

# Russia-Ukraine War and Its Reflection on US-China Relations

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## Abstract

The purpose of this research work was to study US-Chinese relations against the backdrop of the Russian-Ukrainian war. China's position regarding the Russian-Ukrainian war is also analyzed. conduct a detailed analysis of geopolitical, and economic, issues of relations between the two Great Powers

The work presents mainly questions of a predictive type, in relation to which it is determined that the trade relations between the United States and China that existed before the 2022 war are preserved. On the other hand, China has not yet taken radical steps towards rapprochement with Russia and moving away from the United States. China will pursue a pragmatic policy of maintaining trade and economic relations with the United States and will therefore ignore Russian policies. The US and China should take very careful policy steps. China should use its accumulated power with great caution so as not to harm other states and, at the same time, its own plans for the future. In addition, the US Department of State should take sensible steps in dealing with China.

**Keywords:** Politics, relations, war, USA, China, Ukraine

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## Introduction

Description of the problem and relevance of the issue.

The geopolitical struggle between the United States of America and China was going on even before the start of the Russia-Ukraine war. This was related to the following main factors, namely, US-China trade and economic relations - the US has a negative trade balance in terms of relations with China, that is, the import from China to the US is much higher than the import of goods from the US to China.

In addition, it is important to note here that China's GDP growth rate is higher than the US GDP growth rate. For example, when China started reforms in the direction of developing a market economy back in 1980, China's GDP was about 15 times behind the US's GDP, although today it is possible to say that China's GDP is about one and a half times behind the US's GDP and according to experts, it is possible that by the 30s of the 21st century, China will surpass the United States of America by the total volume of GDP (Chitadze, 2022).

The second pressing issue is related to Taiwan. As is known, the United States of America recognizes China's territorial integrity, but on the other hand, supports Taiwan's de facto independence. Based on the official position of the USA, this has the explanation that the government operating in Taiwan represents the legitimate government of China, which was expelled from mainland China in 1949 when the communist forces seized power in China.

Also, the USA is dissatisfied with the more active involvement of China in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS activities created together with Russia. It should be noted that along with Russia and China, four Central Asian republics are members of the Shanghai Treaty Organization. Pakistan and India joined this organization in 2017, and along with Russia and China, BRICS members include Brazil, India, and the Republic of South Africa.

In addition to the above, it is worth noting China's growing role in world politics, including the implementation of various economic projects, including, so to speak, global state challenges. By issuing preferential credits and establishing Confucian

Institutes worldwide, trying to increase sympathy for China.

On the other hand, it is worth noting the fact that China and the USA are each other's economic partners despite the geopolitical differences. For example, when the Russia-Ukraine war started, the trade-economic turnover between China and the USA at the end of 2022 amounted to about 690 billion USD (Chitadze, 2023).

Along with this, of course, there are some similarities regarding the fact that China, despite its cooperation with Russia, recognizes Ukraine's territorial integrity and respects its sovereignty. Accordingly, it is possible to say that there are certain geopolitical or geoeconomic conflicts, but on the other hand, there are certain similarities in positions about several issues.

The Russia-Ukraine war has made China-US relations relevant again. That is why today there is a wider discussion about whether China will take advantage of the situation that the USA has focused on the Russia-Ukraine war. He is trying to help Ukraine and how the US will be able to provide the same help to Taiwan in case of Soviet attacks on Taiwan by China. Especially under the conditions that Beijing has officially declared that it does not rule out solving the Taiwan problem between them by military means.

Therefore, it can be said that the important development of the world largely depends on how the US-China relations will be. Will China help Russia in the Russia-Ukraine war? whether it will supply armaments? As a result, will the US take steps to increase tariffs on Chinese goods, etc.

**Research questions.** The research questions presented in the research paper mainly belong to prognostic type questions, namely:

1. What is the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on official relations between Washington and Beijing?
2. Is there a threat of China using force against Taiwan, which could lead to a US-China confrontation?
3. Will China pursue a pragmatic policy in the direction of

maintaining trade and economic relations with the US and will it ignore Russia's policy?

