Sino-US Great Power Conflict from a Realist Perspective

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Theoretical Framework

• Realism focuses on structural aspects in international system

• In anarchic system, states must tend to own security

• Hegemony is the ultimate goal for security

• Neoclassical realism recognizes internal politics may disrupt responses
The Rise of China and Global Concerns

• How can the US contest China’s rise and avoid war?

• China has potential for East-Asian hegemony

• Would disrupt trade/existing alliance structure

• China empowered to upend financial structures

• Could empower Chinese economic imperialism

Source: National Bureau of Statistics of China
How Can the US Contest Chinese Hegemony?

• US can support local actors in containing China

• Cannot economically isolate, making containment harder

• Must support long-term American economy to compete

• Economic reform, investment, sense of national unity
Methodology

• Data on trade deficits, GDP growth, vulnerable supply chains

• Supply chains weak for critical security goods

• Infrastructure/education investments bolster long-term economic growth
Results

• Investing in domestic manufacturing eases supply chains

• Economic/educational investment increases long-term growth

• Values-based nationalism allows government to leverage economic/security assets