

# The Powerful Competition of China and the United States in Asia and the world

Mealea Keo<sup>1\*</sup>, Sovannara Em<sup>2</sup>, Socheat Sek<sup>3</sup>

1\*Corresponding Author: Khemarak University, email: [keomelael68@gmail.com](mailto:keomelael68@gmail.com)

2 Royal Academy of Cambodia, email: [emsovannara@gmail.com](mailto:emsovannara@gmail.com)

3 Norton University, email: [socheat.sek@gmail.com](mailto:socheat.sek@gmail.com)

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## Abstract

The geopolitical rivalry between China and the United States grew and sparked the political, economic, and security challenges worldwide. This paper argued China's major initiatives, such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Made in China 2025, which aimed to strengthen its influence in the fields of infrastructure, technology, and the global economy. The United States used a variety of strategies, including economic sanctions, trade wars, and strengthening military alliances, to contain China's growing influence in the region and the world. The impact of the rivalry in key regions, such as Africa, Latin America, and the Indo-Pacific, was that both countries preferred to compete through investment and diplomacy. The central ideological perspective of this rivalry focused on the global strategy between democracy and communism. The risks and opportunities in cooperation between China and the United States, through a focus on multilateral diplomacy and conflict resolution, were highlighted. Cambodia was considered a country in Southeast Asia that did not play a significant strategic role in power struggles, and Cambodia needed to strengthen its relations with the two superpowers with a sense of urgency.

**Key words:** *Powerful competition, international, influence, economy, strategy, geopolitics*

## 1. Introduction

After the end of the Cold War, the situation seemed to calm down for a while. This situation soon turned into a new heat wave with the rise of a country with an ancient culture, a vast territory and the largest population in the world, namely China. 21st century was an era of globalization, an era of competition in trade, technology, science and economic expansion of the superpowers, especially the United States. At the same time, after surpassing Japan, China was the second largest country in the world after the United States in terms of economy, which the world saw as a competition that led to economic crises or instability in security and order from the world, due to the strengthening of its hegemony by the United States and the desire to reorganize the order of China in Asia. This was an analysis of the competition between China and the United States - focusing on the influence and power competition between

China and the United States. The article described how the growing influence of two countries affected the international balance, especially in the security and economic sectors of the Asia-Pacific region. This research can help to develop the effective strategies for diplomacy, governance, and international coordination to prevent conflicts and maintain global security in the region and Cambodia.

## **2. Conceptual Framework of Literature**

### ***2.1 Recall the theory and Diplomatic Relations***

The power struggle between China and the United States was explained in terms of a number of international relations and geopolitical theories. These explained the behavior of two countries and various dimensions of the power struggle. The explanation of this struggle could be based on the main theories. Realism emphasized the struggle for power and national security, minimizing the possibility of cooperation between the two states. However, realism could interpret the competition between China and the United States from the perspective of the “security factor” that understands that war was inevitable. Liberalism focused on interdependence of countries and role of international institutions in promoting cooperation to ensure peace. Liberalism emphasized economic and trade issues of China-US relations.

Constructivism focused on the identities, norms, and ideas that drove the state behavior in organizing international relations. It explained the neutrality and ideological positions of states such as China and the United States. In addition, centralist theory believed that the international system was a society in which states cooperate with each other, with a peaceful and united character. Geopolitical Theory analyzed the control of national organizations over the territory. Friedrich Ratzel and Halford Mackinder developed theories on the control of large mountain ranges and heartlands.

Neo-Marxism interpreted that the main cause of competition in international relations was capitalism and development relations. Likely, Thucydides Trap analyzed the threat of power struggles between a new, rising power (China) and an existing power (the United States), which led to conflict. Democratic Peace Theory believed that democracies were always at war with each other, and that the growth of democratic states would increase peace. Economic Interdependence theory emphasized international economic interdependence, with the specific agreements on maintaining peace. World-System Theory analyzed global international relations as a whole as a core-periphery system and economic sectors controlled by influential countries.

Sino-US diplomatic relations officially began in 1979 under the “One China” principle, which recognized Beijing as the legitimate administration of China. After the Cold War, the relationship developed through gradual cooperation, while at times experiencing tensions. Diplomatic relations between China and

the United States were formally established under the leadership of President Jimmy Carter and Chinese Supreme Leader Deng Xiaoping. The Cold War moved towards effective engagement under the constraints of normalizing relations between countries (Jie 2005). The establishment of formal relations in 1979 marked a significant shift from the previous two decades, which were characterized by hostility and mutual antagonism during the Cold War. The relationship was strongly driven by shared opposition to Soviet influence and efforts to maintain strategic balance by both countries. At the same time, they also initiated new political relations to make the world system more peaceful and developed.