4. Is China taking radical steps in the direction of getting closer to Russia and away from the USA?

### **Research methodology and methods**

The US-China relations in the background of the Russia-Ukraine war, as well as China's position regarding the Russia-Ukraine war, as well as the detailed geopolitical, economic, military-political issues of the relations between the two great powers were studied within the framework of the research paper. For the in-depth research of all mentioned, a number of research methods will be used, such as historical, scientific, analytical scientific research methods.

In particular, the history of US-China relations was analyzed using the historical method.

A certain statistical method was also used within the framework of US-China trade and economic relations.

On the one hand, the theory of political realism is used as a theory, which talks about geopolitical interests between states, as well as geopolitical confrontation. Where the concept of Leaning is presented, and on the other hand, the theory of complex interdependence (the USA and China are economically dependent on each other, and it is possible that the economic factor has a great influence on their relations.)

### **Russia-Ukraine war and China's position**

The Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine showed to some extent who is actually in the war against Ukraine and who is more or less a supporter of Russia. The Western democratic world has expressed its support for Ukraine, which is manifested in the provision of weapons and humanitarian aid, financial assistance and the imposition of sanctions against Russia. On the other hand, China became a somewhat partner state of Russia because China did not introduce any sanctions against Russia.

China, along with India, imported goods from Russia, which contributed to the growth of the Russian economy. As a result of oil and gas exports to China and India, Russia received an additional income of

approximately 90 billion dollars, which to some extent allowed Russia to avoid an economic disaster. In particular, according to the World Bank's estimate, Russia's gross domestic product should have decreased by about 12% due to the sanctions, but actually decreased by 2.1%, to which China made a certain contribution (Noboa 2022).

It is worth noting the fact that there were several meetings between the high-ranking officials of Russia and China. The first meeting took place at the opening of the Beijing Olympics in China in early February 2022, followed by a meeting at the level of foreign ministers, where they talked about setting a new world agenda. Later, President of China visited Moscow.

Nowadays, the position of China is very interesting, when it tries to change the role of mediator between Russia and Ukraine and to some extent raise its international authority. A clear example of this is that Chinese President Xi Jinping again is going to meet with the representatives of Russia and Ukraine for the purpose of negotiations. China has peace negotiation clauses.

All of the above has caused great resentment of the West towards China. It is very interesting whether China, like Iran, will supply Russia with drones and other types of military equipment. Today, China does not announce its readiness for the mentioned actions. It is a fact that after the Russia-Ukraine war, China faced a certain dilemma, namely, on the one hand, China has a geopolitical consensus with Russia regarding a number of issues (to receive relatively cheap Russian gas and oil).

On the other hand, China had its own commercial interests related to the West, for example, in 2021, the trade-economic turnover between China and the US amounted to about 700 billion dollars, and the turnover between the Russia and China was 147 billion dollars. Although trade and economic turnover between Russia and China increased by about 29% in 2022, the US still remains the main trade and economic partner for China (Zhang, 2023).

Here it is important to note that about 45% of Chinese products are sold in the US and EU markets, while the Russian market accounts for about two and a half percent of China's foreign trade (Chitadze, 2022).

It should be noted that there were different opinions regarding US-China relations even before the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, in particular, in the 90s of the last century, the American political scientist Samuel Huntington believed that China could be the most important geopolitical opponent for the Western democratic world and Western civilization (Chitadze, 2011). However, the American politician, political scientist Zbigniew Brzezinski had a different opinion. He believed that China is not a global player because its GDP per capita did not exceed 3000 dollars (Brzezinsky, 1997). However, according to today's data, China's political and economic weight in the world is increasing.

That is why China is faced with a certain dilemma, on the one hand, to cooperate with Russia to jointly resist the growing geopolitical influence of the West and the US in the Asian region, and on the other hand, to maintain economic relations with the West so as not to harm China's economic interests, since China has its own position on the international stage. It tries to develop geopolitical influence primarily through the use of economic levers.

