



Welcome to American History



Module 7: USA and the Multi Polar World

Talk	Title	Time Period	Date of Talk	
51	The Year when the world changed	2000-2001	March 2nd	✓
52	War on Terror US and the world	2001-2009	March 17th	✓
53	From compassion to collapse: Bush Presidency	2001-2009	March 30th	✓
54	The politics of Hope: Obama Presidency	2009-2016	April, 20th	✓
55	US and the World	2009- 2016	May 18th	

The final “module”: MAGA America

Talk	Title	Time Period	Date of Talk
56	Road to MAGA: US culture in the new century	2001-2020	June 1st
57	MAGA 1.0: First Trump Presidency	2017-2021	June 15th
58	The Biden interlude	2021-2025	June 29th
59	MAGA 2.0 and potential futures	2025+	July 6th

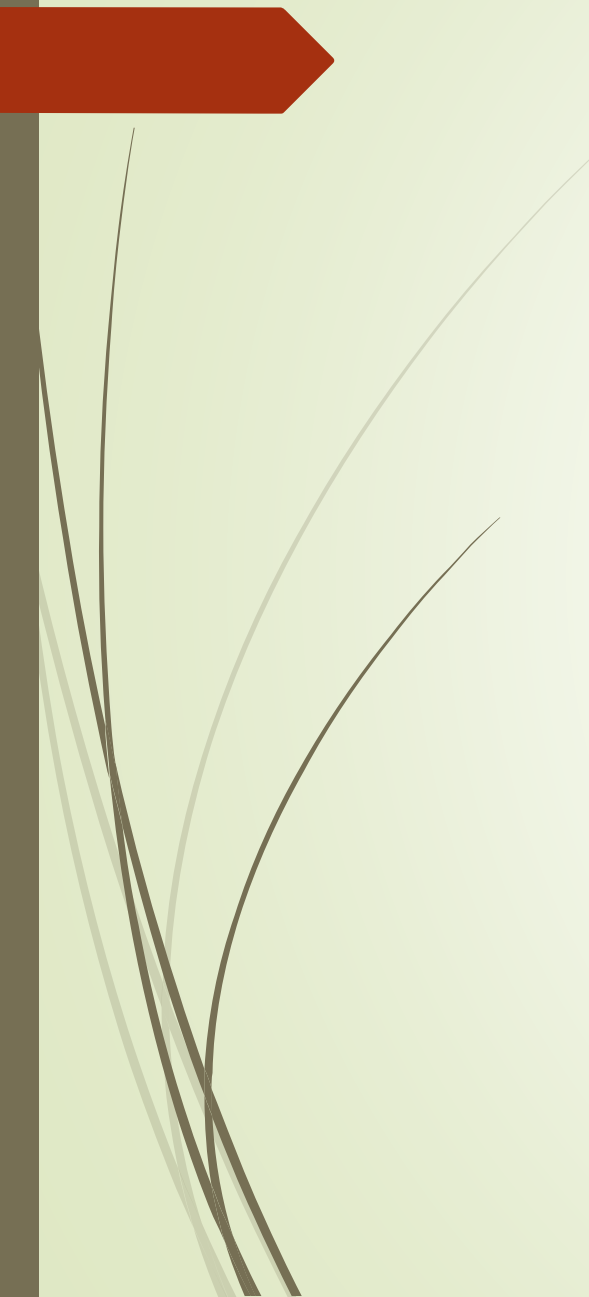
American History:

Talk 55: “US and the world during the
Obama Presidency 2009-2017

US and World 2009

- US the dominant world power
 - Russia consolidating gains in Georgia, threatening Ukraine
 - China growing rapidly, consolidating control of Hong Kong
 - NATO still strong and united
- Deep distrust towards US
 - Iraq war opposed by France, Germany, world wide protests
 - US seen as acting on unipolar basis
- Global economic recession: destabilising regimes in Middle East

Overview

- 
- The “Forever wars” of Afghanistan and Iraq
 - Middle East & Iran
 - Russia resurgent
 - China the new superpower
 - Climate Change
 - Obama impact on the world





The Forever Wars: Afghanistan & Iraq

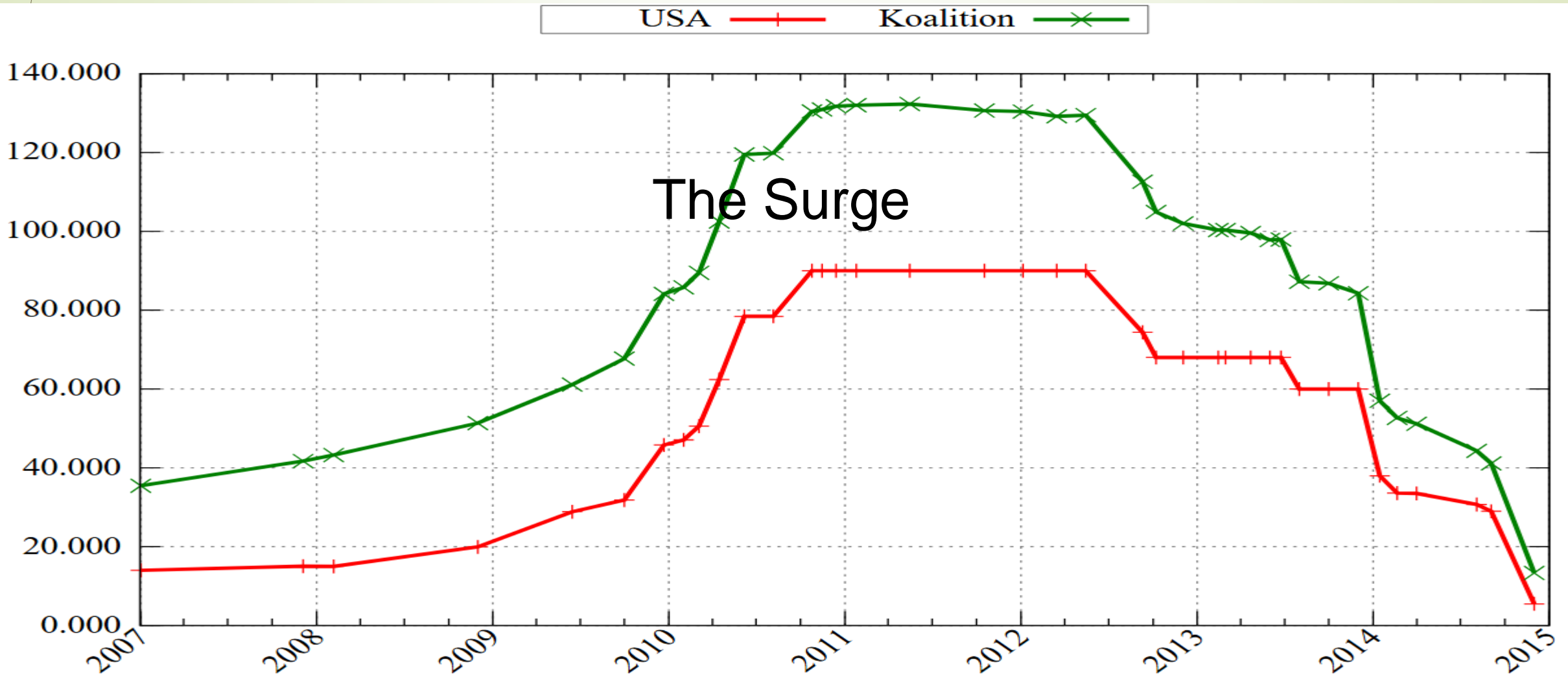
Afghanistan

- 28m population, 80% population rural, 90% Sunni
- Weak central government, land of 50,000 villages
- Invaded 2001...coalition US, UK, NATO: destroy Al-Qaida
- Mission creep 2002-2009...create central government & modernise
- Control limited to cities, ineffective government, rampant corruption
- 40,000 coalition army in place....losing control, Taliban ascendant

Obama: the necessary but ill managed war

Obama order "Surge" 2009: + 70,000 US & Coalition

.....recover territory/ Taliban retreat to Pakistan...and wait



Bin Laden compound ...100 metres from Pakistan Police HQ



502340274

Witnesses to a killing



Announcing the event



gettyimages®
Credit: Ramin Talaie

NBC NEWS SPECIAL REPORT
PRES. OBAMA ANNOUNCES
OSAMA BIN LADEN KILLED

America celebrates



gettyimages®
Credit: Tom Williams

Afghan “modernization” programme

Creating army and institutions; creation of 350,000 “army” by 2014

- Education (\$1.2BN): to create a literate society.. From 1 to 8 million
- Infrastructure: create rural to urban areas, internal trade and markets
- Governance capability : judicial, finance, local government
- Health and welfare: women’s services, hospital, medical training

3,500 Coalition (2,500 US, 450 UK) deaths , 100,000 Afghans
.....\$120 Bn in investment (\$80Bn US) 2009-2016

