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# China-Russia relations and their impact on the structure of the international system 2012 -2022

العلاقات الصينية الروسية وأثرها على بنية النظام الدولي 2012- 2022

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**Abstract**: The increasing and historic development of Sino-Russian relations, the first features of which were evident in the upgrading of the strategic partnership to a comprehensive partnership. And the unification of cooperation between the two countries in the economic and military fields since 2010. With the prospect of military intervention, the West's unrestrained expansion and the erosion of the terrorism pretext across countries, China and Russia have been preparing for a new chapter in the international system, the new features of which are beginning to emerge.

After describing and analyzing the situation, this study sheds light on the strategy pursued by Russia and China. It also discusses aspects of the development of this alliance and its future prospects in preparation for a change in the balance of power and a multipolar international system that will lead the world in the near future.

Keywords: alliance, Russia, China, international system.

#### الملخص:

التطور المتزايد والتاريخي للعلاقات الصينية الروسية، والتي تجلت ملامحها الأولى في الارتقاء بالشراكة الاستراتيجية إلى شراكة شاملة. وتوحيد التعاون بين البلدين في المجالين الاقتصادي والعسكري منذ عام 2010. مع احتمال التدخل العسكري وتوسع الغرب غير المقيد وتآكل ذريعة الإرهاب عبر الدول، تستعد الصين وروسيا لفصل جديد في النظام الدولي، والتي بدأت ملامحها الجديدة في الظهور.

بعد وصف وتحليل الموقف، تسلط هذه الدراسة الضوء على الاستراتيجية التي تتبعها روسيا والصين. كما يناقش جوانب تطور هذا التحالف وآفاقه المستقبلية استعدادًا لتغيير ميزان القوى ونظام دولي متعدد الأقطاب سيقود العالم في المستقبل القرب.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تحالف، روسيا، الصين، نظام دولي

#### 1. Introduction:

Russia and China are among the most important countries in the international arena, which have had great influence since ancient times. Russian-Chinese relations are one of the most important at the level of the international system due to the positions that both countries occupy in the world. Specifically, what they represent in terms of political and military power and huge economic potential for the establishment of a multipolar international system, the main feature of which is the democracy of international relations at the global level.

Russia is the inheritor of the Soviet Union, with its failures and collapses, and is now striving to regain that power. It has the political, economic and military potential and capabilities to be a major and active player in the international system. Accordingly, under the leadership of Vladimir Putin, Russia has sought to reform its domestic and foreign policies and restore balance in the international arena. Since coming to power and assuming the presidency for consecutive terms, he has sought to restore the glory of the Soviet empire and has taken many steps that indicate the speed of its return. As for China, it is one of the countries from East Asia that is making a strong push towards the top of the international system, and it is a growing summit at all political levels, including economic and military. This is what gives it a decent position on the world stage, and with the diversity of dominant goals in the orientations of Chinese foreign policy and its impact on the goals of its regional policy, which is reflected in the nature of the regional roles that China plays or aspires to play in the future. Both Russia and China possess power in all its forms, and this enables both countries to play an important and fundamental role at the level of the international system.

## **Research question:**

How have Sino-Russian relations influenced the structure of the international system 2012-2022?

# **Sub-questions:**

What are the main factors and strategic motivations behind the development of these relations?

What are the characteristics of the transformation and change in the structure of the international system resulting from the rise and recovery of Russia and China? What are the implications and results of this alliance for the international system?

## **Hypotheses:**

- The development of Russian-Chinese relations is leading to a change in the structure of the international system and a trend towards multipolarity.
- The strategic changes in the nature of Russian-Chinese relations have contributed to the formation of an international alliance that aims to reshape the international system and reduce the dominance of the United States.

## Variables study:

The independent variable: Sino-Russian relations

The dependent variable: the international system (structure)

## Significance of the study:

Academic significance: an attempt to contribute to the construction of a theoretical perception that broadens awareness of the role of rising great powers in restoring international order in a non-traditional way. This is particularly the case in view of the decline of certain models of stable international relations theory based on multiple divisions based on polarisation, in particular the criterion of ideology. This is evident in the special scrutiny of the Russian and ideological transformation and the rise beyond the stage of the Soviet Union and the occupation of the status of relative actor in the light of the American monopolisation of the international system.