### **Political relations between USA and China before war in Ukraine**

In the 21st century, relations between America and China stand out, primarily because America is one of the most powerful states in the world, and China, with its growing economy, occupies a leading position among the countries of the world. The future geopolitical terrain is changing as China rapidly develops its economy, modernizes its military, and increases its influence in various regions of the world. Despite many years of relations, a part of the population of the United States of America believes that the strategic interests of the United States and China are not aligned. There is an opinion that if the United States of America helps China to integrate into the world community, then China's current policy will change and become consistent with the action policy of the United States of America, which at the same time will be in line with international norms (Zhang, 2023).

In today's reality, both states need to take very careful political steps. China should use the strength it has gained with great care so as not to harm

other states and at the same time its own future plans. Also, the United States of America should take smart steps in its relations with China. The main leverage that the United States should have in its relationship with China is to invest in the Far East and other regions of Asia, both economically and politically. The mentioned region and investing in it is an important factor for maintaining the country's position. Accordingly, the development of relations with the states of the Far East and Southeast Asia is of the utmost importance for the United States of America.

Although the mentioned two states do not show forceful acts towards each other, it can be seen that there are various disagreements between them, be it geopolitical, ideological or economic-political in nature, the reason of which is primarily the difference in the interests and goals of the countries. On one side stands one of the great powers in the world, and on the other side stands the country with the fastest growing economy.

Based on the theory of "complex interdependence" associated with the names of Joseph Nye and Robert Keohane, there is also a convergence of interests between the United States of America and China. According to this theory, the situation changed especially after the 70s of the last century, when economic and social issues moved to the forefront, and the relations between the leaders of the state moved to the back. In the era of complex interdependence, states cooperate at different levels, therefore, according to this theory, there should be an international system that can solve any issue peacefully (Rondeli, 2003).

Based on the mentioned theory, the analysis of the relations between these two countries intersects with the issues for which the states cooperate. First of all, these are economic issues, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cooperation against Iran's nuclear program, terrorism, financial crises, global security and others. These listed important issues are the reason for the further development of business relations between the two countries, which was evidenced by the meeting between Chinese President Dzia Dzemin and Obama in the United States of America, where the conversation between them touched on the future relations between the two

countries, in particular the most important due to the strength of these two countries. There were good international business relations between them. The presidents of both countries expressed readiness to take all necessary steps to develop relations.

For the first time, the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact were the reason for the rapprochement between China and the United States of America, which was the result of the visit of the US President Richard Nixon to the People's Republic of China in 1971. Later, the Act of 2001 brought the two countries closer together in the fight against terrorism. An example of the stabilization and warming of relations was the attendance of the President of the United States of America George Bush and his family at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 (Chitadze, 2011).

An important stage of cooperation was 2005, when the United States of America encouraged China to make significant contributions and use its influence in relation to such states as Iran, South Korea, and Sudan. After North Korea withdrew from the Six-Point Talks and conducted its first nuclear test, China has taken on the role of mediator in bringing Pyongyang back to the negotiating table (Qingguo, 2023).

The contents of the six-point talks include resolving security issues in North Korea's nuclear weapons program through peaceful means. South Korea, America, North Korea, Japan, China and Russia took part in the ongoing negotiations in Beijing. It must be said that the United States of America was interested in the involvement of China in solving the problems of Afghanistan. It is well-known to everyone after September 11, 2001, and after the American troops entered Afghanistan, which seemed to be somewhat threatening to China, but the mentioned process was at the time a guarantee of stability and security for China, which restrained the strengthening of terrorist groups directed against China, especially in the east of the country, the so-called in the East Turkestan region

### **Taiwan question**

Since the resumption of US-China relations in early 1979, the Taiwan issue has remained a major source of contention. After announcing its intention to establish diplomatic relations with mainland China

(PRC) on December 15, 1978, the Republic of China (Taiwan) immediately condemned the United States, leading to violent protests in both Taiwan and the United States (Ignatius, 2023). In April 1979, the US Congress signed the Taiwan Relations Act,[331] allowing unofficial relations with Taiwan to flourish and granting the right to provide defensive weapons to Taiwan (Ignatius, 2023). Its acceptance prompted Deng to begin to view the United States as an insincere partner willing to abandon its previous commitments to China. The expanding relationship that followed normalization was threatened in 1981 by PRC objections to the level of American arms sales to the Republic of China on Taiwan. Secretary of State Alexander Haig visited China in June 1981 to allay Chinese concerns about America's unofficial relations with Taiwan. Vice President Bush visited China in May 1982. As a result of eight months of negotiations, the Joint Communiqué of the United States and the People's Republic of China of August 17, 1982 was adopted. In this third communique, the United States announced its intention to gradually reduce the level of arms sales to the Republic of China. and the PRC called its efforts aimed at a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue as fundamental policy (Zhang, 2023).