Kabul...transformed

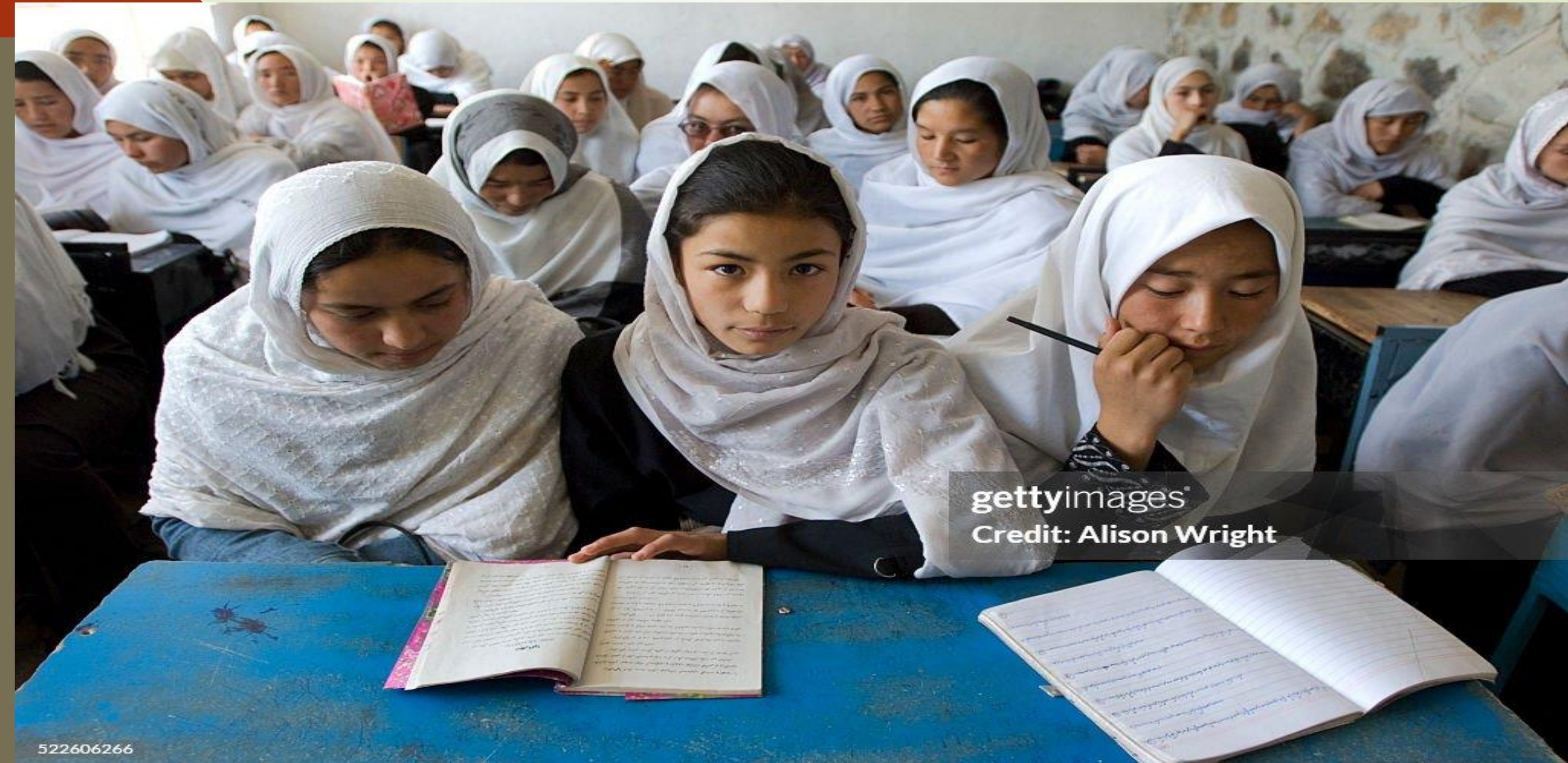


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Credit: Paula Bronstein

“Free, but not fair” elections 2009...for all



A time of hope...for the powerless



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Credit: Alison Wright

Afghan realities

Western imposed values resisted

- Tribal society with 50,000 ultra traditional village “kingdoms”
- Afghan “government” incapable/ aid dependent
- Covertly seeking accommodation with Taliban

- Rampant corruption
 - National Bank disbursement of aid to warlords/ government
 - “Ghost Army” ...funds diverted, wages unpaid, real army 10% nominal size

- Ongoing insurgency
 - Taliban 20,000- 50,000 “army” ...local support, Opium funded, refuge Pakistan
 - Coalition “modernisation” limited to cities

Afghanistan: the Obama Legacy

“Surge” bought time:

- Coalition forces move to non combat roles by 2015
- Afghan “army” increased to 300,000....(30,000 “effective)
- Taliban remain intact , power increasing with grow
- “Afghan Army” ineffective
 - Rampant corruption...wages unpaid, supplies diverted
 - Recruitment from villages controlled by Taliban
 - High casualties of “core” recruits
- US and global public indifferent: support “hard sell” ...Bin Laden death
Future support dependent on US President with “long term commitment”.....that was not going to happen

Iraq

- 40m population, 80% urban society, 60% Shia, 35% Sunni 5% other
- Strong central state until disestablished by US
- Invaded 2003 by US and UK to find/destroy WMD....none found
- Civilian rule established 2005 ...weak, disunited, corrupt, chaotic
- US 2007 “surge” reduces violence, re-establishes state credibility
- 140,000 US and 2,500 British present, Iraq army 250, 000....unmotivated
....opposition 200,000 – 300,000 militia....irregular + 3,000 Al-Qaida

Obama view: unnecessary and ill managed war

Iraq war and Obama Administration

- The First Term (2009-2012)
 - Continues Bush “Statement of Forces” Agreement
 - US forces leave cities 2009...UK exit 2009
 - Commit to withdrawal army by 2011
 - Handover to “new” Iraqi army
- Post 2012
 - Retains air presence, logistics, security support
 - Aid ramped down from \$25Bn per year 2005, to \$500m by 2014

Obama and Iraqi PM Maliki 2013Iraq appears “done”



Iraq war overview

- Autocratic dictatorship replaced by weak hybrid “Democracy”
 - Iran led militias threaten stability
 - ISIS will emerge to fill vacuum
 - US (and UK) credibility damaged by false pretext for war
 - Lives lost: 50,000 Iraq military, 4,000 US (179 UK), 40,000 insurgents, 300,000 civilians killed, 2 million refugees to Syria,
 - Cost \$800 BN US, \$10BN UK, rebuild State, infrastructure, debt w/c
- Not abject failure...costs > benefits**

Obama in Egypt 2009: the “New Beginning Speech”

Obama at Cairo University



Re-set US with Muslim world

Acknowledge tensions

Recognises Israel right to exist
End to West Bank settlement
Creation of 2 state solution
Democracy cannot be imposed

Re-sets US tone, encourages
Democratic movements

Zero follow through



Middle East and Iran

Overview Middle East Countries 2012

- Authoritarian regimes in power: ongoing struggle secular vis religious
- Rising youth population with high unemployment
- Widespread poverty, failure to develop
- Widespread corruption in facets of life (police, education, law, work)

Social media everywhere spreads knowledge of failings

What was needed a trigger

Arab Spring 2010-2012

Mohamad Bouazizia



December 2010

- ...Tunisian street seller unable to trade
- ...self immolates
- ...demonstrations spread
- ...military joins protestors
- ...Dictator Mubarak overthrown

- Factions unite....form civil government
-elections held, democracy established

Triggers mass movements across Middle

Social media amplifies revolts spread

Arab Spring Tunisia



Bahrain



Libya



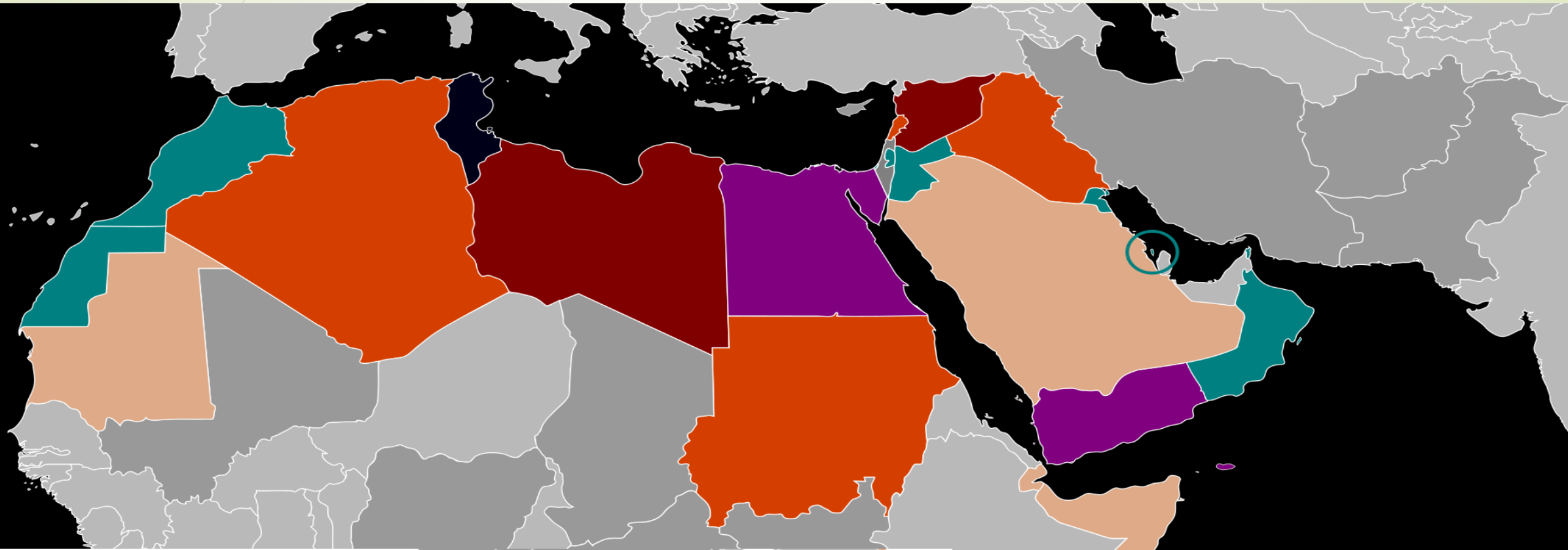
Egypt



Syria



Authoritarian regimes resume power everywhere
....except Tunisia (till 2021), resistance fragments
.....with unintended consequences



- Government overthrown more than once
- Government overthrown
- Civil war
- Protests and governmental changes
- Major protests
- Minor protests
- Other protests and militant action outside the Arab world

Obama response to Arab Spring

- Rhetorical support ..welcomes rise of democracy ,

“These revolutions are not about America. They are about people in the region taking control of their own destinies.....the yearning for freedom and dignity will not be denied.”

