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**The US-China rivalry in the Indo-Pacific area
in the 21st century in terms of the supercycle model**

The analysis conducted by the author on the functioning of the supercycles model from the emergence of the world system at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries to the beginning of the 21st century has allowed for several observations. According to the supercycles model, each successive supercycle is characterized by greater complexity, and the hegemonic power that wins the hegemonic war enjoys a clear quantitative and qualitative advantage in resources necessary for hegemony in a given period of economic and military development. Each successive hegemon emerges from the hegemonic war with relatively greater power compared to other powers in the system than was the case in the previous supercycle. The supercycles model assumes that after winning the hegemonic war, over time and as a result of the weakening (relative to other powers) economic and political capabilities of the hegemon, its agency in the system also decreases, resulting in the erosion of the hegemon's position.

In the first chapter of the dissertation titled "Theoretical Foundations of Hegemonic Rivalry," the basic assumptions of the theories of Robert Gilpin, George Modelski, Andrzej Gałganek, and John Mearsheimer regarding the rivalry of great powers are presented. This chapter also demonstrates the role and significance of the supercycles model in shaping the world system, proving its relevance in the analysis of hegemonic rivalry and its applicability in the context of US-China relations in the first half of the 21st century.

The second chapter of the thesis, entitled "The Impact of the Portuguese and Dutch Supercycles on the World System," focuses on the two initial supercycles - Portuguese and Dutch. In this chapter, the role and significance of Portugal and the United Provinces in the development of the world system in its first two centuries of functioning are presented.

The third chapter of the work, "Two British Supercycles and Their Role in Shaping the World Order," is dedicated to analyzing the functioning of Great Britain during its imperial period, i.e., in the 18th-20th centuries. This chapter presents the main reasons why this power emerged victorious twice from hegemonic wars against France, as well as the principles of operation of the system referred to as Pax Britannica.

in the fourth chapter of the dissertation titled "Reconceptualization of the Chronology of Supercycles Model," a new concept of the supercycles model is presented. Instead of the chronology introduced by A. Gałganek assuming the existence of a single American supercycle, the dissertation author proposed introducing a second American supercycle.

The fifth chapter of the dissertation, "Genesis of US-China Strategic Rivalry," is dedicated to analyzing US-China relations after 1979 and the emergence of 21st-century hegemonic rivalry between the two powers. Within this chapter, the role of the USA and China in the Indo-Pacific region is depicted, as well as the regional interests of both powers.

In the sixth chapter of the dissertation, titled "Realms of US-China Rivalry," an analysis is made of the potential of the USA and China in seven key areas crucial for exercising hegemony in the world system. These areas include: favorable geopolitical location, population with suitable demographic structure, efficient and effective political system, robust economy with global reach and significant production capacities, ability to implement innovative solutions, effective diplomatic apparatus, ability to resolve key problems for the international community, and leadership in the world system.

The seventh chapter of the dissertation is titled "Hegemonic War between the USA and China - Military Scenarios of Further Rivalry." In this chapter, an analysis is made of the military potentials of the USA and China, with particular emphasis on the air and naval forces, which, due to the geographical characteristics of the Indo-Pacific region (alongside marine infantry), will play a crucial role in the event of armed conflict. This chapter also contains a series of arguments through which the author of the dissertation argues for the validity of the research hypothesis, according to which kinetic confrontation between the armed forces of the USA and China in the Indo-Pacific is the most probable scenario for the further course of strategic rivalry between the two powers.