When Donald Trump won the 2016 presidential election, divisions over the Taiwan issue intensified; President Trump became the first sitting US president since Jimmy Carter in 1979 to have any formal political or diplomatic contact with Taiwan when he decided to receive a phone call from President Tsai Ing-wen. Trump expanded the responsibilities of the de facto US embassy in Taipei (the American Institute in Taiwan) by increasing security staff and oversaw an increase in non-diplomatic visits by Tsai Ing-Wen and congressmen to each other's countries/regions. In addition, US warships have reportedly crossed the Taiwan Strait and intensified military exercises with Taiwan, which mainland China views as a direct threat to its sovereignty

## **China-US relations in the period after the aggression carried out by Russia against Ukraine**

The crisis in Ukraine turned out to be one of the most serious crises since the Second World War. The said crisis affected a wide range of China's interests related to nuclear safety, global security, global economy, and trade, as well as China's bilateral relations with other countries and partners. Chinese diplomacy found itself faced with the difficult task of harmonizing and adapting its foreign policy stance to the challenges posed by Russia's aggressive actions in Ukraine (Carlson, 2022).

The main contradiction and dilemma for China's diplomatic position is as follows: on the one hand, China must show - more or less convincingly - its support for Russia, the latter being Beijing's main international partner and its "quasi-ally". On the other hand, China should avoid close relations with Moscow, because from the economic point of view, China is closely connected with the western democratic world. Therefore, Beijing, while supporting its Russian "strategic partner", should not jeopardize its main geo-economic priorities. China is trying to avoid the risk of Western blockade and discriminatory sanctions against its economy. Such sanctions may lead to quite strong and painful consequences for China's interests.

The negative effects of Western economic sanctions may, in many ways, outweigh Russia's value as a "strategic partner" and "stable northern flank" for Beijing (Jash, 2023).

However, after the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, taking a certain anti-Western position is actively discussed in China's politics. In a speech at the Davos Economic Forum two months after the start of the war in Ukraine, Xi Jinping said: "Countries around the world are like passengers on the same ship with the same destiny. For the ship to weather the storm and sail to a bright future, all passengers must be together. The idea of throwing someone into the sea is simply unacceptable." The PRC chairman further emphasized that "in today's world, unilateralism and excessive pursuit of self-interest are doomed to failure" (Jiang, 2022).

China's political line and positions at the UN are one of the central elements of Beijing's support for

Russia in the Ukraine issue. China abstains from voting in the UN Security Council and other UN institutions and forums on resolutions aimed at criticizing, imposing sanctions, or other restrictive measures on Russia. A vote in support of China in the United Nations is very important for the Russian leadership. Of particular importance to Moscow was Beijing's support for the resolution in Bucha, Ukraine, which accused Russia of genocide against civilians (Trush, 2022).

Economic sanctions have also become a central topic of controversy between China and the United States over Ukraine. In March and April 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China engaged in an aggressive polemic with the main figures of the US administration - A. Blinken, J. Yellen, various American publicists. In March 2022, online talks between Xi Jinping and J. Biden and the focus of this negotiation was the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Judging by official US and Chinese accounts of these talks, the conversation essentially discussed the possibility of "restrictive" measures against China, in case the Chinese move to more substantial support for Moscow in the Ukraine crisis (Trush, 2022).

The White House does not recognize that China is taking a neutral position in the war between Russia and Ukraine. In July 2022, the US Secretary of State A. Blinken, while summarizing the talks with the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, expressed this very opinion. Blinken noted that China's support for Russia is most evident in the Chinese vote in the UN and also in the Chinese media, as the media promotes Russian propaganda narratives (Trush, 2022).