- US pledges not to intervene

- Response varies according to US interests

Arab Spring US responses

- ▶ Tunisia....Democratic government assumes power....elections till 2021
- ▶ Bahrain, Yemen, Morocco....no response... Regime reasserts control
- ▶ Egypt. Initial support for dictator Mubarak, then accepts election of Muslim, Brotherhood, supports military coup as too “Islamic”
- ▶ Libya
 - ▶ Revolt ...crackdown, 10,000 killed, massacre threatened
 - ▶ UN Resolution 1973, bombing campaign , Gadhafi killed
 - ▶ Opposition divides into tribal loyalties, state collapses and wars ongoing

The big test...Syria

A brief history of Syria

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Ancient history: Oldest occupied cities in the world, multiple entities, battleground
80% Shia, 15% Sunni 5% Christian/ other

Ottoman Syria 1518-1918..self governing

20th Century Syria

French Mandate 1920-1946...Great Revolt

Military coups and chaos 1946-1970

Assad family 1970-2025

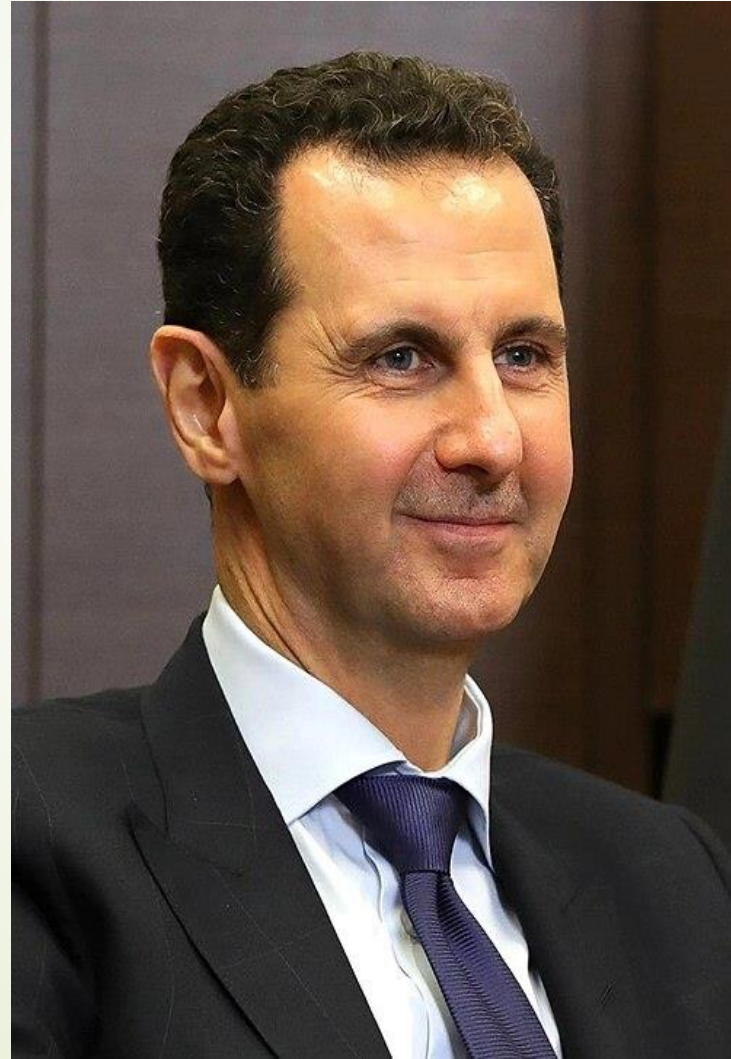
Socialist State...Soviet ally (7 day war)

Syria under Assad 1970-2024

Hafez the father
1971-2000



Bashar, the son
(2000-2024)



- Authoritarian police state 20m people
 - Secular rule/ Alawite minority
 - Israel: "settler state" imposed by West
- Religious revolt 1980
 - Hama centre of Islamic revolt
 - Chemical attack:, 20,000 dead
- Lebanese occupation : 1975-2005
 - Civil war vs Palestinians, Islamists
 - Supported by Iran, Russia
 - Abandons 2005/ retains influence
- Economy contracts

Arab Spring and Syria

Syria April 2011...time of hope



- Pro democracy protests March April 2011
- Assad regime crack down. Mass killing
- Late 2011 from protest to civil war
 - Free Syria Army/ Enter Russia
- 2012 ...Civil War expands
 - Emerging Muslim fundamentalists
 - Kurd separatists vs Iran militia
- 2013...War intensifies:
 - Use of chemical weapons to clear cities
 - Russia/ Iran support for Assad continues
 - Air force, military, warships

Obama and the “Red Line”

Assad Response: Use of Sarin
Ghouta, Syria August 2013, 1,500 dead



- Obama ...about use of chemicals:
“We have been very clear to the Assad regime... that a red line for us is we start seeing a whole bunch of chemical weapons moving around or being utilized.....That would change my calculus. That would change my equation.”...August 2012
- Interpretation....US to intervene if used
- UK/ France supports “Red Line”
- Russia argues chemical weapons never used...fabrication by West

Obama response to Ghouta

UK Parliaments rejects use of military force in Syria

- Russia claims Ghouta attack “fabricated” by West to discredit Assad
- Obama rejects option to attack, submits proposal to US Congress....rejected
- December 2014 US/ Russian Agreement
 - Syria to dispose of weapons (Russia arguing never used)
 - Claim stockpile removed end 2014
 - Chemical attacks continue (Dayun 2017, Douama 2018)

Enter the Russians

Putin with Russian Airforce , Syria 2018



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Credit: MIKHAIL KLIMENTYEV

The Russian approach: Carpet bombing

.....Damascus...December 2018

....Civil war continues to 2024 ...5 million refugees



Syria in total chaos...new force has emerged ISIS

Rise of ISIS

Offshoot of Al-Qaeda (Al-Qaeda in Iraq) formed in 1999

- Extreme fundamentalist interpretation of Koran
 - Teachings of Al Qutb (clerical government, puritan lives, slavery, women subservient)
 - Defeat “Near Enemy” by creating Caliphate NOW
 - Exterminate non believers, Shia Muslim, modernizing Sunnis,
-
- Joins “Insurgency” & expands as US disbands state and army 2003-2007
 - Severely degraded by US Surge, ...ISIS “rebrand”
 - 2011 Arab Spring...disintegration of Syria
 - Safe haven for terrorist groups
 - Builds strength, empty prisons, foreign recruits

US withdrawal exposes Iraq weakness & opportunity

Islamic State rampant 2013-2016



Islamic State assault on Iraq
...small fanatical units
...foreign fighters join
...army grows to 50,000

Iraq army of 300,000 disintegrates
Before advance..."ghost army"

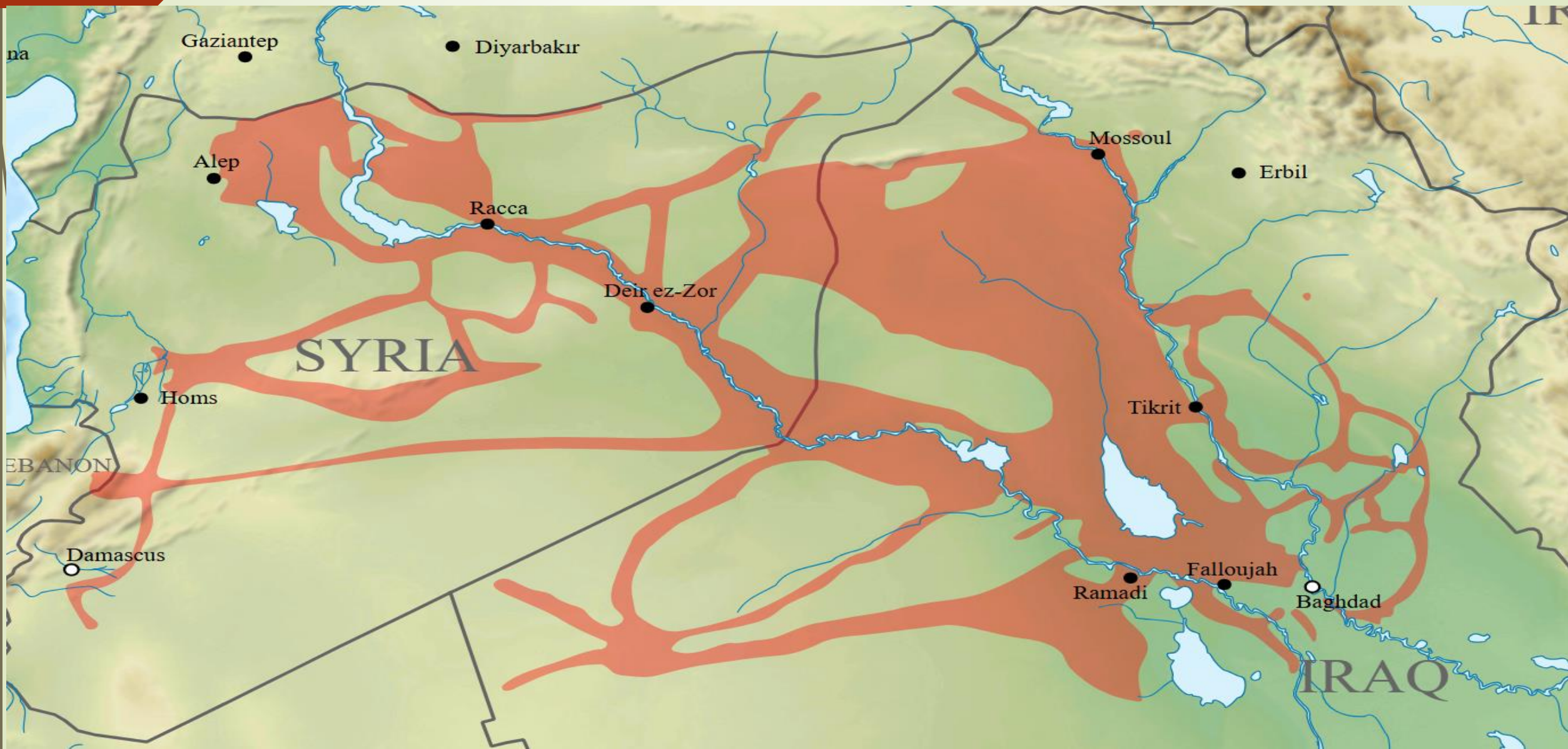
ISIS "army" of 1,000 captures
2nd Iraq city Mosul (800,000 [pop])
"defended" by 30,000 Iraqi army
+ 30,000 police

ISIS massacre of 10,000
Yazidis (Sinjay)

Global terror campaign
....Paris ...130 killed
....Nice...80 killed
...Orlando night club 69
....Brussels. 32, London 22

Peak ISIS Caliphate 2015....