## ***2.2 Economic and Trade Engagement***

With the China's Economic and Trade Strengthening, China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 created major trade opportunities, but also created inequalities and intellectual property issues. The trade war between China and the United States under Trump administration highlighted the deeper nature of trade issues. China's entry into the WTO in 2001 was a pivotal moment for both countries. U.S. businesses saw opportunities for investment, market access, and access to the low-cost manufacturing, while China benefited from an influx of foreign capital, technology, and expertise, transforming itself into the "factory of the world." The China-U.S. trade relationship grew to become one of the most important bilateral trading relationships in the world, although trade imbalanced and concerned about the intellectual property rights persist (Lawrence 2006).

China's WTO membership led to significant growth in trade between the two nations, but also led to increased tensions, particularly over issues such as trade deficits and allegations of the unfair trade practices. This economic relationship laid the foundation for later conflicts, particularly over tariffs and trade imbalances. After China officially joined the WTO, trade relations between the United States and China grew significantly, and the United States also changed its economic relations with China to combat significant global trade competition. China developed a strategy to balance its regional trade with the RCEP agreement. RCEP was supported by China, which saw it as a successful move for Beijing to expand its influence across the region and establish its dominance over Asian trade. The RCEP agreement, which was established in 2012, was a trade agreement between the 10 ASEAN countries plus China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, and India (which withdrew from the agreement in 2019). The agreement covered a population of about 2.1 billion. The member countries of the agreement had a gross domestic product (GDP) equivalent to about 30% of the world's total GDP (khmer.voanews.com 2020).

The aim of the agreement was to lower tariffs, open up trade in services, and promoted investment to help developing countries catch up with the rest of the world. In particular, the RCEP agreement was expected to reduce costs and time for companies by allowing them to export products to signatory countries without having to meet separate requirements for each country. The agreement also focused on intellectual property rights, but would not address environmental protections or labor rights. The RCEP was important because it created new trade rules for the region and had the support of China but not the participation of the United States. The agreement reinforced China's broader geopolitical ambitions in a region where it had little competition from the United States since US President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). At the time, the TPP was on track to become the world's largest trade deal until Washington withdrew, claiming that the deal would cost US jobs.

However, the RCEP was not as comprehensive as the TPP or Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). "This is not a fully-fledged agreement," said Alexander Capri, a trade expert at the School of Business at the National University of Singapore. "The problem with RCEP is that there are 15 countries with very different stages of development and priorities in their countries." (khmer.voanews.com). India, meanwhile, withdrew from the agreement in 2019, citing concerns about cheap Chinese goods flowing into the country, although it could join later. India expressed concerns about market access, fearing that its companies or manufacturing plants could be hit hard if cheap Chinese goods flowed into the country. Textiles, dairy and agriculture were considered the three most vulnerable industries for India.

BRIC group was formed in 2009, providing a platform for member states to challenge the US-led global order. The group currently had five members, such as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. It was claimed that 40 countries expressed interest in joining the group at its 15th annual summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 22 to 24 August 2023. The acronym BRIC, which initially did not include the letter S for South Africa, was first coined in 2001 by Jim O'Neill, chief economist at Goldman Sachs, in a study of the economic growth potential of four countries: Brazil, Russia, India and China. The BRIC group was then established as an informal club in 2009, providing a platform for member states to challenge the US-led global order and its Western allies. The grouping was initiated by Russia. To date, BRICS was not a formal multilateral organization like the United Nations, the World Bank (WB) or the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). However, the leaders of the BRICS member countries hold annual summits, and each country holds the rotating presidency for a year. Brazil, Russia, India

and China are the founding members of BRIC. South Africa, the smallest member in terms of economic influence and population, was the first country to expand its membership of BRIC in 2010. With the participation of South Africa, BRIC became BRICS (thmeythmey.com 2023).

