

Sporadic

Home Alone

Degree of US involvement in the world

Poly-polar world of ineffectual UN and international norms. Globalisation break down causing "every man for himself" zero-sum game security and economy syndrome.

1. Distinct possibility of regional interstate war
2. Australia must act to prevent adversary bases close to Australia. Could be military action or other forms
3. Great Autonomy, but need for self-reliance with weak alliances. Outcomes of interstate wars variable.
4. Widespread WMD proliferation.
5. Mercantilism rampant with states seeking relative economic gains vis-a-vis other states
6. Substantial Financial outflows across region and collapsing standard of living in some regional nations. Instability in some states with extremist groups emerging.
7. Australia has opportunity to forge closer links with nearer region and SWP through acting as local region leader, banker and economic supporter, and/or defence guarantor.



Global Market

Degree of globalisation and economic interdependence

Break Down

Cold War Redux

Breaking down of globalisation but not necessarily further fragmentation of regions or of old alliances. Multi-polar world with Cold War type UN.

1. Closed Regional trading blocs being formed as globalisation breaks down These blocs include military aspects. Regional economic hegemony managing their regions to achieve relative gains vis-a-vis other regions.
2. Alliances used to balance against threats
3. China big regional issue; some nations forming military alliances with China.
4. Australia has opportunities to forge new alliances with regional nations, China, or Japan. Or to deepen US alliance. May need to make very hard choices about who to align with.
5. Australia responsible for stopping bases close to Australia being used by adversaries.
6. Coalitions with US dominant with emphasis on RMA making outcome of interstate wars predetermined. Post-war of little interest so adversaries may come back.
7. Some WMD proliferation



Deep

Middle Ages Concert

G8 runs world for developed nations' enlightened self-interest; UN rubberstamps. US first amongst equals with consensus leadership.

1. Very few Interstate wars as only when forced on unenthusiastic security community. Possibility of major recognised interstate problem emerging unchecked and being met late.
2. Transnational Crime/ Terrorism met by multilateral cooperation as easier to agree on. Nation-building by diverse coalitions fashionable. Australia may be called upon by G7 to lead coalitions in nearer region/ SWP.
3. Coalitions led by a developed nation but sensitively and so sometimes ineffectual. Outcomes variable. Advanced technology used as armed forces small everywhere making peace keeping deployments shorter term than needed.
4. Economically wealthy world with need to build consensus retarding rapid trade liberalization. Foreign aid, FDI, subsidies favored in helping less developed world.
5. Medium Global Market and strong Global Community. Entrepreneurial market-states seeking absolute gains

Virtual Empire

Uni-polar world with US in charge, the UN generally endorses US decisions and there is, deepening globalisation

1. Occasional Interstate Wars to maintain US hegemony. Allied involvement political, not essential for military victories in short RMA wars. Outcome of interstate wars predetermined. Allies favored for post-war cleanup with UN involvement.
2. Transnational Crime/ Terrorism rising due increasing globalisation but making multi-lateral cooperation function is hard work with downsides and upsides in closeness to US. Less US interest in long-term nation-building to fix problems than attacking symptom.
3. US expects allied help globally. Australia perceived by US as responsible for SWP hegemon. US has hegemonic incentives to help Australia with security problems.
4. Economically wealthy world with occasional trade and financial crises managed mostly through Washington consensus. Trade managed to favor US, EU and Japan but continuing liberalization. Entrepreneurial market-states seeking absolute gains
5. Strong Global market with Global Community developing slowing