12 million people....5 million refugees



Fall of Isis 2016-2020

- Global response
 - Revulsion vs Isis filmed executions
 - Obama initiates air campaign...joined by UK & France
 - Destroyed oil infrastructure....cut off fuel and revenue source
 - Precision assault ISIS stronghold
 - Iraq rebuild...existential threat forces unity
 - Restructures army, Shia militia rush to support
 - Sunni support secured
 - Iraq counter attack with US air support 2016...2019
 - Mosul recaptured 2016
 - "State" eliminated by 2019
- "ISIS" remains....but as terrorist global force...without territory

Drone warfare

Reaper Drone



Begun during Bush
...expanded by Obama
...surveillance and attack
..."Kill lists"

500 drone attacks
..."Terror Tuesday" White House
....goal "precise", "targeted"
....but 1,000 civilians killed

Each drone \$10m !
...inflicting death w/o risk
...lower cost than bombers

Syrian Civil War 2011-2024....Chaotic mess
....every player a different motive



The Players

Turkey...crush the Kurds, “make Turkey great again”


➤ Russia...secure Middle East influence, “make Russia great again”

➤ Israel....Accelerate settlement West Bank , “Greater Israel”

➤ Iran...export revolution, destroy Israel, “make Iran great again”

➤ USA ... stability, prevent terrorism, avoid Iraq# 2 , bloc Iran

The only agreement....destroy Isis and this was done



The losers: Syrian people, 500, 000 dead, 5 million refugees
.....and the Palestinian people as Jewish settlements expand

The “winners”:

Iran....expand influence Syria, Iraq, Lebanon

Israel....security increased by chaos, \$24Bn US Aid..Iron Dome built

...and expansion West Bank settlements accelerated

1990...75,000..settlers

2000...200,000

2010...300,000

2020...450,000

US and Iran during Obama Presidency

Iran “wars by proxy”

- Shia militia Iraq, Hezbollah Lebanon, Houthi's Yemen
- Support Assad Regime in Syria...crush Sunni
- Advance nuclear capability, enrich uranium, nuclear capability

US and Iran

- Inherited hostility...Shia militia...wars by proxy
- Economic sanctions imposed
- “Moderate” election Iran 2012... phone call with Obama
- Negotiations to end Iran nuclear programme start 2012

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

...agreed April 2015

➤ UN brokered, US Support

➤ 2 years negotiation

➤ “executive order” to

➤ Iran commitments

➤ No nuclear weapon

➤ Agree to inspection regime

➤ Continue research


➤ US commitments

➤ Unfreeze \$100 BN Iran Assets

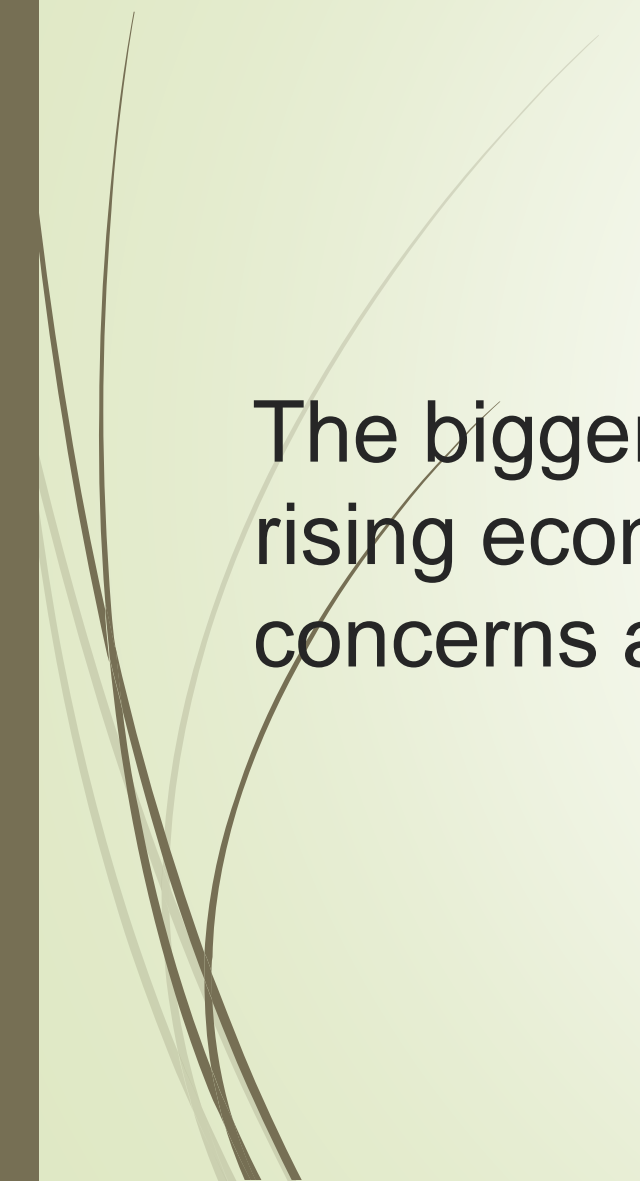
➤ Discontinue nuclear sanctions

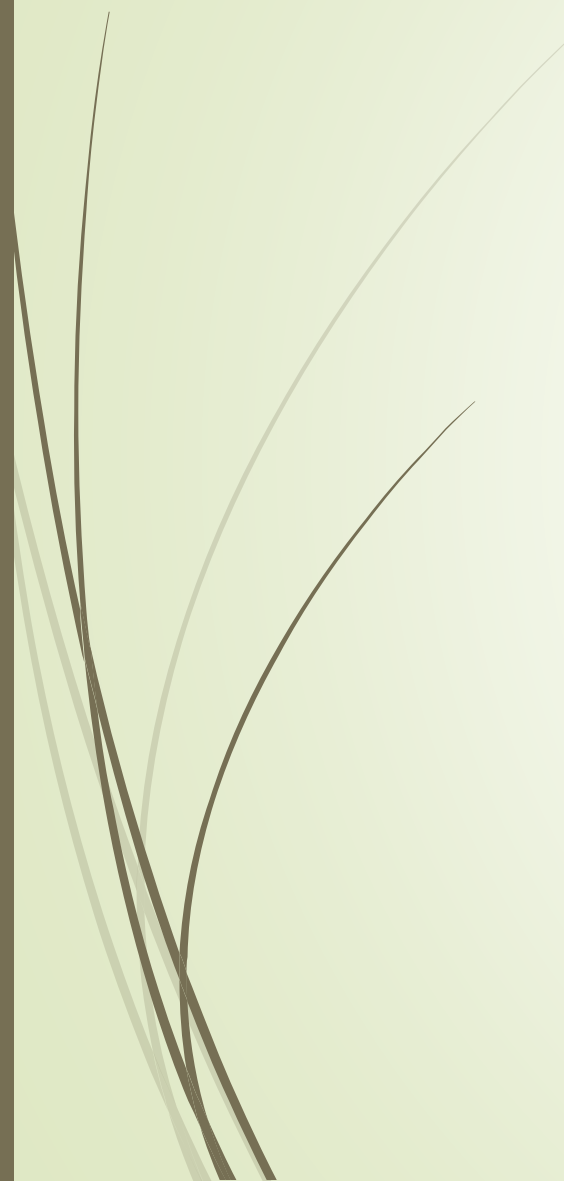
➤ No agreement to end “proxy war”





The bigger challenges: an increasingly aggressive Russia, the rising economic and military power of China and growing concerns about “Climate Change”

