

THE STATE OF THE WORLD  
A Geopolitical Situation Report for Humanity  
18 March 2026



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# THE STATE OF THE WORLD

## A Situational Geopolitical Essay — March 18, 2026

### Introduction: A Civilization in Strategic Transition

As of **18 March 2026**, the international system stands at one of the most consequential crossroads since the end of the Cold War. Humanity is no longer operating inside a stable geopolitical order but inside a **transitional geopolitical ecosystem** where institutions created after the **World War II** are progressively losing their ability to regulate power, technology, economics, and information.

The current global moment is characterized not by a single conflict but by **five simultaneous systemic transformations**:

1. The transition from a **unipolar world to a multipolar strategic order**
2. The **technological revolution led by artificial intelligence**
3. The restructuring of the **global economic and financial architecture**
4. The emergence of **new geopolitical theaters of competition**
5. The ideological struggle over the **future model of civilization**

These transformations do not occur independently; they reinforce each other in a feedback loop that will determine the trajectory of human civilization during the 21st century.



# I. THE END OF THE UNIPOLAR MOMENT

The geopolitical architecture that emerged after the collapse of the **Dissolution of the Soviet Union** in 1991 created what analysts called the “**unipolar moment.**” During this period, the **United States** exercised unprecedented military, financial, technological, and cultural influence.

However, this structure is now rapidly dissolving.

Three structural forces explain this shift:

## 1. The Strategic Rise of China

The most decisive geopolitical transformation of the 21st century is the rise of the **People's Republic of China** as a systemic rival to the United States.

China has expanded its influence through several pillars:

- Industrial supremacy in manufacturing
- Technological investments in artificial intelligence and quantum computing
- Global infrastructure diplomacy via the **Belt and Road Initiative**

Unlike the Soviet Union, China competes with the United States not through ideological confrontation but through **economic and technological competition.**

The result is a structural rivalry that will shape global politics for decades.

## 2. The Strategic Resilience of Russia

The second pillar of the multipolar shift is the persistence of **Russia** as a geopolitical power despite Western sanctions and isolation following the **Russian Invasion of Ukraine.**



Russia's strategy has been to transform pressure into geopolitical leverage by:

- Expanding energy diplomacy
- Deepening partnerships with China, Iran, and parts of the Global South
- Militarizing geopolitical competition

The war in Ukraine has therefore become more than a regional conflict; it is now a **strategic laboratory for 21st-century warfare**, involving drones, cyber warfare, and economic sanctions.

### 3. The Strategic Autonomy of the Global South

A third structural transformation is the growing geopolitical autonomy of the **Global South**, particularly among emerging powers such as:

- **India**
- **Brazil**
- **Saudi Arabia**
- **South Africa**

Many of these countries operate through platforms such as **BRICS**, which increasingly positions itself as an alternative pole of global economic coordination.

This development reflects a deeper transformation:  
**the erosion of Western monopoly over global governance.**

## II. THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

The second axis shaping the international system is the technological revolution driven by artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and biotechnology.

Technology has now become the **primary arena of geopolitical competition.**

The race is led by corporations and states including:

- **OpenAI**
- **NVIDIA**
- **Microsoft**
- **Alphabet Inc.**
- **Huawei**



The implications extend far beyond economics.

Artificial intelligence is transforming:

- Military command systems
- Intelligence analysis
- Financial markets
- Information warfare
- Governance models

As many analysts now recognize, **the next world power will likely be determined by technological superiority rather than purely military strength.**

### III. THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

The global economic system is undergoing profound restructuring following the disruptions caused by:

- The **COVID-19** pandemic
- Supply chain disruptions
- Energy market volatility
- The weaponization of financial systems

The financial dominance of the **United States Dollar** remains strong, but alternative mechanisms are emerging.

These include:

- Local currency trade agreements
- Digital currencies
- Central bank digital currency experiments

This process, often referred to as **de-dollarization**, remains incomplete but signals a broader transformation in global finance.



## IV. EMERGING GEOPOLITICAL THEATERS

The global strategic map is also being reshaped by emerging geopolitical theaters.

### Eastern Europe

The war between **Russia** and **Ukraine** remains the most significant armed conflict in Europe since **World War II**.

It has reshaped NATO strategy and accelerated European military spending.

### The Indo-Pacific

The Indo-Pacific has become the central strategic arena of the 21st century.

The principal flashpoint is **Taiwan**, where tensions between the **United States** and **People's Republic of China** could escalate into a major conflict.

### The Middle East

The Middle East continues to operate as a strategic corridor of energy and geopolitics, involving actors such as:

- **Iran**
- **Israel**
- **Saudi Arabia**

The region increasingly intersects with global power competition.



## Africa: The Strategic Frontier

Africa is emerging as one of the most important geopolitical spaces of the 21st century.

Its importance stems from:

- Critical mineral reserves
- Demographic growth
- Strategic maritime routes
- Untapped industrial potential

Countries such as **Equatorial Guinea**, located in the Gulf of Guinea energy corridor, hold strategic significance in energy, logistics, and maritime trade.

Africa therefore represents **not merely a developing region, but a future geopolitical center of gravity.**

# V. THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE FOR THE FUTURE

Beyond military and economic competition lies a deeper conflict: **the struggle over the future model of civilization.**

Three competing paradigms are emerging:

1. **Technocratic Capitalism** — dominated by large technology corporations.
2. **State-centric strategic capitalism** — led by countries such as China.
3. **Multipolar sovereignty** — championed by emerging powers and parts of the Global South.

The outcome of this ideological competition will determine:

- How artificial intelligence is governed
- How wealth is distributed
- How sovereignty is defined in the digital age



# Conclusion: Humanity at the Edge of a New Epoch

The world in March 2026 cannot be understood through the frameworks of the 20th century.

The emerging system will likely be:

- Multipolar
- Technologically driven
- Economically fragmented
- Strategically unstable but intellectually dynamic

Humanity therefore stands at the threshold of a **civilizational transition**.

The ultimate question is not which nation will dominate the 21st century.

The real question is far deeper:

**Will humanity learn to govern its technological power with ethical intelligence, or will technological acceleration outpace political wisdom?**

The answer to that question will determine not merely the geopolitical order—but the destiny of human civilization itself.

Sincerely,

**Javier Clemente Engonga™**

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