The group currently comprised more than 40 percent of world's population and a quarter of the world's economy. In addition to geopolitical issues, the group also focused on other issues: economic cooperation and strengthening multilateral development and trade cooperation. In addition, BRICS worked on the principle of consensus. All countries in BRICS were members of the G20, the group of 20 largest developed and emerging economies in the world. According to South Africa, the rotating presidency of BRICS in 2023, more than 40 countries expressed their interest in joining the forum. Among these countries were Iran, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Algeria, Bolivia, Indonesia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Cuba, the Republic of Congo, Comoros, Gabon, and Kazakhstan. These countries saw BRICS as an alternative to global institutions that they perceived to be dominated by Western powers. They hoped that BRICS membership would help them achieve many benefits, including capital for development and strengthening trade and investment relations (thmeythmey.com 2023).

Developing countries' discontent with the global order grew since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, partly because rich countries stockpiled vaccines at a time when many needed them to fight the pandemic. Iran, which owned about a quarter of the Middle East's oil reserves, expressed hope that a BRICS membership mechanism would be agreed soon. Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter and unofficial leader of OPEC, was among more than a dozen countries that participated in the "Friends of BRICS" dialogue in Cape Town in June 2023, also receiving the support from BRICS members. Meanwhile, Argentina in July 2022 said it received formal support from China in its bid to join BRICS. Ethiopia, one of Africa's fastest-growing economies, said in June 2023 that it applied to join BRICS. President Luis Arce of Bolivia expressed interest in BRICS membership and was expected to attend the group's summit. The Bolivian government said in July 2023 that it committed to reducing its reliance on the dollar for trade and instead increasing the use of the yuan, a move in line with the BRICS leaders' goal of reducing reliance on the US currency. In July 2023, Algeria said it applied to join BRICS and became a shareholder in the New Development Bank (NDB), also known as the BRICS Bank. The North African country had significant oil and gas resources and had a strategy to diversify its economy and strengthened partnerships with China and other countries (thmeythmey.com).

### ***2.3 Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Economic Influence***

The BRI was launched in 2013 to expand trade and infrastructure in Asia, Africa and Europe. However, it also raised concerns that countries that signed up to the initiative could fall under Chinese influence. The influence of the rivalry between China and the United States on ASEAN grew significantly in recent decades. Because ASEAN was a region of strategic importance, both economically and militarily, the United States and China were competing for influence in region. This rivalry was mainly characterized by contradictions in the fields of economics, military relations, and diplomatic strategy.

China increased its economic influence in ASEAN through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which was currently using investment strategies to control key infrastructure in the region. China provided aid and investment to many ASEAN countries for transportation, energy, and maritime projects, which were expanding the appeal of Chinese economic power in the region (Jones 2021). On the positive side, China was ASEAN's largest trading partner, trading in a wide range of key goods. In addition, China signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) with ASEAN countries and other Asia-Pacific communities to strengthen the regional economy. However, the United States also strengthened its economic partnership in the region through significant trade and investment with many countries. The United States tried to get ASEAN to develop strategies to reduce China's economic influence and develop other economic projects, such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) (Jiang 2022).

With U.S. Economy and Trade, the United States strengthened its economy and trade by building alliances and expanding its geopolitical footprint. The United States, along with its closest allies Australia and the United Kingdom, announced a new trilateral security partnership known as AUKUS. U.S. President Joe Biden said: "The United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom have long been loyal and capable partners, and now we are even closer together" (Biden 2021). The formation of the Quad, which included four members, including The United States, Japan, Australia, and India. The primary purpose was to protect security and coordinated efforts to counter China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia would work more closely with India, Japan and the United States, which were very close allies (Scott 2020), focusing on several key areas. The Quad was a security dialogue alliance established in 2007 outside the ASEAN framework and had no formal treaty structure or headquarters. The anti-China orientation, as the Quad shifted its focus to countering Chinese influence, gradually led the United States to escalate border disputes (India-China, Japan-China) and concerned about trade routes in the Asia-Pacific. Other topics at the summit included climate change, COVID-19 vaccine distribution and the situation in

Afghanistan, with the United States making a clear call for a joint venture to produce vaccines in India. Commitments and implementation, with member states needed to strengthen their practical implementation to respond to increasing challenges. The Quad was seen as a strategic alliance to safeguard regional security. Although it lacked a formal treaty structure or a broader organization, the alliance was an important factor in creating a balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region. The geopolitical expansion of the United States revealed the intentions of the US government, led by President Donald Trump, to expand the waters off the US coast to allow for oil and gas drilling. It revealed many controversial views and areas of the project. The project aimed to create new jobs, increase government revenue, and fulfill its goal of becoming an energy superpower. The expansion plan envisaged the sale of licenses for drilling for oil in 47 offshore areas over a five-year period, and issued several permits in Alaska, the Mexican, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans (www.rfi 2018). The US oil and gas development idea emerged in the context of boosting the economy. It drew strong criticism from environmentalists and other grassroots groups concerned about the impact on the environment and marine communities.