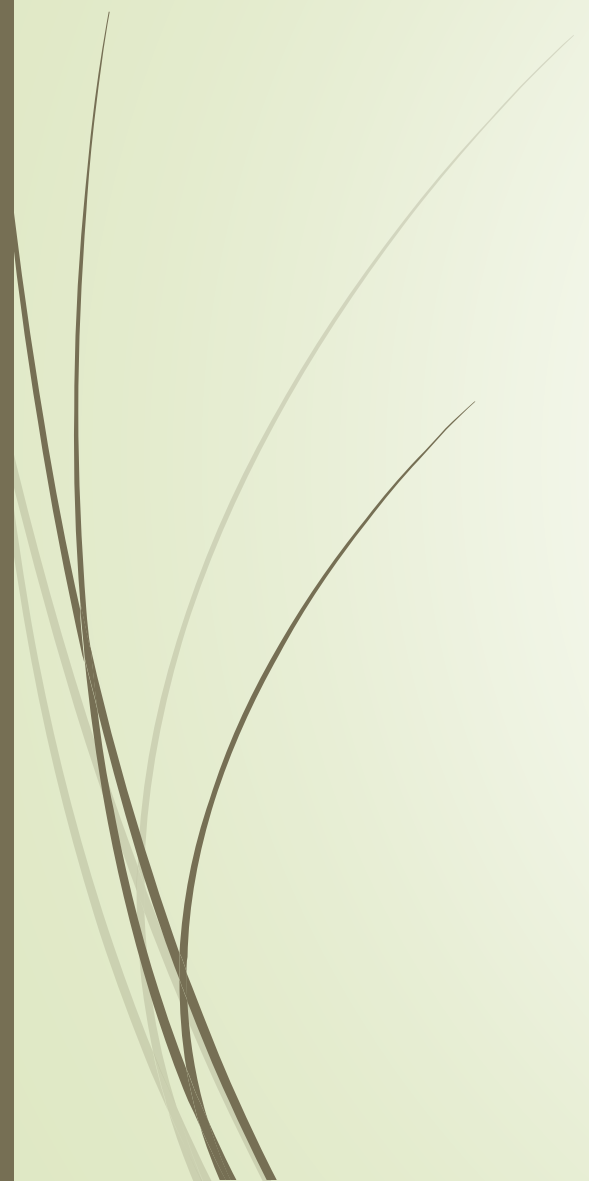




Intermission



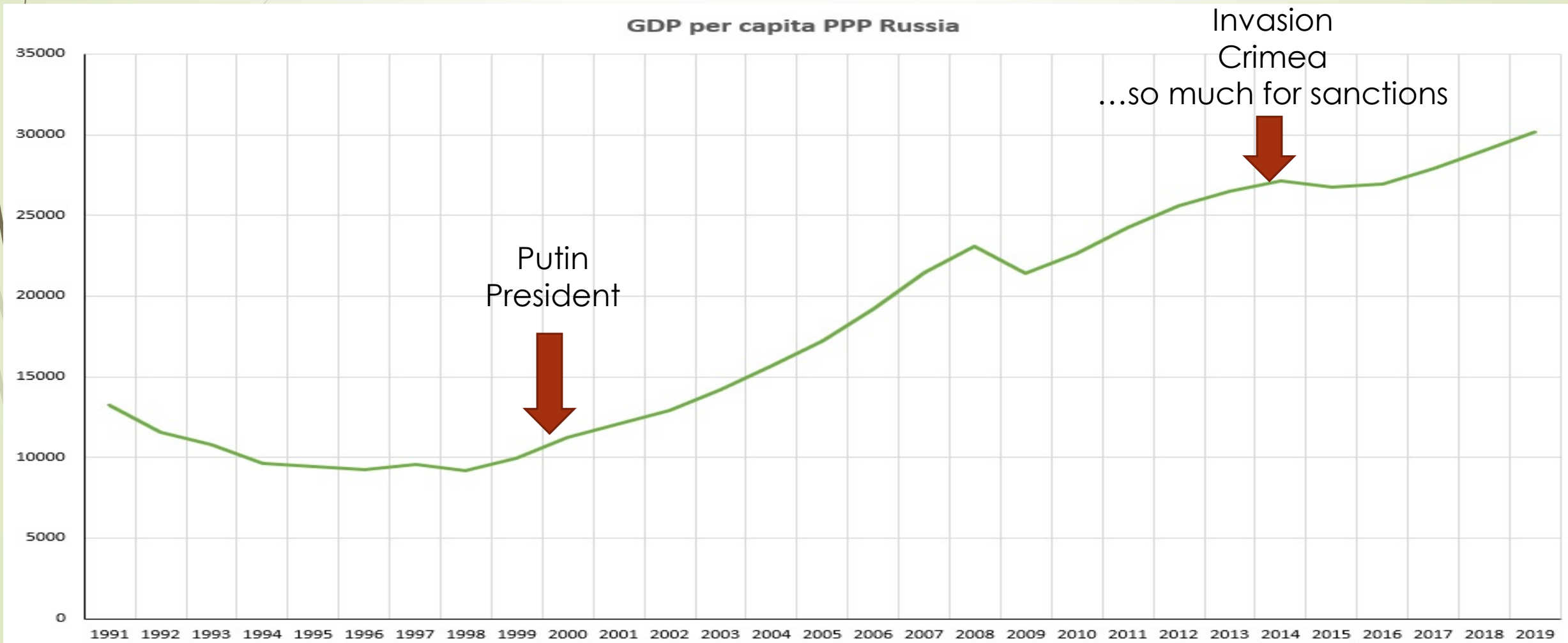
Russia Resurgent



Putin and Russia 2001-2008

- ▶ Putin as a young man
 - ▶ Son of factory worker, student
 - ▶ Law student
 - ▶ FSB Agent Germany 1975-1990
- ▶ Rise to power
 - ▶ St Petersburg politics
 - ▶ Administrator for transfer of “Soviet Assets” USSR
 - ▶ Yeltsin confidant, Appointed Prime Minister 1999, President 2000
- ▶ First Term as President 2001-2004
 - ▶ Elected President 2000...oligarch controlled media, ballot rigging
 - ▶ Greeted as “new man” by west, high domestic popularity
 - ▶ The “oligarch” deal....centralises control & economic growth

Russian economic growth: major “petro-state”
....oil price triples 2000-2008 (\$29- \$78)
... slow steady growth & rising living standards



Putin 2nd Term 2004-2008

Putin 2008



Ends Proto democracy”2
....no real opposition
....media & ballot control
....murders of journalist begin

Reasserts Russian control
.....Chechnya war 2007
.....Georgia 2008

Constitution...no consec terms
...“Appoints Medvedev as Presid
...remains Prime Minister
...and in control

“Putinism”

- Strong Central power
- “Managed Democracy”, eliminate opposition
- Nationalism....restore Russian Empire, global power
- State control key industries, oligarchs who comply the rest
- Security Agencies enforce control

For West....first sign: Munich Speech 2007

Putin Munich Speech February 2007



Announces Unipolar world
Led by USA unacceptable

Expansion of NATO
threat to Russia Claims
breaks agreement

Russia right for global role

Commitment to low cost
Oil supplies to Germany

Indicates trouble to come

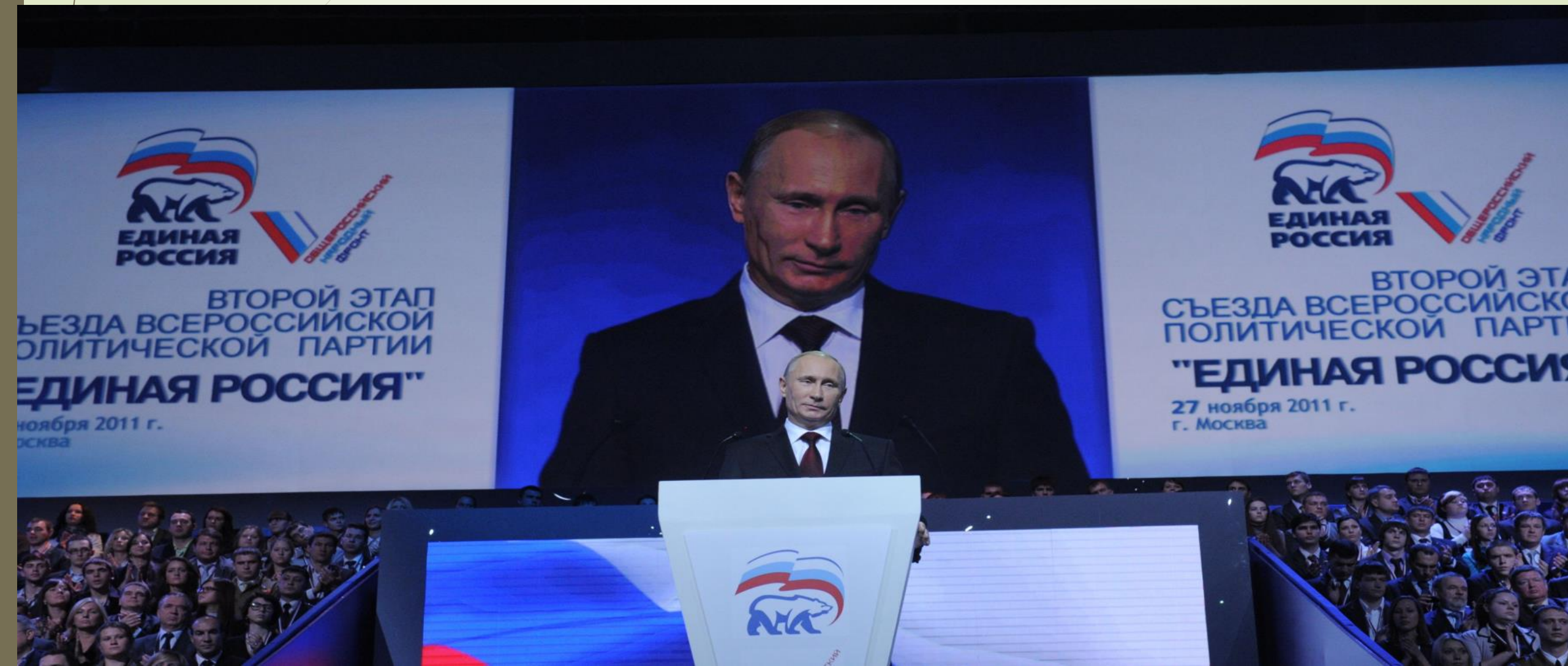
Cult of personality begins







Putin 2012...announces return for 3rd term
.....swaps role with "Prime Minister"
.....managed democracy...but Putin popular