**Practical significance:** The steady intensification of Sino-Russian cooperation in recent years has led to an increase in academic interest. However, given the farreaching geopolitical implications of the Sino-Russian alliance, most studies of Sino-Russian dynamics are not only conducted from the perspective of international relations theory, but also remain rooted in realistic assumptions and political views. This study aims to advance scholarly knowledge of the Sino-Russian relationship and provide practical and international suggestions for understanding the complexities of the international scene. It also takes into account the results of research in the Arab and Algerian arenas, which deal with these changes and pressures and how they shed light on the decision-making process and the development of diplomacy, as well as how to benefit from the diplomatic success stories of rising powers.

## Study approaches:

The research problem and its multiple dimensions require the application of the principle of methodological integration. The study is mainly based on

The international systems approach or systems theory in the model

presented by Morton Kaplan: Kaplan presented an attempt to develop an integrated framework for systems theory in international analysis, based on models of real systems, hypothetical systems and variables that control international interactions. Kaplan admits that only the two models of the balance of power system and the fragile polarity system have been realised in history. In general, the approach to international systems analysis assumes an organic and functional interdependence between the parts of the system. The nature of the inputs as variables and stimuli indicates the demands that need to be effectively addressed by transformative processes through the structures of the system (its parts) in order to make decisions or develop policies and responses to the actual demands. Through the above, the study uses the method to reveal the nature of the variables associated with the Russian and Chinese parties, the escalation of their powers and the expansion of their interactions and ambitions on the ground.

## The descriptive-analytical approach:

This is the approach that studies events by first describing them, then moving on to classification, linking and interpretation, followed by deduction and conclusions. This approach was used in the study to describe the development of Russian-Chinese rapprochement and to analyse its causes, as well as to describe the economic and security reality and to analyse its causes.

# The decision-making approach:

One of the most eminent authors on this subject is Richard Snyder. He starts from the assumption that international relations are models of behavioural interaction between the units of the international system, and that most of the relations between the units of the international system are the result of decisions by a group of people legally empowered to formulate the supreme policy of the state and its other relations with other countries. This approach was used in the study by examining the positions of decision-makers in influencing the structure of the international system.

**Sections of the study:** The study is divided into two main parts:

- 1. The evolution of Russian-Chinese relations.
- 2. The impact and results of the Russian-Chinese alliance on the international system.

### **Preface:**

The nature of the growing Sino-Russian relationship has created close strategic coordination between the two countries. Such coordination has been marked by a great deal of strength and apathy. As a result, a solid foundation has been laid for the development of the cooperative partnership. Russian-Chinese relations have also taken coordination and unification seriously and have developed on a number of levels, including the economic aspect, which we will discuss in this section. We will examine the details of two requirements of this new development in detail.

# 1. The Development of Russian-Chinese Relations The New Geopolitical Configuration:

The relationship between Russia and China is an alliance, but it is also an unequal transitional relationship. In this relationship, China mainly calls the shots but remains dependent on Russia in many respects. While China has commercial, economic and financial dominance, Russia continues to rely on its diplomatic and military superiority in many respects, demonstrating its regional power and successful military operations around the world. This uneven cooperation is reinforced by a shared geopolitical interest in creating a reliable balance of American influence in international affairs, based on the systematic coordination of a wide range of policies and procedures.

In addition, the intensity of relations between Russia and China is increasing due to the common objective of a collective response to the major problems in the global economy, finance and trade. However, both countries are considering rapid alliances and strategic partnerships in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. They believe that the global system is undergoing a systematic transformation, the outcome of which is unexpected but likely to have many unanticipated effects on Russian and Chinese interests. As a result, the alliance between Russia and China is not a classic alliance according to Western ideas and concepts. Instead, China and Russia have implemented a tactical rapprochement in the unconfirmed transition phase, without the need to announce a strategic alliance, let alone a military one. (Amro, 2022)

It is clear that China is the strongest economic and financial partner, but Russia is treated as an equal and not as an affiliated partner. Mutual respect plays a very important role in this bilateral relationship. Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping have met 38 times. This relationship reached its peak at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Beijing on February 4, 2022, when the two leaders signed a "Joint Declaration between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of

China on relations between international organizations entering a new and global era". (Tchakarova, 2021) Russia has been China's main arms supplier for decades.