At the propaganda "level", China's reaction to the threat of US sanctions is obvious and predictable - a firm refusal and rejection. However, on a practical level, China's response is more ambiguous. Chinese banks and economic entities may be affected by possible "secondary" US sanctions on the Ukraine issue. Nowadays, in the "post-Trump" period of deterioration of economic ties between the US and the PRC, the situation of Chinese economic players is getting worse (Kusa, 2022).

As a result of the new restrictive measures, the stability of banking services for Chinese entities in the West may also be at risk. China's assets denominated in US dollars and US securities, other

Chinese assets deposited in the United States or under US control may be exposed to risk; Technology exchanges with the United States may be further hampered. That is why the approach of Chinese economic entities to the threat of US sanctions is very sensitive and cautious (Kusa, 2022).

The Russia-Ukraine conflict and the West's comprehensive and systematic sanctions against Moscow have affected Russian-Chinese trade, its commodity nomenclature and dynamics. In the period from March to May 2022, the expectation of growth of Russian imports from China was not justified. At the same time, Russian exports to China increased, due to rising energy prices on global markets, energy products are the main segment of the list of Russian export goods. The slowdown in Russian imports from China is explained, on the one hand, by the general slowdown in consumer demand and the low solvency of Russian consumers. On the other hand, this slowdown occurred as prices in China's domestic market rose due to rising transport and logistics costs as a result of the military conflict in Europe. From January to March 2022, China's imports from Russia amounted to 41.3 billion dollars; Such a growth rate is much higher than China's average world import growth (+6.6%).

In May 2022, compared to April, China's export flow increased by 13.7%, showing some adaptation to the new status quo. At the same time, according to experts, the expected replacement of lost European exports to Russia with goods from China has not yet been realized (Rühlig, 2022).

Another hot controversy between China and the United States in the context of the Russia-Ukraine crisis is related to Taiwan, which we have already talked about. In this matter, it is clear that the United States is putting pressure on Beijing. Washington is trying to bring Beijing to the conclusion that the escalation of tensions in the Taiwan Strait amid the current crisis in Eastern Europe is not in China's interests. For its part, Washington is not satisfied with the fact that China can pragmatically use the escalation on Taiwan as an indirect support for Moscow, as well as a tool to shift the West's attention and resources from Europe to the Asia-Pacific region. China, for its part, maintains its traditional line and declares that the

Taiwan issue is China's internal affair. Beijing argues that the Taiwan problem is fundamentally different from the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which is a conflict between two sovereign states (Carlson, 2022).

While discussing this topic, it is interesting to note that, as is known to the public, in April 2022, the visit of the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, to Taiwan took place. The visit is the highest-level US official visit to Taiwan since 1971 (Carlson, 2022).

### **Russian-Chinese interests**

After the start of the war with Ukraine, Russia was subjected to several sanctions from the West, and weakened by these sanctions, China remained the only important political ally. Moscow's support is of interest to Beijing, but for now, the threat of Western sanctions is a deterrent.

The reason for the rapprochement of Russia and China is the common interest, which is manifested in opposition to the United States of America. There is much in common between China and Russia, in particular, both states own large territories, and both operate authoritarian regimes, the goal of which is to change the existing international order. Both states recognize that those left behind in the face of Western consolidation need an accountable ally, although authoritarian regimes cannot be trusted (Carlson, 2022).

For Beijing, relations with Moscow are important because China considers Russia one of the important sources of its energy security. During the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, China does not care much about the damage to its reputation due to its cooperation with Russia. What Russia is doing in Ukraine today, China can do in Taiwan tomorrow, to say nothing of China's current behavior, which is why the United States Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, called China the most serious and long-term challenge to the international order. In addition, it should be noted that if China finds itself in a difficult situation similar to Russia, it will also need a partner or partners, even if it is a weakened Russia in the future. It will also be very useful for Beijing if Russia depends on China due to its weakness and become a "vassal". Russia has no choice and could not wish for a better partner, since

China's economy is one of the largest in the world (Qingguo, 2023).