Winter protests Russia 2011-2013

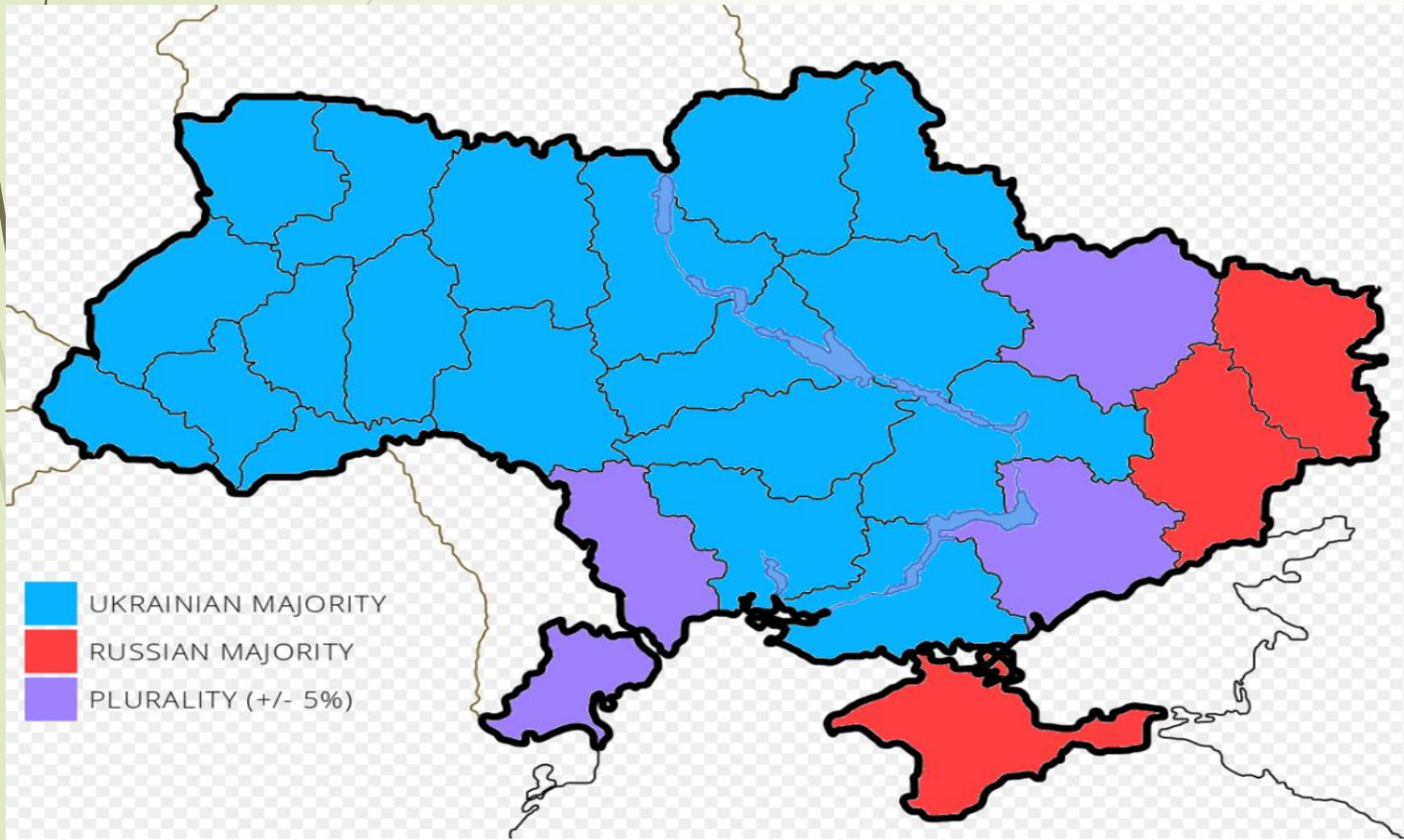
...opposed to voter fraud, media censorship, killings



Demonstrations crushed, organisers jailed,

A brief history of Ukraine

Language Map



“Ukraine” = “borderland

Kiev..original ”Rus” land 880

.... Muscovy founded 1150

...Mongol conquest 1250

Border to empires

.....Polish/Lithuania West

... .Austria SW.

.... Turks Crimea

...Cossacks centre and East

“Ukraine” conquest by “Russia” 1750-

1796...Province czars, “Republic USSR

...Rus settlements east/ Crimea

“Ukraine” identity movement

Crimea transferred to Ukraine Republic

by 1954 Khrushchev (water...logistics)

Post Soviet Ukraine

- 1991-2004: Russian “vassal”
 - “Independence” from USSR 1991...pro Russian Oligarchs in control
 - Budapest Agreement 1994...abandon nuclear weapons/ sovereignty
 - “Orange Revolution” 2004...secures autonomy from Oligarchs
- The “Move West”
 - 2010 Elections in Ukraine....pro EU candidate Yanukovitch elected
 - 2012....Negotiations to join EU begin
 - Putin orders Yanukovitch to abandon EU, join Russian

Yankovitch does as told.....and public feels betrayed

Maidan (Kiev square) Protests Nov 2013-January 2014

.....1,500 protestors...police attempt to crush

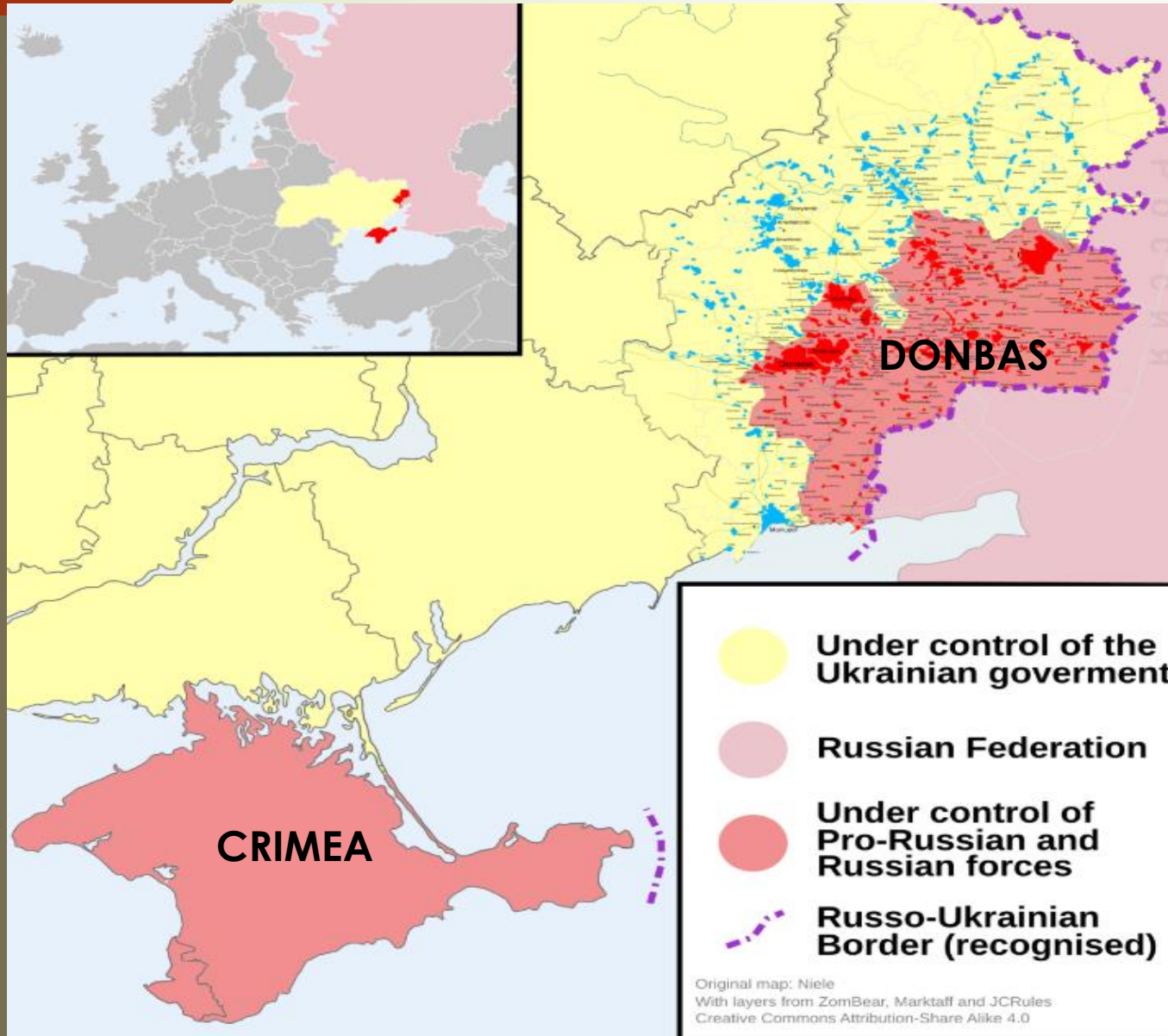
.....200,000 citizens overwhelm police, 3 killed



Revolution of Dignity February 2014
....mass demonstration...revolt..100 killed
....Yankovich signs agreement...then flees to Russia



Invasion of Crimea/ Donbas 2014



- Ukraine in chaos
 - No President
 - Minimal army, corruption
 - “Easy pickings” ..Russian speaking areas
- Putin invades Crimea (as Georgia)
 - “covert” invasion Crimea Feb 2014
 - “little green men”no resistance
 - Russia annexes after “election”
- Russia invades Donbas Oblast April 2014
 - Allegedly to “protect” Russian speakers
 - Ally with Russian speaking Separatists
 - Fierce fighting April-September, 14,000 dead...2 million refugees
 - Stalemate...no attempt on Kiviv

“Little green men” (Russian army masked) seize power in Crimea



gettyimages
Credit: GENYA SAVILOV

Pro Russian Separatists want union with Russia

.....effective propaganda

....substantial local support...chaotic Ukraine state



Malaysian flight 17 shot down over Donbas
...298 dead...tracked to Russian army
...Russian denial...despite proof



Obama & West reaction



- US supports Ukraine, defers to Germany & France....impose economic sanctions
- Negotiations December 2014, Feb 2015
- Minsk Protocol agreed Jan 2015...signed by Putin, Ukraine, Separatists, France, Germany
- Russia secures “gains”+ buffer zone
....incorporates Crimea and occupied areas into Russia

Putin's best day: naval review of Black Sea Fleet in Crimea 2016



Post invasion outcomes

- Minsk Agreement fragile: fighting continues 2015---now
- Sanctions ineffectual
 - Gas pipeline Russia- Germany completed
 - Chinese support Russia
 - No effort to enforce
- “Green Light” for future expansion
 - Putin confident West will not respond
 - Russia expands influence and military to Syria and Africa
 - Builds up army for next war



Obama administration decides to make “Pivot to the East”

.....Russia a “declining regional power,

.....China a rising and existential threat

.....Step 1.....fix “back yard”Cuba

The goal....establish “normal relations”
....first US President to visit Cuba



The result...open diplomatic relations,
commercial flights, trade, remittances



Base-ball politics...first game Tampa Bay vso
Cuba (Tampa Bay wind 4-1)



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Credit: Sven Creutzmann/Mambo Photo