The main elements of Russian-Chinese cooperation include: the supply of S-400 air defense systems and SU-35 fighter jets, to improve Beijing's ability to attack US warships. Since 2019, Russia and China have been jointly developing an early warning system for China's missile defense. (Kizekova, January 20, 2022.)

Moscow also provides technology to Beijing's army, although Putin refused to give further details. Russian scientists are at work in Chinese technology and communications companies such as Huawei. Advanced Chinese computer chips are another way for Russia to obtain military technology and circumvent Western sanctions. Other possibilities for cooperation, such as the development of joint satellites and a future lunar station, have also been discussed. Cooperation in space or new technologies for the fourth revolution is particularly problematic from a Western point of view because of the growing competition between the major space powers. (Velina, July 29, 2021.) China and Russia have also resolved their long-standing regional conflicts and have cordially disarmed along their common borders. As a result, land claims or disputes are unlikely to affect long-term bilateral relations. Although both are involved in regional conflicts with third countries, they avoid direct confrontation.

In the energy sector, their interests are integrated, as Russia has the world's largest shared oil and gas resources, while China remains the largest energy consumer. In the future, energy dependency may resemble that between Russia and Europe, as Moscow supplies China with oil and gas through various pipelines. On the other hand, energy cooperation improves Russia's image in Asian markets and allows it to diversify its energy portfolio in relation to Europe.

## geographic expansion

Because of what geopolitics means in terms of influence and in areas of all scales of power; it is a complete bowl of all sources of power. China's and Russia's international policies have emerged through a series of renewable events and ongoing international formations, as follows:

# - The Silk Road Project:

(Silk Road) This project is basically a successful Chinese vision, but the specificity of its alliance with Russia became apparent once this project crystallized into its final form on the basis of taking into account the interests of both parties. The route covers some 70 countries by land and sea and has since been extended to more than 100 countries in Asia and Europe. These countries include India, France,

Germany, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, and Iran. The basis of this project is purely economic, but in the long term, it is likely to have geopolitical implications. It tends to favor the biggest economic powers, and in this case, it is "China and Russia". (Tchakarova, 2021)

#### - South China Sea:

China has been able to adopt a different and multifaceted approach, benefiting from Russia's understanding and support. On the one hand, it has stepped up its military presence there; on the other, it has increased its areas of expansion and extended its influence in the sea through the multiplication of the artificial islands it is creating in its various parts. It has also established bilateral and collective relations with its neighbors, such as Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, and others. (moein, 2022) Although the issue is not yet settled, the accumulation of Chinese achievements makes the issue almost stable as a geopolitical space that works to the benefit of China and its ally Moscow.

## - Shanghai Organization

In July 2001, China and Russia signed a bilateral cooperation agreement to strengthen relations between the two countries over the next twenty years. At the time, this new agreement supported the "strategic partnership" between the two countries that had been in place since the late 1990s. In addition, both countries are concerned about the transformation of the new world order dominated by the United States and its European allies. India and Pakistan then joined the organization as full members at the Astana Summit on June 9, 2017. Iran became the ninth member after members agreed to upgrade its status within the organization from "observer" to "full" member at the summit in the Tajik capital Dushanbe on September 17, 2021. (treaty, 2021)

Russia and China have made qualitative breakthroughs in expanding their areas of cooperation and influence. Just as it has secured important areas in Eurasia away from Western influence in general and American influence in particular.

#### - BRICS:

The BRICS alliance comprises the world's largest emerging economies: Russia, China, India, Brazil and South Africa. This cooperation includes the security aspect and with this international bloc, the two countries (Russia and China) have provided the necessary level of support for financial flows, trade flows and economic interaction with the security network provided by these countries. This network combines - in addition to economics - geography and demography, and it also

establishes the transformation of Russian-Chinese capabilities / orientations from purely local to also international. Although their differences are real, the leaders of the five countries maintain a certain distance from the US-led liberal order. (Joseph, 2022)