### **3. Critical Arguments**

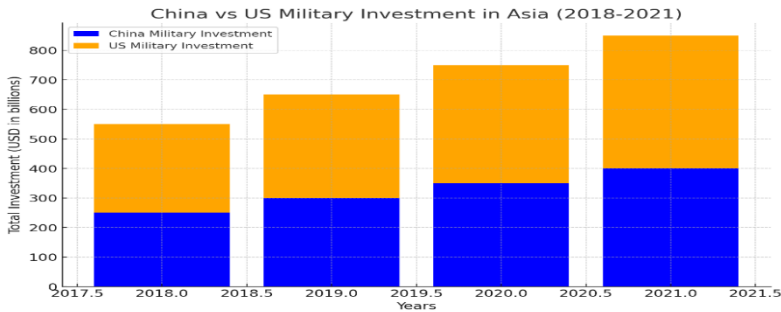
#### ***3.1 Technological Competition***

Development of 5G technology, artificial intelligence, and electric vehicles became a major point of contention between the two countries. The “Made in China 2025” initiative raised concerns about allegations of technology theft and espionage by China (Kennedy 2020). The economic rivalry between the US and China intensified during the 2010s, as China focused on developing high-tech industries in the face of US dominance in these sectors. The Made in China 2025 initiative set out the clear goals. Technological competition was a central focus of the US-China rivalry in recent years, with the US seeking to restrict China’s access to key technologies, leading to blacklisting of companies such as Huawei and the imposition of export controls on advanced semiconductors. This competition reflected broader concerns about China’s rapid technological progress and its implications for the world’s major economies. Competition in technological and economic fields became a key challenge in the relationship between China, the technological and economic competition, and the United States. Since China’s technological development in the mid-2010s, it drove greater competition in high-tech sectors.

#### ***3.2 Expanding Military Capabilities and Regional Security***

China expanded its military capabilities in the South China Sea, raising concerns from the United States about freedom of navigation at sea. The United States strengthened its alliances with Japan, South Korea, and

Australia to contain China's military influence. China's military development, especially in South China Sea, greatly increased tensions between countries in the region and the United States. China increased its military capabilities by implementing an A2/AD (Anti-Access/Area Denial) mindset to counter military contributions to the US-led alliance. China's military development, especially in the South China Sea, greatly increased regional security tensions. China implemented an A2/AD policy to protect this region.



This graph (Figure1) showed the combination of Chinese and US military investments in Asia. China significantly increased its military capabilities over the past two decades, focusing on modernizing its navy, developing A2/AD capabilities, and asserting control over disputed areas such as the South China Sea. This military expansion poses challenged to the existing security architecture in the Asia-Pacific region. In the last decade, China significantly expanded its military power, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. Huge investments in new weapons technologies and military capabilities aimed at expanding its influence throughout the region. This expansion raised additional concerns from neighboring countries and the United States, seeing China as gradually trying to become a military power and focusing on expanding China's military and regional security capabilities. China's Military Expansion aimed at expanding its military power.

Likewise, China purchased the modern military equipment and developed the innovative weapons technologies, such as warships, unmanned aerial vehicles, and multi-purpose weapons. Additional expansion of capabilities became a security power in the region to counter future threats. China's military expansion was a key strategy to increase its influence and influence in the region and internationally. This included the development of modern warships, high-tech weapons such as medium-range combat and defense systems, and high-security support systems. China unveiled new weapons systems such as the J-20 and J-35 stealth fighters, large warships, and the HQ-19 missile system (multimedia.scmp.com). China advanced a variety of

capabilities, including developing multi-domain combat systems such as drones for reconnaissance and attack and space-based threat prevention systems (defense.gov/News). China was increasing its military capabilities to become a regional security power and to create a balance of power in the international arena. It played a key role in protecting national security, countering future adversaries, and pursuing the national goals for its own power expansion (rand.org/pubs/commentary 2023).

