

Evaluate the extent to which the rise of other states has diminished the US as the global hegemonic power.

(30 marks)

Power can be defined as the ability to exert influence over others; ~~this~~ a country's power can be aided by a number of things, including ~~the~~ ^{the state's} economy, resources, military might and allies. In this sense, a global hegemonic power would imply a unipolar world order whereby ~~ex~~ a single superpower is able to exert dominance over the international system, without considerable threat from other states. Since ~~at the end of the cold war~~, the US has since the success of America in the cold war, the US has held considerable power over world order, however, in recent years, this hegemony has increasingly been brought into question, particularly with regard to the closest potential contender of the US; China.

Since the introduction of economic reforms in 1978, China has been one of the world's fastest growing economies, and currently ~~is~~ ^{has} the second largest ^{GDP}, though already overtaking ~~the~~ the US on measures of PPP. It is not only China's economy which poses a possible threat ~~to~~ the US global hegemony, but also its military might, which is increasingly growing and evolving, e.g. with the development of its supersonic ~~in~~ nuclear missiles. ~~Additionally,~~ China's military is expected to continue growing also, with realist Mearsheimer suggesting China could turn their economic power into further military strength. Nevertheless, many academics have suggested China's ^{threat to US hegemony} ~~power in practice~~ to be over exaggerated. ~~the US~~ ~~at~~ Despite China's economic progress, this is unlikely to be continuous, at least at current rates, due to its rapidly aging population, inhibiting their ~~abilities~~ productive abilities. ~~As such,~~ ~~it is primarily China's economic capabilities which pose a threat to US power, but with this unlikely to continue~~

at similar rates in the future, it is unlikely to overtake America as a global power. This is because Additionally, despite the military strength of China, it still does not compare to America's that of the US and their spending budget on ~~the~~ military and defence, and ^{furthermore} the lack of trust in China as a global actor ~~is~~ inhibits its chances of becoming a global hegemon; having still not fully accepted liberal democracy ideas. As such, it is primarily China's economic abilities which pose a threat to US power; but with this unlikely to continue at ^{current} ~~sustained~~ rates, in the future, it is unlikely to overtake America as a global hegemon.

It is not only China, but also others, including Russia, Brazil and India, which are helping to contribute to an increasingly multipolar world. Russia in particular has gained great influence over certain parts of the globe, especially within the middle East. Russia has acquired eminent power over this area through the use of smart power, which Joseph Nye argued to be most effective. Through military force, arms deals and soft economic power, ^{including being the main energy supplier,} providing energy, Russia have been able to ^{arguably} ~~possibly~~ gain hegemony of the middle East, suggesting the lack of importance of the US in this area; thus, not acting as a 'global' hegemon. ^{Additionally,} ~~However,~~ although much of Eastern Europe does rely on Russia for their energy supplies, ~~giving~~ allowing Russia influence over further territories. However, once Eastern Europe becomes self-sufficient, Russia will lose substantial influence over the area. ~~And~~ Similarly, the power that Russia holds over the middle East has only been made possible as a result of the US withdrawing from the region, and thus if America tries to regain control, Russia could lose this influence too. Nevertheless,

as it stands, Russia ~~is~~ a threat to the supposed hegemonic power of the US due to its smart power strategies which have succeeded in the middle East.

Brazil is in many ways considered to be an emerging power with great potential, primarily due to its ^{being rich in} significant ~~presence~~ natural resources, such as timber, oil and gold. These resources allow Brazil a significant presence on the world stage with prominent importance to other ~~states~~ states. However, to access much of the natural resources in Brazil, especially within the Amazon, mass deforestation has been undergone; ~~to~~ which has been more easily enabled by the President's de-regulation on logging and farming of the Amazon which can be seen to encourage such acts and industries. As a result of this, due to the extensive ecological and environmental effects of the deforestation, Brazil has ~~to~~ struggled to engage with many western leaders and face the possibility of further marginalisation if they continue. Nevertheless, Brazil's populist leader aims to make Brazil economically independent, ~~and~~ away from the US, and so they may not see this as as much a problem. This also demonstrates now, by attempting to ~~move~~ become independent of the US, Brazil may be able to 'free' itself of the ^{power} ~~control~~ the US seems to have over much of the world. ~~Despite~~ Despite this, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ Brazil ~~seems~~ is likely to pose no threat to the hegemonic powers of the US; even with its ~~growing~~ rising influence within international ~~org~~ organisations, as a member of G20 and USAN; its ~~economy~~ ability to exert power, although growing, is unlikely to come anywhere close to the abilities of the US.

demonstrates

Another 'rising power', with great economic potential, is India. With the 5th largest GDP and fastest growing economy in 2015 and 2018, India has become a ^{potential} key player on the international stage. Additionally, India is the home to the second largest military, ~~through it~~ and tends to exert smart power, which Joseph Nye claims to be most effective. These two power sources seem promising, however with a closer look, it is clear that India ~~can~~ ^{is} not able to put this to use for various reasons, one being its exclusion from the international system. India ~~is excluded~~ ^{does not} have a place in India can be seen to be left out of key decision making bodies and international organisations; ~~such as~~ ^{they are} ~~the~~ ~~UN~~ ~~Security~~ ~~Council~~ a permanent member of the UN security council, and ~~is~~ not a member of the G7, despite having a larger GDP than two of its members (Italy and Canada); this hugely limits India's power capabilities, ~~ingoring way to~~ ~~the~~ ~~US~~ ~~to~~ ~~continue~~ ~~dominating~~ ~~the~~ ~~system~~. ~~in~~ ~~comparison~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~US~~. By contrast, the US dominates much of the international system through its organisations, for example, ~~having~~ ^{through} having a majority of the voting rights in the IMF. As such, the US is able to exert ^{power} ~~and~~ through international organisations of which India is excluded from, disabling them from having a larger role on the world stage despite potential.

Although ~~that~~ ^{it is} evident that the ~~role~~ ^{power} of the US ~~has~~ ^{is being} challenged and they certainly don't ^{possess} ~~have~~ the global hegemonic powers which they did post-cold war, ^{in terms of military, economic and relations capabilities,} the US does remain the single most important actor on the global stage. Even where the power of the US has been challenged, ~~by~~ ^{by} the rise of Brazil and India; as partners of the US, it has been suggested that this has actually enhanced America's power. Nevertheless, in today's globalised world, there is continuing evidence suggesting we are moving away from a unipolar world order.