## - Technological superiority:

The same applies to technology, which is now the mother of industries and the title of excellence for the present and the future in civil and military fields in their diversity and magnitude. Since China achieved 5G, this technology has been shared with its ally, Moscow, which has inflamed the folly of the United States, which has realized the gravity of this. (Hossin, 2006)

For reference, the dangers include the fact that it is a vital market and an important commodity for the world's leading space aspirants, reducing Washington's influence and leverage in many countries around the world. In addition to the dangers that Washington is aware of, there are the consequences of introducing this technology into the military and space industries. Both Russia and China are investing in this. (Maizland, 2022)

China's efforts to regain control of Taiwan and incorporate it into its own entity deserve attention for a number of reasons. First and foremost are the technological development and semiconductor industries that set Taiwan apart from the rest of the world. Chinese ambitions have not stopped there; they have gone so far as to monopolize the sources of so-called rare metals. These can only be found in China, Kazakhstan, Russia, and in the depths of the Pacific Ocean, which is under joint Russian-Chinese control.

## - Quality missiles:

Perhaps one of the most important capabilities of the armed forces taken into account to assess the position of the Russian-Chinese alliance against America and thus NATO is the arsenal of superior missiles, of which we find the most prominent examples:

# 1-Long-range nuclear missiles:

these ensure the nuclear supremacy of China, Russia's ally, in the China Sea, the Arctic Ocean, and most of Western Europe. All the more so as America has destroyed this type of missile as part of the "START" agreements with Russia. (Maizland, 2022)

#### 2-Anti-satellite missiles:

Anti-satellite missiles have many advantages, some of which are capable of destroying satellites and removing them from their orbits, i.e., preventing them from

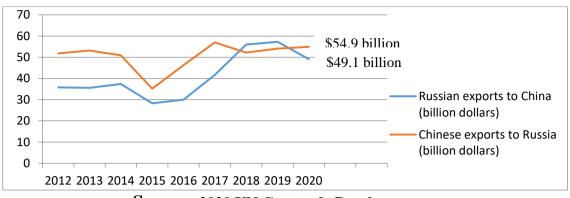
carrying out their surveillance and guidance functions. Some of them disrupt these satellites and prevent them from communicating with the parties or sectors that benefit from their information and messages. This means that Beijing and Moscow have reached the stage where they can deprive Washington of the benefits of Star Wars and superiority in space. What exacerbates this problem for the United States is China's progress in the areas of 5G and ultra-fast 6G, and the White House administration still admits that it is lagging behind in this respect.

Until the declaration of the Russian-Chinese unity summit on February 4, 2022, in Beijing, in which Chinese President Xi Jinping and Putin declared "friendship without borders". It is a declaration of serious agreement on all political, economic, and cultural issues. (Bayan, 2022) On all the challenges facing the world in general and them in particular, on the one hand, and, on the other, presenting a plan for the whole world to build a new multipolar system. In addition to a system of relations of participation and equality between the countries of the world in order to achieve security, peace, stability, and sustainable development. As the statement says, to fight poverty and epidemics and to achieve prosperity for all. In terms of balance of power, the Russian-Chinese relationship, as expressed in the declaration, will place the world before a balance of power that outweighs their military and later economic interests. (Amro, 2022)

## - Recovery of trade exchange:

According to the results for the first quarter of this year, trade between Russia and China increased by 28.7% compared to the same period last year. The figures show that the volume of trade between the two countries amounted to \$38.17 billion in this period, while Chinese exports to Russia in the same period increased by 25.9% year-on-year to \$16.44 billion. Russian exports to China increased by 31% to \$21.73 billion. By March 2021, trade between Russia and China stood at \$11.66 billion, with Chinese exports to Russia at \$3.82 billion and Russian exports to China at \$7.84 billion. Analysts have also predicted that the volume of Russian coal shipped to China could rise by 30% this year to 71 million metric tons, suggesting that China will get the coal that was originally meant to go to Japan. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has said that Beijing has not ruled out the possibility of switching to the ruble or yuan in energy trade with Russia. Noting that Chinese companies intend to make greater use of their currencies in their trade with Russia, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 01: Russian-Chinese trade 2012-2020



Source: 2020 UN Comtrade Database.