Today's help - As it stands, Beijing is somehow complying with Western sanctions because it does not want sanctions to be applied to it, but this does not mean that Beijing is not helping Moscow.

Sanctions have become the reason why in Russia they are increasingly talking about the use of the Chinese yuan. An example of this is the transfers made by VTB Bank in September, which were made in yuan, and all this was done by bypassing the financial telecommunications community. It also became apparent that China would pay Gazprom for natural gas supply in yuan and rubles instead of dollars. For 9 months in 2022, the share of payments in US dollars in Russia decreased from 52% to 34%, and in euros from 35% to 19%, and for the Chinese yuan, this indicator changed in favor, in particular, it increased from 0.4% to 14% (Qingguo, 2023).

According to a report by the Free Russia Foundation, China has become even more important to Russia, due to the fact that China has become Russia's most important source of semiconductors and microchips. It is worth noting that the imposition of sanctions on Chinese companies from the American side began as early as June 2022, and the reason for this was the support of the Russian military forces by these companies (Ivaniadze, 2023). By doing so, the United States of America sent a clear signal to China that it will not leave Russia's help unanswered.

High-ranking officials of the United States of America said that China was considering providing lethal aid to Russia, the purpose of which was to support Russia in Ukraine. This information was also echoed by the Washington Post, which relied on US officials and noted that China was thinking of helping Russia with artillery shells. The United States reiterated that such assistance would not go unanswered (Qingguo, 2023).

The ongoing war in Ukraine does not prevent China and Russia from maintaining their military partnership. Since full-scale war broke out between Russia and Ukraine, in May 2022, Russia and China conducted joint military exercises using bombers for the first time, while US President Joe Biden was holding a meeting with leaders of the Quadripartite

Security Dialogue (QUAD) countries in Tokyo. The United States of America, India, Japan, and Australia are involved in this dialogue. QUAD aims to deal with China in the region. Last year, China took part in several military exercises held in Russia, and it is also worth noting that one year after the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, China and Russia conducted joint exercises with South Africa (Zhang 2023).

Since the beginning of the war, China has offered diplomatic support to Russia and repeated pro-Russian and anti-Western propaganda. In September, when the international community accused Russia of crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine, at that time, a high-ranking Chinese politician, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Li Changshu, made the following comments during his visit to Russia: "We always understand and support Russia's vital interests, including in Ukraine on the matter". At the end of 2022, Chinese leader Xi Jinping had a virtual meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, where Xi Jinping mentioned Russia as one of the progressive forces. He also expressed his great desire to further deepen cooperation between China and Russia in such areas as economy, trade, finance, infrastructure and others.

At the same time, it should be noted that Xi Jinping had a meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, where he said that the international community should oppose the use of nuclear weapons. The reason for this is primarily China's restrained policy towards the West in the recent period, which is mainly due to internal problems. It is noteworthy that when talking about nuclear weapons, China did not mention Russia.

The course of the war between Russia and Ukraine, as already mentioned, did not affect the relations between the leaders of Russia and China. After the start of the full-scale war, a number of telephone conversations took place between Putin and Xi, they also met in Samarkand within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in September. Xi clearly stated that China would actively continue to work with Russia in order to realize each other's common interests through strong mutual assistance. Xi has not met the leader of any country more times than he did with Vladimir Putin. It should be



noted that after February 24, 2022, there was no telephone conversation between Xi and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, although Ukraine has repeatedly expressed its desire to do so (Zhang, 2023).

While the President of the United States of America, Joseph Biden, arrived in Ukraine and held a meeting with Volodymyr Zelensky, at the same time, one of China's high-ranking officials, Wang Yi, held a meeting with Vladimir Putin in Russia. During the meeting, Wang Yi announced that China is always ready to work with Russia on deepening political mutual trust, strengthening strategic coordination, which will protect the legitimate interests of both countries.