The emergence of military capability raised concerns among other countries. The United States saw a loss of centrality and new challenges in the Indo-Pacific region, which observed that “China’s military buildup in the South China Sea has led to expectations that China will further assert its regional and maritime security interests” (cambridge.org). More, China increased its investment in new weapons technologies, including high-speed weapons and control of countermeasures beyond the region. The largest investment in China’s new weapons technologies was to make China a powerful military power that impact the defense spending of its neighbors. With the regional security implications, China’s growing military capabilities caused serious concern in the region as its neighbors began to reshape their defenses. Japan and Australia saw China’s emergence as a military power as a means to exert greater influence over regional security. Clearly, the country’s leadership implemented planned to expand its capabilities to counter Chinese advanced equipment. In addition, China’s increased military investment led to strong opposition from the United States, which was in the process of focusing on its own military development. To ensure that its influence in the Asia-Pacific region remains strong.

China’s growth of the military capabilities in the Asia-Pacific region had a significant impact on regional security. Neighboring countries such as Japan and Australia reshaped their defense strategies to counter China’s growing military power. However, Japan increased its defense budget by 50% and purchased weapons such as Tomahawk cruise missiles, which focused on improving anti-missile capabilities (thediplomat.com 2022). Australia also made a similar contribution by signing a military cooperation agreement with Japan and the United States. The agreement facilitates military training and cooperation between the two countries. Australia’s countermeasures plan included the purchase of nuclear-powered ships and the modernization of defense systems under the AUKUS agreement (csis.org 2024). The United States strengthened cooperation with allies to counter the China’s military buildup and the development of capabilities to threaten regional security. The alliance focused on increasing operational capabilities to restore regional balance of power (thediplomat.com 2022). These actions demonstrated that

many countries were serious about creating sustainable security in a region that is under many challenges.

By changing international security systems, China's security posture in the region prompted its neighbors, such as Vietnam and Indonesia, to begin to adjust their defenses to enhance their maritime capabilities. China's growing naval capabilities raised concerns and preparedness among its neighbors to counter its growing military power. This shift clearly demonstrated that the Asia-Pacific region became a highly contested security arena, raising concerns that it could lead to a power struggle between several countries. China continued to expand its claims in the South China Sea, and China's emergence as a maritime power increased pressure on potential competitors for resources and economies in the region (thediplomat.com 2023). The military rivalry between the United States and China in the ASEAN region also became more pronounced and significant. China expanded its military influence through the buildup of its naval forces and the construction of military infrastructure in the South China Sea, which raised concerns about regional security. As China expanded its military power, the United States also continued to cooperate with its allies in the region, primarily Japan, South Korea, Australia, and Philippines. US-ASEAN military cooperation was expanded through the joint maneuvers and military interoperability to protect land and maritime security.

The military rivalry between the US and China in the ASEAN region became a major issue. China expanded its military power in the South China Sea by building military infrastructure and establishing numerous naval bases. However, this expansion created regional concerns, which led countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, and Philippines to revise their national defense strategies (thegeopolitics.com). As a member of the ASEAN alliance, the US also expanded military cooperation with countries such as Japan, Australia, and South Korea to protect security and ensure freedom from military expansion in the region (Burgess 2020). Military cooperation and joint training were key formulas for protecting land and maritime security in the Indo-Pacific under the US-ASEAN alliance (Wiśniewski 2023).

### ***3.3 Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy***

China used the soft power through strengthening Confucius Institutes and cultural outreach to enhance its appeal and influence in Asia, Africa, and South America. In addition to hard power, China also invested in soft power initiatives, including cultural diplomacy, educational exchanges, and media influence. The Confucius Institute, a state-run media outlet, and global cultural events were all part of China's strategy to shape global perceptions and strengthen its soft power. In addition to its military and economic soft power, China also increased its use of soft power based on culture, the arts,

and cultural diplomacy. This use of soft power aims to promote China's global influence and focuses on strengthening cultural ties and international recognition.

China's soft power created conditions for progress by promoting Chinese culture to the world. China established Confucian Centers and institutions in various countries to present appropriate voices and cultures. Nye (2004) explained that "Soft power is the ability to get others to agree or follow through on shared cultural values." Chinese culture, which focused on ancient Chinese civilization and science, attracted many countries. In addition, Chinese culture provided the world with arts and a variety of traditions, which made China a country with global influence and reputation. For example, the broadcast of Chinese films attracted countries such as ASEAN countries, including Cambodia.