On February 4, the two countries also signed a contract for Russia to supply China with an additional 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year for at least 25 years. On February 28, four days after Russia's war with Ukraine began, Gazprom announced that it had signed a contract to design and build the Soyuz-Vostok gas pipeline. No less than 50 billion cubic meters of Russian gas per year will be delivered to China. Discussions about this pipeline had been going on for some time, but no formal agreement had been reached until early February. Now that the deal has been signed, Gazprom will be able to use the same gas fields that it currently exports to Europe as a source of supply for the Chinese market. Given the size of the new pipeline, which is very close to the planned volume of 55 bcm, this is an important step in strengthening the interdependence between Russia and China. Especially as China plans to increase the share of gas in its energy mix from 8% in 2020 to 12% in 2030, according to the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC). Russia's Rosneft has also signed a deal with CNPC to supply China with 100 million tonnes of natural gas over 10 years via Kazakhstan. Although the share of oil in China's overall energy mix is expected to decline slightly from 20% in 2020 to 18% in 2030, oil will remain the second most important fuel source after coal. (Maizland, 2022)

Strategically, the likely increase in China's reliance on oil and gas imports from Russia will reduce its dependence on energy imports from the Middle East. Since oil and gas are currently transported mainly by sea, China is unlikely to ever be able to fully control these routes. (In 2016, almost 80% of China's oil imports still passed through the South China Sea via the Strait of Malacca). China has a strong strategic interest in increasing its energy imports via land links with Russia. In terms of military trade, Russia is by far the largest source of China's arms imports between 2016 and 2020, accounting for 77% of these imports. China accounts for 18% of

Russian arms exports and is Russia's second-largest customer for these products after India. Moreover, Russian arms exports to China during this period increased by about 50% compared to the previous five-year period. As shown in

Figure 02: Demographic, economic, military and Research & Development spending figures for China and Russia.

	Population (2022)	GDP (2021)	GDP per capita (2021)	Military expenditure (2021)	Research and development spending (PPP\$, 2018)
China	1.4B	\$16.6T	\$11,819	\$293B	\$465.2B
	1.4B	\$16.6T	\$11,819	\$293B	\$465.2B
	1.4B	\$16.6T	\$11,819	\$293B	\$465.2B
Russia	142M	\$1.7T	\$11,654	\$65.9B	\$41.5B
	142M	\$1.7T	\$11,654	\$65.9B	\$41.5B
	142M	\$1.7T	\$11,654	\$65.9B	\$41.5B

Source: CIA World Factbook; International Monetary Fund; Stockholm International Peace Research Institute; UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2022.

# 2. The dimensions and implications of the Chinese-Russian alliance on the regime:

Developments in Russian-Chinese strategy have shown that the issue goes beyond the traditional framework and beyond the simple resolution of international problems. One strategy is evident in this issue, the extent of the close coordination between Putin and J in achieving their objectives towards the new world order. The escalation of roles and the changing balance of power in the international system will be discussed in two points. (Maizland, 2022)

# Russia's growing role in the international system:

Russia's desire to maximize its power and influence, to regain some of the strength of the Union, and to rule out a return to Cold War policies—in the knowledge that this is a costly war— While it continues its efforts to combat the negative effects within its societies, this is not what it derives from the network of multiple interests with numerous international players. This undoubtedly overlaps with the methodology of Cold War politics and its various repercussions. The policy pursued by Putin, then Medvedev, and now Putin's return is once again aimed at strengthening Russia's position in the international balance of power while at the same time combating any attempt to interfere in its internal affairs. On top of this, there are efforts to develop relations with China and the Asian neighborhood,

including India, which has historic ties with Moscow. However, this policy is sensitive and has a violent dimension in the face of attempts to annex Russian spheres of influence to NATO, such as Georgia and Ukraine. (Maizland, 2022)

In addition, the Russian-American race could be based on strategic points on a global scale, from the Arctic Ocean to oil and gas resources, from the Middle East to its approaches through Asia, and the intertwined heritage they carry. What's more, as long as the European Union has not yet achieved a unified foreign policy, European (European Union) policy may be faltering in the face of accelerating international change, affecting the current international system, the system that has allowed America to dominate and control global affairs.

