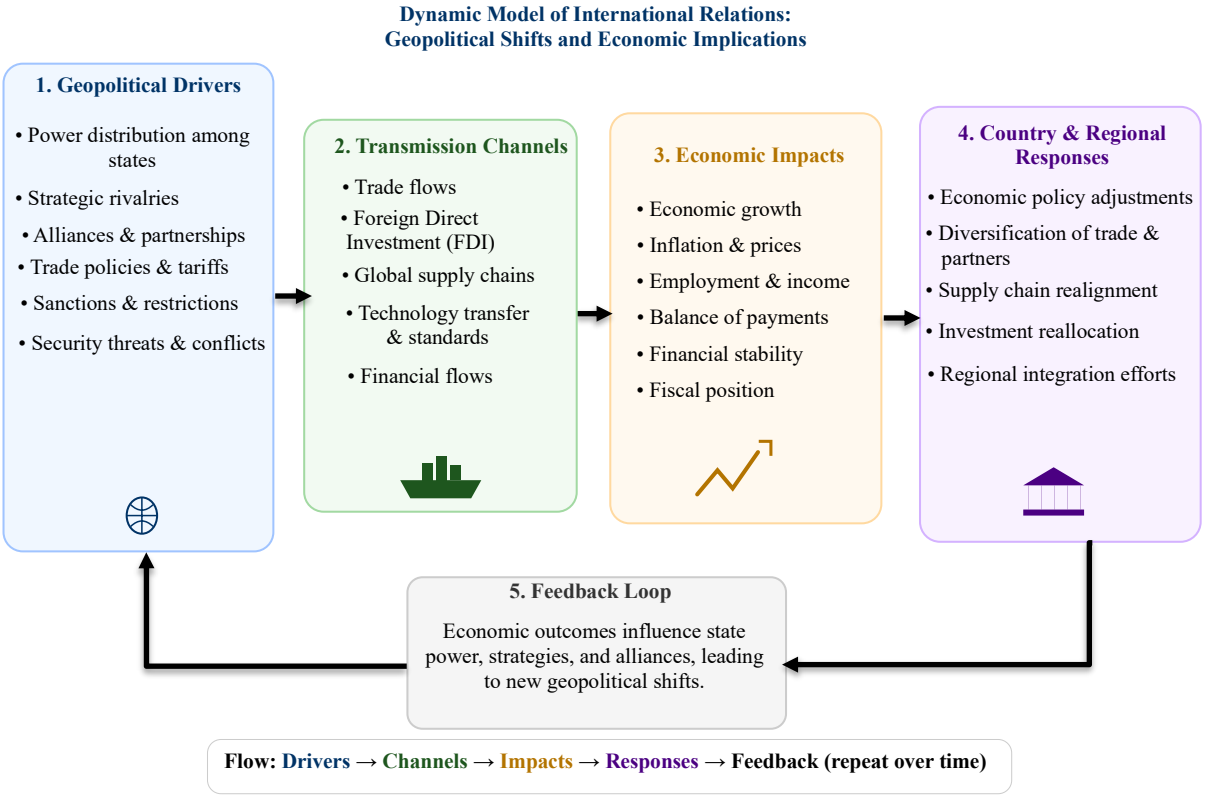


Fig. 1: Dynamic Geopolitical and Economic Interactions Model

Fig.1 presents the dynamicity of the relationship between geopolitical changes and their economic implications. It identifies the following important factors: power distribution among states, trade, foreign direct investment (FDI), sanctions, alliances, supply chains, and macroeconomic effects. Feedback loops reveal the interactions of these variables over time, the dynamic nature of global geopolitical changes, and the economic impacts it produces.

Methodology

The current research design is a mixed-methods research design to investigate and discuss geopolitical changes and the economic impact of these changes. Policy documents, strategic reports, and institutional publications of such organizations as the World Bank, IMF, UNCTAD, and regional organizations were analyzed using the qualitative analysis. This is complemented with quantitative analysis of secondary data, including trade volumes, foreign direct investment (FDI) flows, and indicators of economic growth within the last 20 years. An analysis of patterns and disruptions related to major geopolitical events is done through time-series analysis, and cross-regional evaluation of economic responses is done through comparative analysis. Furthermore, case studies are used as well to provide a more contextual approach. The case studies include the key geopolitical events that took place in the past such as the rise of China, strategic repositioning of the United States, and the regional economic integration models. This is an assurance of rigorous and rich analysis of the dynamic processes occurring globally.

Despite its decorative design, the research is likely to be subject to certain limitations and potential biases. Firstly, secondary data sources may create discrepancies since some of the institutions have dissimilar methodologies in data collection. Second, geopolitical phenomena are complex and prone to unpredictable events that might be difficult to be included in structured data, e.g., sudden conflict, change of policy or technological disruption. Third, interpretive bias risk in the qualitative analysis is present, and it is more likely to be present when determining policy intents, or other countries strategic discourses. These have been overcome by ensuring that there is a balanced representation of the perspectives across regions and through the process of triangulation- cross-verifying information available on two or more credible sources. The findings should however look upon with the feeling of these intrinsic constraints.

