



Collapse of Order: Conflicts, Resources, and the Fight for Influence in a World without Center

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I. Introduction: A World without a Center

The beginning of 2025 confirms to us that the world is no longer multipolar, or even unipolar, but poly-fragmented. After a decade of transition in which Western and non-Western power centers intertwined, geopolitical structures at the global level are entering a “post-trigger state”, in which institutional, security, and economic balances are collapsing faster than new ones can be established.

The current conflicts in [Ukraine](#), [Gaza](#), [Sudan](#), [DR Congo](#), and [the broader Sahel region](#) are not isolated phenomena, but clear manifestations of global anarchy with several regional epicenters, where local interests intertwine and link with transnational and technological actors. In parallel with the previously stated, new axes of cooperation – [Moscow-Beijing-Tehran](#), as well as [Turkey-Qatar-Pakistan](#), and the [growing autonomism of the Global South countries](#) – are creating a new configuration of the world without a stable center.

II. Geopolitical Erosion and the Return of the Force

[The domination of the United States](#) since the end of the Cold War until recently has been founded on the monopoly over technology, control over sea routes, and the legitimacy of the liberal order. Nowadays, all three pillars are undermined.

1. **Technology** has become the most evident instrument of decentralization. Artificial intelligence, and in essence, drones and cyber tools (especially the ones from the machine learning and generative artificial intelligence specter) have enabled mid and small countries and [non-state actors](#) to generate significant [offensive capacities](#), which were, long time ago, strictly reserved for the superpowers.
2. **Energy** is not dominated by one “block” anymore. Namely, [the transition to green sources and promoting the idea of environmental awareness have opened up new fronts in the fight for metals and rare elements](#), in which especially Africa, South America, and Central Asia are becoming exquisite arenas of geoeconomic competition.
3. [The legitimacy of the West](#) has been eroded by the internal political crisis of democracies, growing populism, and the emergence of “parallel value systems” promoted by China and Russia, invoking the principles of sovereignty and civilizational diversity.

The result of all that has been said is the [return of violence as a tool of diplomacy](#). We deduce this from the fact that conflicts are no longer waged solely for the sake of occupying a certain territory, but for the purpose of achieving control over data flows, energy corridors, and infrastructure hubs. The Balkans, the Black Sea, the Sahel, and the Indo-Pacific are becoming the junctions of the new geopolitical instability.

In such a context, the global system enters a phase of redefinition of power, where classic military strategies merge with informational and economic warfare. The boundaries between war and peace are becoming thinner, and the dominant currency of power is no longer territory, but the ability to manage perception, resources, and technology. States that succeed in uniting those three dimensions - digital, energetic, and psychological - will be the new architects of the international order. Thus, the world is increasingly moving away from the unipolar reality and entering the era of fluid multipolarity, in which stability becomes only a temporary category.



III. Resources as a Strategic Currency

In the conditions of the collapse of market and institutional mechanisms, resources become the most significant currency of political influence. While during the 20th century oil represented a measure of power, in the 21st century, that role is taken over by a combination of water, lithium, data, and energy networks.

- **Africa** is gradually becoming a space of global competition: the heirs of the Russian private military company [Wagner](#), the so-called [African Corps](#), [Turkish infrastructure consortia](#), and [Chinese investors](#) collide in a race to control mineral resources, with the tacit approval of local governments struggling to survive, trapped in debt and insurgency.
- **The Middle East** remains the [leverage of energy pressure](#) – increasingly more now, due to the existence of control over LNG flows and supply chains, and increasingly less through classical oil trade.
- **Latin America** is becoming a “new front” of the green transition, where countries such as [Bolivia](#) and [Chile](#) are facing the pressure to align their resources with European standards, while China offers them financial flexibility.

In this constellation, resource power becomes a kind of geopolitical equivalent of nuclear deterrence. Because whoever controls the resources dictates the pace of negotiations.

IV. The World without Center: Political Disintegration and the New Subjects of Power

The gradual loss of the ability of states to maintain an institutional monopoly over security creates a profound process of redistribution of power in the contemporary international system. This process leads not only to the weakening of traditional state institutions, but also to the formation of a complex network of new actors that take over parts of the once exclusively state functions.

Besides classical multinational corporations and private military companies, which have long been present in the field of security and resource control, [technological consortia](#) which are managing critical infrastructure, such as global data clouds, internet networks, and energy systems, are increasingly entering the scene. Their influence is no longer limited to the field of economy, but it spreads into [security](#), because possessing and managing information flows is once again becoming the new means of power.

At the same time, transnational networks of influence – from media conglomerates and NGOs, to religious and ideological structures – shape perceptions, narratives, and political decisions across national borders, often acting more effectively than traditional diplomacy. At the micro-level, in areas where formal government is weakened or completely collapsed, local militias, tribal communities, and paramilitary groups assume the role of guarantors of security, justice, and economic survival. This creates a mosaic of parallel centers of power, in which sovereignty is no longer measured solely by territorial control, but by the ability to manage information, resources, and community loyalty.



Such actors often become a replacement for the state, especially in regions such as the Sahel, DR Congo, [the Northern part of Myanmar](#), or, in fact, the Southeastern part of Ukraine. Instead of a unique system, the world is increasingly resembling an archipelago of autonomous zones of power, linked by trade but divided by interests.

V. The Balkans in the Global Instability

Although geographically and geopolitically often perceived as marginal, the Balkans is once again at the crossroads of global power vectors. Turkish and Chinese investments in infrastructure projects in the country, the growing influence of Russia in the sphere of security, and the renewed interest of the West, and especially the United States of America, in the political and security stability of the region make our climate a suitable laboratory for testing the development of various scenarios and wider processes:

- [Energy dependence](#) is becoming an exquisite instrument of political pressure.
- [The media sphere](#) is being used as a platform for testing new models of digital propaganda.
- [Migrations](#) become a means of control and extortion in relations with the European Union.

The biggest challenge for the region is not the choice of a geopolitical sponsor, but the preservation of functional institutions in conditions of global destabilization.

VI. Conclusion: The Era of Fragmentation

The world we are witnessing in the year 2025 has not slipped into chaos due to a lack of power, but due to an excess of actors who share power without a clear consensus on the rules of the game. Instead of a new order, we got a global system of delayed conflicts: economic, information, and energy wars overlap, making it impossible for us to perceive the future architecture of stability at the global level.

In this context, the main task of international organizations and research centers is no longer to define a "new order" but to understand how a world without a center works - where every local focal point is part of a global epidemic of instability, and politics increasingly becomes management of chaos, not its prevention.