Russia's rise to power has been accompanied by changes and developments in political, economic and diplomatic relations between Russia and the main states or actors in the world system. In this context, it is enough to point out that Russia is the only country that possesses enough nuclear missiles to destroy the United States of America, in addition to the vast territory of the Russian state, which has protected it in many historical experiences, including the Napoleonic Wars and the German invasion of the Soviet Union during the Second World War. Some may say that Russia's role is declining, especially after the war in Ukraine, but this does not mean that Russia cannot be considered a major power in the world system or that its influence in the course of international politics is limited. (moein, 2022)

It can be said that there have been a number of developments aimed at strengthening Russia's role on the international stage, the most important of which are as follows:

- Seeking an equal position with China, adopting the diversification of countries and Russia's participation in all conferences with the aim of convincing others of the need to implement the principles of using the diplomatic space of the great powers, as these were at the top of the Russian foreign policy priorities in the development of new relations and alliances.
- Fight against terrorism, unification of positions between countries and cooperation with all regional powers in the region.
- Developing a strategy for strengthening the Russian economy and trying to overcome the many economic sanctions, in particular the lack of bank balances, foreign currency reserves in banks and investment difficulties, and finding alternatives and solutions.
- Strengthen Russia's position and influence as an Eurasian power, especially after the war with Ukraine, as Russian leaders seek to create a multipolar world and

direct their diplomacy southwards towards China, India and other major Asian countries. Their aim is to strengthen Russia's role in world affairs. (Kizekova, January 20, 2022.)

## China is a determinant of the international system:

Followers of Chinese affairs believe that the theory of China's peaceful rise, or its calm and orderly rise, is the closest to China's current situation. It is pursuing a calm and resolute policy based on the idea of spreading interests. China's current rise was a natural case, as some see China as a major international power and adjuster, while others see it as an economic power unwilling to play a political role in the international system. The form of the international system based on unipolarity is in a state of decline and change, which some see as an inevitable natural condition. The United States, which dominates the articulations of this system, is experiencing a decline in certain elements of its power, especially its economic power. In addition to its inability to monopolize the elements of power linked to technology, this issue was explicitly highlighted by former US President Barack Obama, who explained what it meant for his country to no longer be the dominant or leading country in the world. Perhaps this decline will force the international system to correct itself through what is known as the inevitable replacement of the continued operation of the system, i.e., the rise of the party with the elements of active power. The most likely candidate is China, which experts consider to be the world's second-largest country after the United States.

Although Putin has triggered this change in the world order, it is China that will determine it. It is linked to the Chinese president's strategies, especially in three areas: his foreign policy, his vision of an alternative international order, and Jinping's major economic and political projects. As Moscow's economic dependence on Beijing increases, as the statistics above show, Beijing will have a decisive voice on the new international stage. (Umbach, 2014)

In addition, Putin unveiled a new oil and gas deal worth some \$115.5 billion that will allow Russia, China's third-largest gas supplier, to further increase its exports to Beijing over the next quarter-century. In addition, Russian oil giant Rosneft and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) have extended an existing agreement to supply 100 million tons of oil over the next 10 years. A few weeks after the tanks entered Ukraine, Beijing lifted restrictions on wheat imports from Russia, and as Western economic sanctions weakened the Russian economy, Russian banks announced that they would begin issuing cards using the system of

Chinese card operator UnionPay.

This change is significant as Xi's plans for his country have entered a new phase of more intense competition. Beijing has decided to increase its defense spending, devoting 7.7% of its GDP to creating a world-class army by 2035. (Al salimi, 2021) There is also a strong commitment to economic and technological development and a strong focus on promoting an alternative to the dollar as an international currency. Overall, the war in Ukraine represents an opportunity to reduce Beijing's dependence on the US dollar. Xi's relationship with Moscow will prove beneficial to his broader political commitment to building a complete, rejuvenated and strong country on the world stage by 2049, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. In this context, it is in the light of this "authoritarian rise" that competition with the United States is likely to intensify, and then Russia, weaker in Beijing's shadow, can play a major role in weakening the current international order and facilitating the consolidation of the Chinese alternative. Relations emerging from the war in Europe would be an opportunity to challenge the order represented by the United States in Asia. (El mashaat, 2009)