Overall, it seems that China is trying to take advantage of the current situation. It does all this with parallel caution, it does not engage in confrontation, it does not violate sanctions, it does not supply weapons to Russia, and Chinese smartphone manufacturing companies are gradually leaving the Russian market. For example, the company "Honor" left the Russian market in March, and "Huawei", "Lenovo", "And Xiaomi" reduced their representation in Russia in June. The companies have not made any official announcements and cited a decrease in customers as the reason for all this. Against all this, China has significantly increased its purchases of Russian oil. During May 2022, the amount of oil transported by ships in China was 1.1 million barrels per day, and this data was only 750 thousand barrels in the first quarter (Zhang, 2023).

It should also be taken into account that the purchase of a large amount of oil from Great Russia can negatively affect the West towards China. The situation of oil is different from that of natural gas because it is supplied with the appropriate infrastructure, and this infrastructure, in particular, pipelines, Russia has with Europe, China, and Turkey. The "Power of Siberia" gas pipeline will be able to operate at full capacity only by 2025. Thus, while Russia is under sanctions, the share of China and Turkey in gas exports has increased, but the amount of gas exported has decreased.

The war started by Russia in Ukraine cut Russia's way back to the West, so relations with China

are not its only option. In recent years, China has been considered one of the main antagonists of the United States of America, which is reflected in the 2018 "Nuclear Posture Review" document by the United States (Council of Foreign Relations, 2022). Russia's invasion of Ukraine will reduce the focus of the United States of America on China. Finally, it must be said that the Russia-Ukraine war was not a desirable scenario for China, but China is benefiting from this war (Zhang, 2023).

China's goal is to maintain relations with Russia, the West, and Ukraine. China has very well grasped the established principle, namely to look for commonalities regardless of differences or problems. Ukraine is also well aware of China's strategy, although considering its ambivalence, they are not in a hurry to strain relations with it. Accordingly, it turns out that China pursues its own goals and maintains beneficial relations with all parties. Left alone, Russia is becoming more and more dependent on China, which is why it is rightly stated that Russia's relations with China are becoming vassal in this trend.

## Conclusion

The purpose of the article was to study US-China relations against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war. He also analyzed China's position regarding the Russia-Ukraine war. to conduct a detailed analysis of geopolitical, economic, issues of relations between the two great states. The paper mainly presented prognostic type questions, in connection with which the following was determined:

- Trade relations are maintained between the US and China that existed until the 2022 war. On the other hand, China has not yet taken radical steps in the direction of rapprochement with Russia and distance from the USA.
- Washington is trying to bring Beijing to the conclusion that the escalation of tensions in the Taiwan Strait in the context of the ongoing crisis in Eastern Europe is not in China's interests. Washington is not satisfied with the fact that China can pragmatically use the escalation on Taiwan as an indirect support

for Moscow, as well as a tool to shift the West's attention and resources from Europe to the Asia-Pacific region. China maintains its traditional line and declares that the Taiwan issue is China's internal matter. Beijing claims that the Taiwan problem is fundamentally different from the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which is a conflict between two sovereign states.

- China pursues a pragmatic policy in the direction of maintaining trade and economic relations with the US and therefore tries to ignore Russia's policy.

In conclusion, it can be said that the relationship between the United States of America and China is very relevant because there is quite a lot of mutual competition between them, which in reality creates various challenges, raises a lot of problems, and all this affects not only these two states but also their allies.

As already mentioned, in the 21st century, the relationship between America and China is a major topic of discussion. The competition started in the past continues today and is manifested in the economic-

infrastructural war. The United States of America will try not to lose its primacy, and China, which is growing economically very fast, will definitely try to take its place. This competition in itself makes both China and America more developed. Both states boldly use disputed issues, territories, or countries to achieve their goals. Past tensions have created a whole chain of positive and negative relations between the two countries.

Trade relations between China and America are also important, which are of great importance for both states and not only for them. This is the reason that their relations attract the attention of the international community so that these relations have a direct impact on the world's daily life. The relationship between China and America was more strained than harmonious, but these relationships have been maintained to this day, and the reason for this is that they are highly dependent on each other.

Accordingly, the breaking of relations between the US and China will have a rather negative impact on both states and the world, so their economic-political relations, despite the changes, are still on the rise.

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