It uses the dynamic model framework on the case studies by considering both the dynamic aspect (temporal) and the dynamic aspect (relational) of the geopolitical and economic relationship. In particular, the model traces the key variables with time, which are the power distribution, the intensity of trade, and the flows of investments. The geopolitical events (e.g., change in policy, formation of an alliance, or economic agreement) are regarded as dynamic inputs in each case study and can influence economic outputs which in turn can influence the future geopolitical decisions. This analysis is performed in a systems-based approach to enable the study to close non-linear effects and dynamic interdependencies. Applying the dynamic model to different areas and contexts, the research indicates that it is very flexible and can be used to explain the numerous economic outcomes that occur as a result of geopolitical changes.

Case Studies

The latest geopolitical events give tangible examples of how the changes in the dynamics of world powers can be converted into quantifiable economic implications. Among the most dramatic is the rise of China as a major player in the economy as well as geopolitics and the relative rebalancing, as opposed to absolute decline, of the role played by the United States in certain aspects. The rapid rate of economic growth, institutional projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and the increasing magnitude of the role in multilateral organizations have altered the character of global trade networks and patterns of investments. Indicatively, China has become the largest trading partner to over 120 countries, which has radically reversed the traditional trade balances, which had been dominated by the Western economies. Meanwhile, the U.S. has returned to less globalization and more selective economic decoupling, by shifting to strategic economic policies, including the concept of friend-shoring and the technology export controls, in particular in areas such as semiconductors.

These geopolitical developments also have had serious repercussions to the global economic trends. The direction of trade patterns has been towards regionalization and strategic alignment as Asia has taken a centre stage in manufacturing and supply chain integration. The intra-Asian trade has been enhanced by the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which is partially led by China, whilst the Western world economies have sought alternative frameworks to eliminate the dependence on single countries of supply chains (Park, 2024). The phenomenon of foreign direct investment (FDI) has been discovered to be becoming more and more fragmented in terms of investment flows and capital is increasingly being directed towards politically aligned or rather low-risk regions. Using developing Asia as the example, the flows of global FDI continued to be robust, and flows to some of the politically unstable or strategically contested regions dropped. In addition, regulatory restrictions and issues of national security that have grown between the two nations, the U.S. and China have also affected cross-border investments, in particular, the high-technology industries.

An overview of the area, in particular, also reveals that there was a diverse response to the shifting geopolitical realities. Europe In Europe, a strategy of strategic autonomy has been developed by the European Union, as it tries to strike a balance between economic cooperation with China and maintaining transatlantic relationships with the U.S. The same could be said about policies for increasing supply chain resiliency and digital sovereignty (Abdulhadi, 2024). These countries in Southeast Asia have employed hedge strategies, enabling them to remain economically connected with China while at the same time enjoying their security connection with the United States. In doing so, it managed to benefit from both powers yet were not wholly dependent on them (Anwar, 2020). Other regions around the globe, like Africa, have increased their interaction with China as part of the BRI initiative, despite some issues surrounding debt sustainability and dependence. This contrast in reaction highlights the idea that the impact of geopolitical change is not necessarily homogeneous among the countries but rather depends on regional location, institutions, and priorities in the economic sphere.

Overall, these case studies indicate the dynamic aspect of the interplay between geopolitical change and economic transformation. It shows that the alterations in the strength of the world do not merely represent a political phenomenon, but are deeply rooted in the changes in the structures of the trade, investment policy, and regional economic policy.

Findings

The analysis shows that the economic consequences of geopolitical shifts are massive and multidimensional and mainly affect the global trade systems, the allocation of investments, and the methods of providing economic security. Among the most notable findings is that the shifts in power, especially the emergence of China and the strategic repositioning of the United States, have slightly contributed to the acceleration of the fragmentation of global

economic integration. The global economy is becoming more and more a system of selective interdependence, with countries maintaining economic links and, at the same time, pursuing strategic diversification in key sectors such as technology, energy, and defense-related industries. This has led to parallel supply chain networks emerging, as well as a shift in focus toward economic resilience as opposed to efficiency.

The second notable point is that the change in the world pattern of trade and investment is evident. The increase in geographical localization of trade has been more intense, with economies of Asia-Pacific strengthening intra-regional trade linkages by agreement, such as RCEP, and Western economies by strengthening transatlantic and nearshoring arrangements. The foreign direct investment is also becoming more and more politically sensitive; capital is getting more and more directed towards geopolitically secure and strategically aligned areas. There has also been observed to be a new form of competitive restructuring of the economy which is driven by a technology-based competition particularly in semiconductors, artificial intelligence and green technologies.