Cultural diplomacy was an important tool that China used to strengthen the international relations. China's cultural diplomacy promoted the development of international relations through advocacy, cultural reform, and the sharing of national arts. China also carried out many cultural activities, such as organizing the Global Arts Festival and participating in art events. China's cultural diplomacy achieved international attraction through sharing its own culture and accepting the customs of others. According to China's soft power strategy, there were other studies on the use of public attraction strategies and the exchange of Chinese culture on the international stage. It highlighted the problem of integrating these soft strategies in an international context (Su & Pan., 2013). China spent considerable resources on organizing international cultural programs and sharing the cultural experiences with neighboring countries and other international organizations.

Furthermore, China's Soft Power impacted China's cultural diplomacy that had a positive impact on the regional cooperation and security influence. According to Nye (2004), "soft power is an important means of building current reputations and international agreements". This contributed to strengthening China's cultural values and attracting international partners to China. In short, through the use of soft power through culture and cultural diplomacy, China built up a strong influence. This soft power was not only cultural, but also military, and was an important tool by which China could exert influence worldwide.

China and the United States both used diplomatic strategies to gain support from ASEAN countries. China made its diplomatic strategy more powerful and effective through the ASEAN-China Dialogue Partnership, which further strengthened China's diplomatic relations with ASEAN. The United States, on the other hand, focused on increasing strategic engagement with many ASEAN countries to counter China's growing influence ( Ha, H. T. (2021).

Both powers adopted a strategy that focused on geopolitics rather than on strategic regions, such as Cambodia.

In the past, “Asia-Pacific” was the geopolitical region of the major powers, the term most often heard, but it was “Indo-Pacific,” the most strategically important region of the major powers. “Asia-Pacific” was used to refer to a geopolitical region that extended from Asia to two other countries, such as Australia and New Zealand, which were in Oceania but were generally considered to be part of Asia, but were also part of Asia. Later, “Asia-Pacific” was expanded to include two other major powers: first, Russia, which was generally considered to be a European country but was also geographically located in Asia, and second, the United States, which was located on the other side of Pacific Ocean. The “Indo-Pacific” was a purely geographical location, geopolitics that highlighted the change or evolution of the strategies of the great powers in the region. The evolution of the strategy from “Asia-Pacific” to “Indo-Pacific” focused on two main points: First, increasing importance of India and the Indian Ocean, which were seen as important and potential areas, both economically and in terms of global security. India, in addition to being the second most populous country after China, was also currently the fastest growing economy. Economists generally predict that by 2030 (i.e. in just 11 years), India challenged the United States to become world’s second largest economic power behind China (RFI. 2018).

Cambodia were a buffer zone for the superpowers since the colonial era. To this day, Cambodia remains a strategic area of ideological competition between the West and the East, which made it difficult for Cambodia to adapt to any superpower or a potential superpower. In fact, Cambodia had no economic, geopolitical, or military advantage like other countries in region, such as Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia, which were countries in the geopolitical region of the South China Sea, a geographical or maritime area that was claimed by the United States and prevented by China from freely navigating without China’s permission. Cambodia had nothing at all except for strengthening democracy and human rights in the West and being a country that supported China in preventing a consensus for the South China Sea dispute in ASEAN and one China for the international community. In brief, the United States and China competed economically, militarily, and diplomatically in ASEAN to gain greater influence in the region, with the exception of Cambodia. This competition affected ASEAN's security and economic development, but on the positive side, it gave ASEAN many options in its relations with the two superpowers.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The political, economic, and military interests of China and the United States expanded their international influence. China tried to coordinate itself to

become a major economic leader through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), while the United States used the military treaties and economic sanctions to counter Chinese influence through strengthening its geopolitical alliances and expansion, as well as strengthening trade with the countries of all stripes. The impact of the power struggle greatly affected Southeast Asia and Cambodia. This was a key strategic area or buffer state in the relationship between the two superpowers. In addition to arguments of power struggle between China and the United States in security, economic, and military fields, international institutions such as United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) were firmly established in the management of international disputes around the world. All these important institutions played their best roles to promote international agreements strongly. Creating new alliances through good diplomatic relations, as tradition, helped Cambodia develop itself better in the international community. The United States and China should seek new agreements to defuse the heated global trade war. Southeast Asian countries increased their participation in international institutions to ensure that their relations with major powers were clearly managed.

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