ENIA HARANA

Attention focuses on China

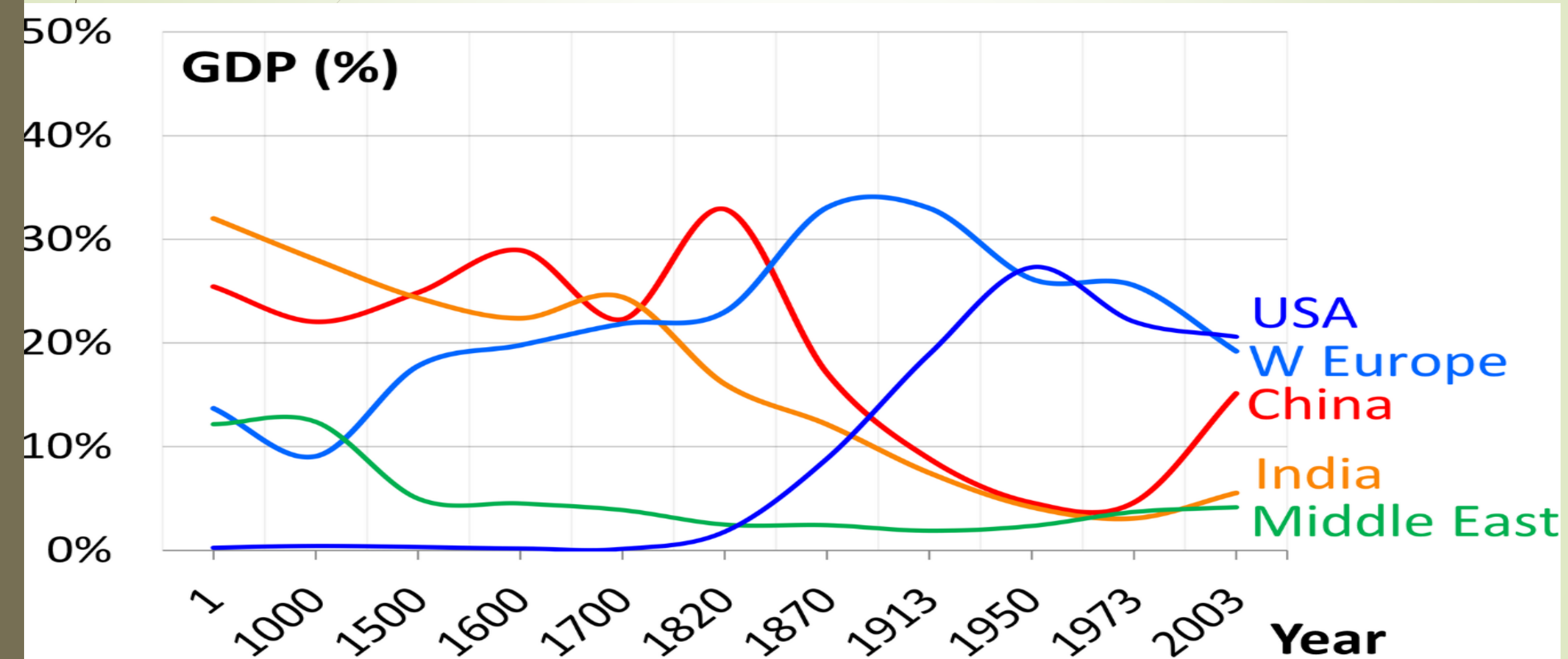


China the new superpower 2009-2016

Chinese economy: the BIG picture

...historically 2nd largest pre-industrial economy

...rapid growth since end of “Cultural Revolution”

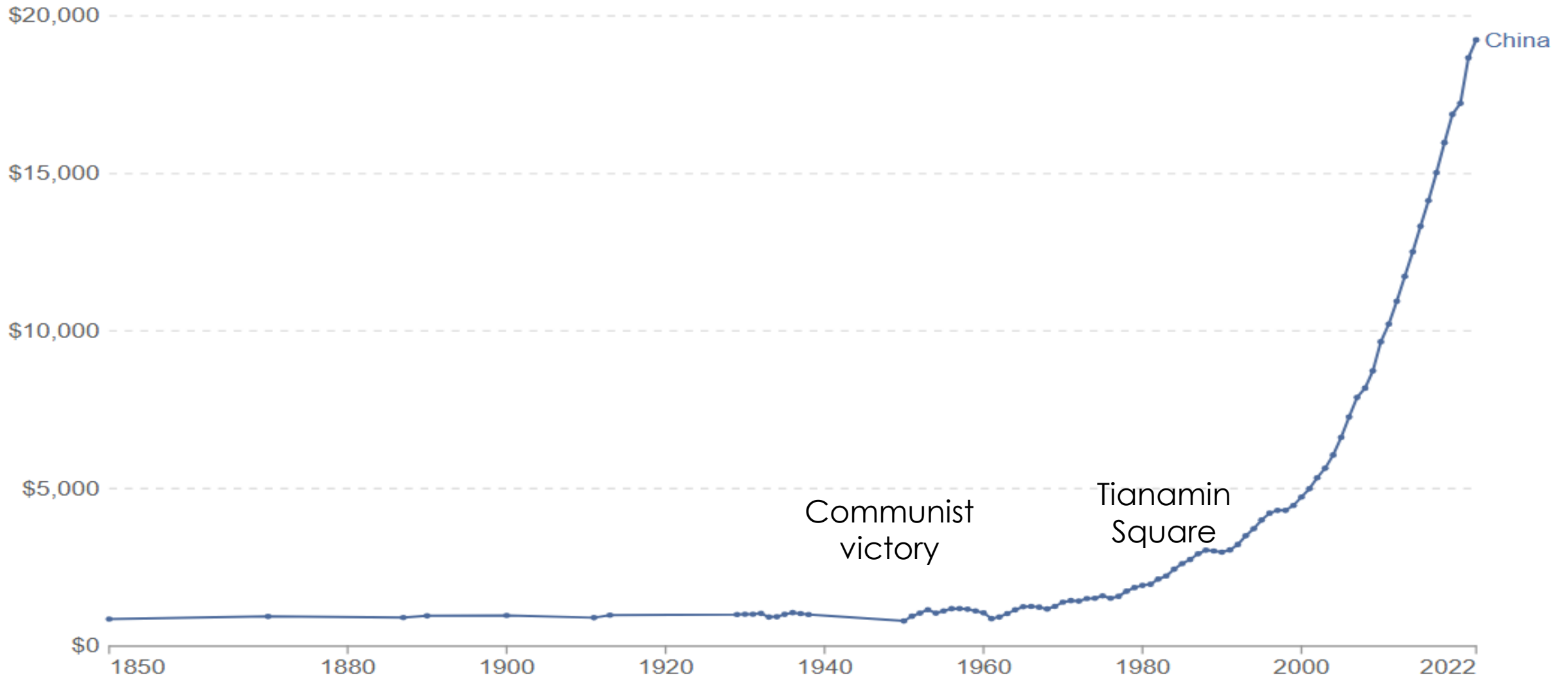


China economic growth

Stable politics:

- ▶ Tiananmen Square crushed/ Muslim protests crushed...mass incarceration
- ▶ Smooth Transition of power...Hu Jianto 2003-2013....Xi Jinping 2013.....
- ▶ High savings and state Led investment
 - ▶ High savings due to low safety net, property ownership, small families
 - ▶ Investment 45% GDP vs 21% USA and 18% UK
 - ▶ Investment 97% domestic vs international (85% US, 75% UK)
- ▶ Government subsidised industrial growth: Growth > Profits
- ▶ Passive, low cost, disciplined, motivated, educated workforce...ambitious

GDP per capita China ...US \$75,000, UK



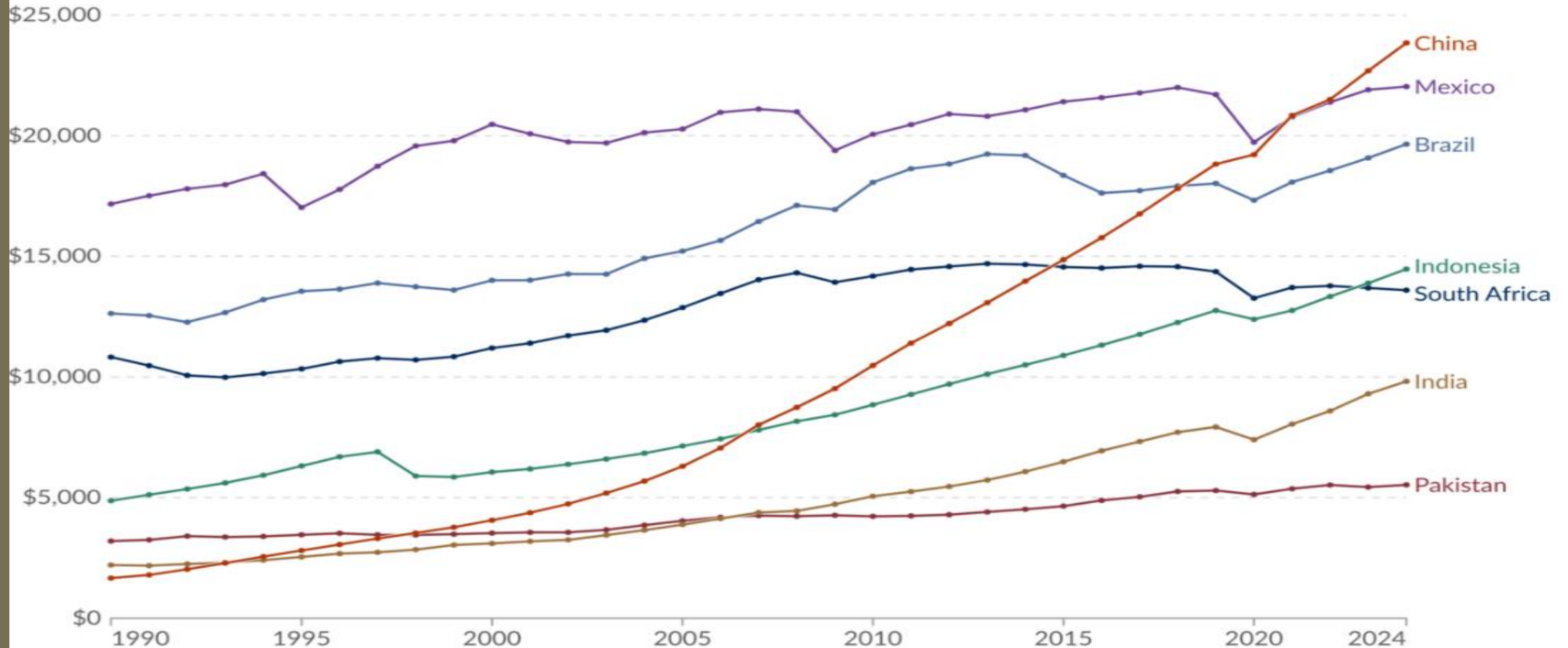
China vs India

...10% poorer 1990, 3x richer 2024

GDP per capita

Our World
in Data

GDP per capita is a country's gross domestic product¹ divided by its population. This data is adjusted for inflation and differences in living costs between countries.