The article also finds out the various regional trends of reactions towards the geopolitical transformation. A middle ground between economic openness and strategically regulating the economy has been embraced in developed economies including the European Union, especially in the critical supply chains. Emerging economies especially those in Southeast Asia practice adaptive hedging behavior whereby it engages in economic interactions with various major powers so as to reap maximum development benefits whilst minimally risky dependencies. By contrast, developing countries like some parts of Africa as well as Latin America are increasingly becoming asymmetrically dependent on the major geopolitical actors, especially in terms of infrastructure financing and resource-based trade relationships. These trends emphasize the fact that the reaction to geopolitical changes is not homogeneous but is conditioned by the domestic potential, the power of institutions, and priorities in the strategy.

In a larger sense, the results indicate that geopolitical processes are becoming increasingly integrated into the economic structure, so that it is hardly possible to separate political and economic analysis of international relations. This confirms the applicability of dynamic modeling methods that consider feedback processes between the political choices and the economic consequences.

Implications for Future Research and Policy-Making

The findings in future study are that more integrated models are required that encompass both geopolitical analysis and real-time economic data, and more so using computational and systems-based methods. Further studies could examine predictive modelling of geopolitical risk and how it impacts on the global financial markets. Policy-wise, governments and global agencies need to emphasis on resilience-building policies, including diversified supply chains, multilateral risk-sharing systems, and adaptive trade policies. This can also be used to curb the destabilizing effects of geopolitical fragmentation and maintain economic interdependence by enhancing regional systems of cooperation.

Discussion

The findings point at the fact that geopolitical changes are transforming the international relations into a more fragmented and multipolar one, with the economic and political dynamics being closely related to each other. The rise of China and the ongoing place of the United States depict the change in the unipolar system to a more complicated international system. This change is redefining the way in which states are interacting economically where globalization is increasingly being replaced with selective interdependence and strategic economic alignment. The politicization of economic activities is one of the key findings that can be observed. The national security considerations are now playing a significant role in the trade, investment, and technology flows, which are now using restrictions, sanctions and regulatory controls in increasing numbers. Though it aids in attaining strategic resilience, it is also linked to inefficiencies and progressive restructuring of global supply chains. It is also indicated that there were unequal reactions to the problem regionally. The developed economies are more adaptive capacity based on the diversification and strategic autonomy, and the developing economies are more vulnerable because of structural constraints. An imbalance of this type can be used to increase the global disparities in the long term.

Theoretically, the study confirms that the current versions of international relations cannot be explicated by applying the classical versions of international relations. The dynamic model is more representative of the feedback mechanisms and changing relationships between geopolitical and economic systems. Overall, the discussion shows that more integrated and flexible structures of approaches to geopolitics and the global economy in general are required to understand and respond to the constantly shifting relationship between geopolitics and the global economy in general.

Conclusion

This paper explored the connection between geopolitical changes and its economic consequences using a dynamic model of international relations. The main results are that current world politics has become more and more multipolar, strategic, and selective instead of globalization. The emergence of China as a great economic and geopolitical force, along with the redefined role of the United States, has radically changed the world trade networks, investment flows, and supply chains structures. These changes have resulted in a gradual disintegration of the global economic integration, with nations engaging in economic integration, and at the same time, the nation's pursue a strategy of reducing their vulnerability, and also increasing their resilience. The study also discovered that economic reaction to geopolitical transformation is extremely imbalanced both regionally and nationally. It appears that while the developed economies will likely take advantage of strategies such as reshoring, nearshoring and strategic autonomy, the emerging and developing economies will continue using hedging approaches or remain more dependent on the most powerful world nations. This shift clearly shows the disparity between the capacity of various countries to deal with geopolitical risks, the role of which becomes increasingly important, alongside with institutional strength and policy flexibility, as the main instruments to face the challenge posed by geopolitical risk management. At the same time, one more interesting finding emerged according to which there is an apparent trend of connecting economics and national security issues and economic decisions are often influenced by the issues of national security. Such results are important since it enable to comprehend the dynamics of international relations in the ever-changing global environment. Thus, this paper proves that the two systems of geopolitics and economics are closely connected. This approach offers a more practical perspective to analyze global changes compared to other theories, which have failed to prove their versatility. In addition, it offers great lessons for the policymakers trying to navigate through the times of uncertainty in order to establish sustainable economic policies amid geopolitical competition. There are possibilities for more research on the same theme incorporating data analytics, artificial intelligence, and prediction modeling to forecast geopolitical and economic risks in the future. Sector-specific geopolitical considerations like energy security, digital economy geopolitics, and climate geopolitics can also be explored further. Moreover, longitudinal studies on world power systems and economic systems can offer more insights into the dynamics of world power systems and economic systems.

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