According to some projections, China will assume leadership of the international system by 2025. Some even believe that this goal will be achieved by the middle of this century. China's rise on the international stage has accelerated to the point where some are talking about the possibility of China reaching the top of the world order, while others have dubbed the current century the "Chinese century". (Al salimi, 2021)

Talk of China's rise in the international system is not out of the blue. Over the past two decades, China has succeeded in establishing itself among the great powers and has achieved many achievements and ambitions. In this context, we can cite a number of justifications and reasons that have contributed to China's **emergence on the international stage:** 

- The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 led to China opening up new horizons for many powers such as the European Union, China, Japan and India, enabling them to play a more effective role in the new world order.
- With a population of over one billion and 300 million, China is the world's largest country in terms of human resources and the fourth largest in terms of area after Russia, Canada and the United States.
- It leads the world in economic growth and is the world's second largest economy after the United States of America. It has the world's largest army, backed

up by reserve forces, and the world's second largest declared defense budget after the United States. (Bayan, 2022)

- China occupies a strategic position linking East Asia with Eastern Europe and controls a number of sea, air and land routes. It is also the world's third largest space power and nuclear power after the United States and Russia. China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, and the strong desire of the Chinese political system to achieve leadership of the world system.
- The second world power to attract investment after the United States, and preceded the United States a few years and occupied the first place. It is the third world power in international trade after the United States and Japan, and the second in terms of total production, which amounts to \$4,400 billion. (Maizland, 2022)

## 4. Conclusion:

The change in the balance of power and the size of Russia and China as two global poles with an accelerated alliance that strengthens their position and imposes their logic on the international scene in addition to regional poles such as Iran, Turkey, South Africa, and India, this will push the Sino-Russian alliance towards greater control over the world and a total and fundamental liberation from the control of the dollar. It will also get rid of the weapon of sanctions in the short term. Russia and China are forming a great alliance. What is new is the summit in Beijing on February 4, 2022, the joint declaration published by the two countries, the serious language, and real coordination, which includes overcoming differences and exchanging interests. A new dynamic of accelerated development at all levels. Beijing and Moscow have found a winning formula in their bilateral relations.

A two-pronged diplomatic scenario in which Russia publicly supports China's position on Taiwan and China publicly supports Russia's position on Ukraine, this creates a new level of confrontation between the "dragon" and the United States. As a result, what China defines as Russia's "strategic space" over Ukraine, Russia defines as China's "strategic space" over Taiwan and the South China Sea.

Russia and China are not seen as separate threats: the systematic coordination between Beijing and Moscow increasingly represents a "multiplying threat". It is clear that Putin is trying to take advantage of the current geopolitical competition with the United States. The impact of this relationship on the global system will increasingly depend on China's ability to continue its economic expansion and help Russia avoid a default like in 2014.

☐ The geopolitical rapprochement is tactical rather than strategic. Maintaining

the status quo is likely to be acceptable to both states as long as China's rise does not pose a direct threat to Russia's strategic interests in its geographical 'sphere of influence'.

□ Neither US nor China wants a scenario in which Russia becomes part of the opposite geopolitical bloc. From China's point of view, a special partnership between Russia and the United States would be the worst-case scenario. On the contrary, Russia will never accept Chinese hegemony in the sense of 'Chinese peace' in Eurasia.

## **Proposals:**

- 1) On security and economic fronts, decision-makers should take advantage of the nature of the contradictions between the two sides on the one hand and the West on the other. In addition, they should promote cooperation and common interests in the service of many national issues and in line with the facts of world events, the growth of regional poles and the struggle for energy resources in the world.
- 2) The economic and cultural openness of both parties, especially the Chinese side, is of great importance for the strengthening of Algerian-Chinese cooperation, the signing of more economic and trade agreements, as well as the geostrategic environment of the Mediterranean and African coasts. Benefit as much as possible from the Russian-Chinese alliance in a way that benefits Algeria in terms of technological and strategic development and development in North Africa. Join the BRICS group, take advantage of the Silk Road project and address regional threats in the region.
- 3) On the scientific and academic front, the study recommends that the Arab and Algerian scientific and academic communities should conduct more studies on the two parties and, more broadly, on the Russian side. It is also recommended to focus on the importance and opportunities of strategic research centers and international cooperation, as well as cultural, scientific and research exchanges.

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