China rise to economic super power

% World Manufactured goods

	2000	2015
China	7%	25%
USA	23%	17%
Japan	16%	8%
EU	26%	19%
(UK)	5%	3%

Dominant in multiple markets 50% World steel, 38% electronic goods,
...targeting new technologies.....80% solar panels, Windmills Electronic vehicles

Middle class rises by 300m people, 3% to 35% population

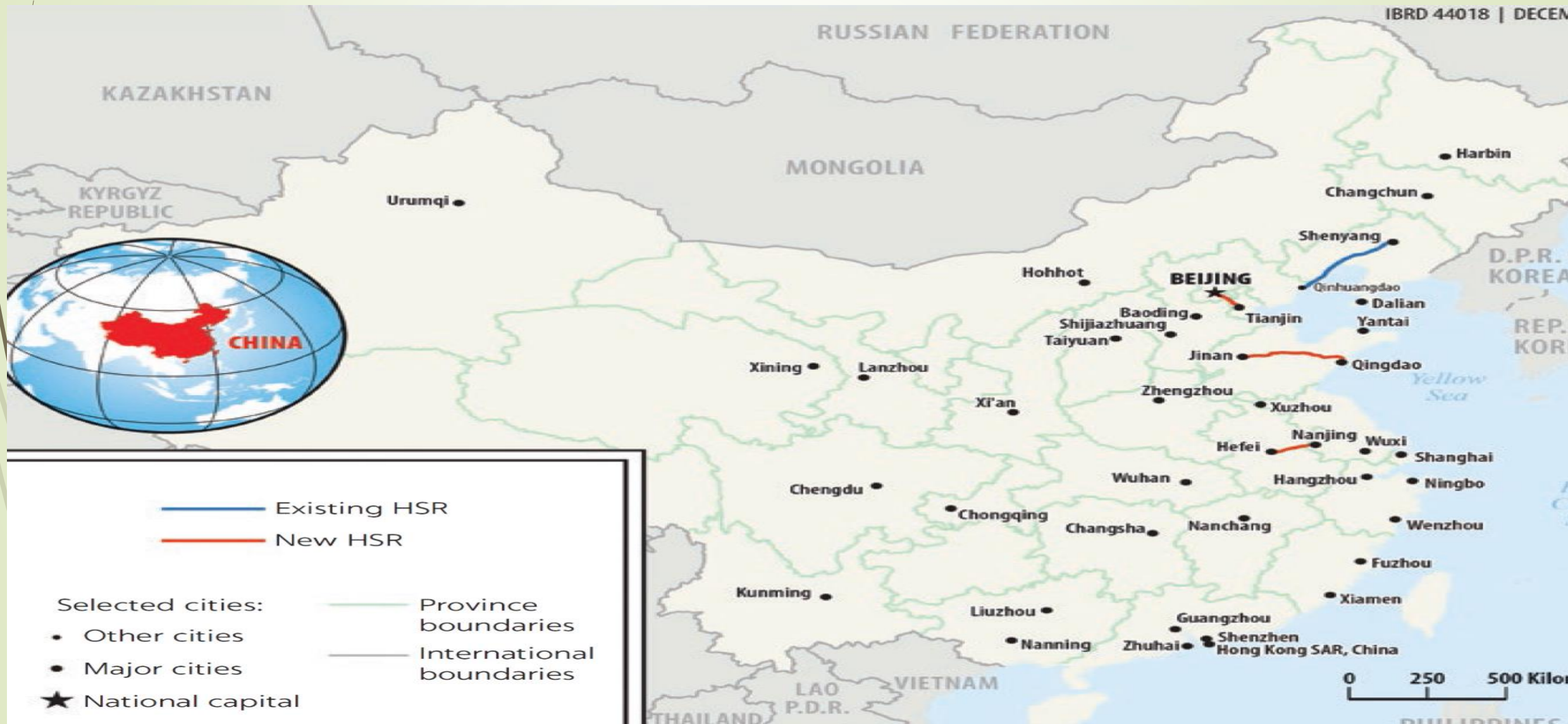
Chinese trains 1990....diesel



High Speed Trains introduce 2008



Chinese High Speed Network 2007



Chinese High Speed Network 2017



Economic to Military Power

....investment in technology & integration

	1990	2015
Army	3,000,000 WW2, Korea Mass attack	1,500,000 Technology Integration
Navy	Coastal Defence frigates	“Blue Water Navy” ..aircraft carriers
Airforce	5,000 Soviet obsolete models	1,500 Chinese made “stealth jets”
Nuclear power	250 warhead, fixed land base, liquid fuel	250 warheads, mobile Submarine, solid fuel

Mid 2015's....expanding influence in Pacific “Belt and Road” Initiative

The US “Pivot East”2011 Obama speech

- ▶ China economic & military threat to be balanced ..not threat
- ▶ Shift military balance to from 40% to 60% East Asia
- ▶ NATO members to increase defence spending to compensate
- ▶ Strengthen alliances Japan, Korea, India
- ▶ Create “Trans Pacific Partnership”:US led economic zone....(EU)

Pivot East impact

- Senate Republicans block.....restrict US “independence”
- Turmoil in Middle East
- European allies fail to agree to step up
- Trump administration committed to “walk away”

China economic power & influence expands....faster



Climate Change

Brief history US Climate Change

1960's....1970's

- Nixon ... Clean Air Act: Environment Protection Agency
- Carter....commission studies on Climate Change & solar energy

➤ 1980's Reagan Era....No action business > environment

➤ 1990's...Clinton Era: Joins UN Kyoto Initiative to limit emissions

➤ Rejected by Republicans: bad for US business

➤ 2000's....Bush Presidency:...no action....some state initiatives

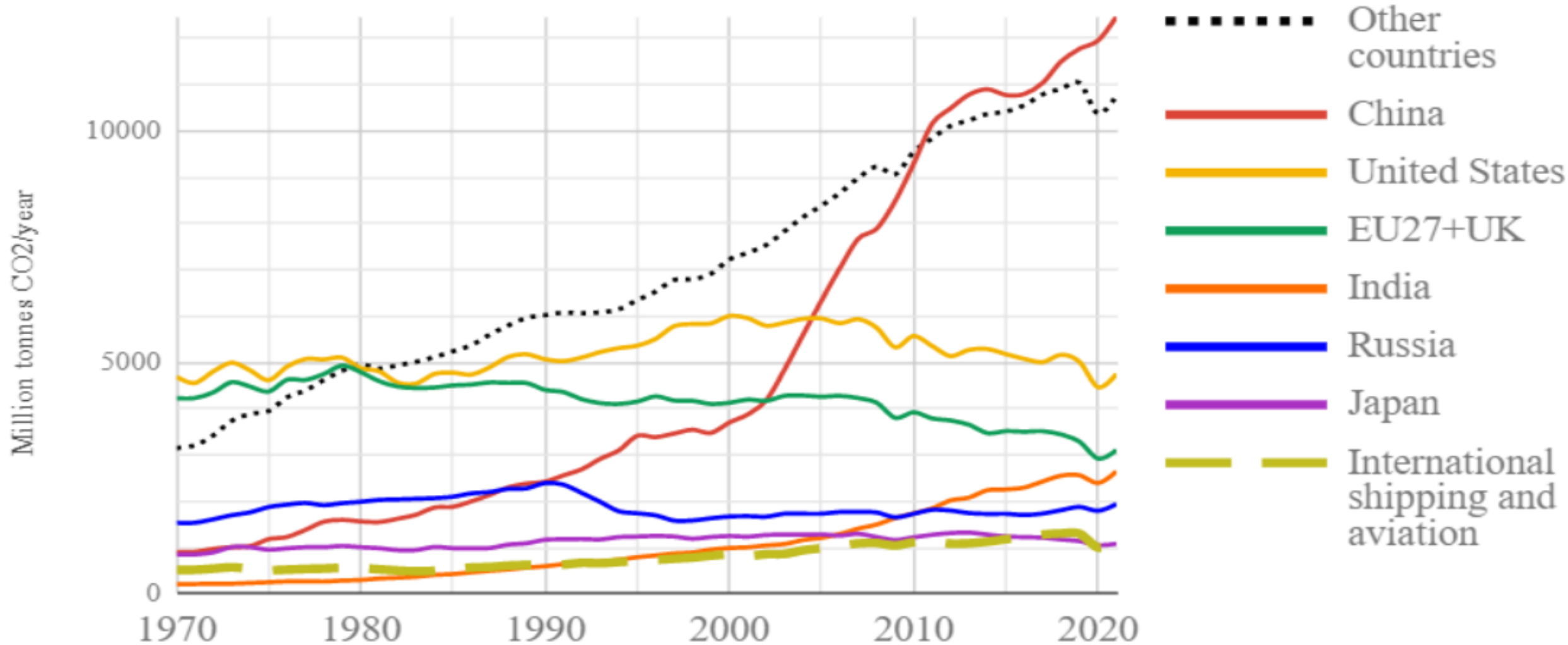
Obama commits US to reducing emissions reduced....blocked by Senate

.....the only solution ...join with UN I to ramp up Kyoto...i

Global emissions accelerate

...China prime driver...US/ Europe clean air + de-industrialisation

World fossil carbon dioxide emission 1970-2021



Paris Agreement 2015

....UN Sponsored, France initiated

- Limit Temperature increase by 2 degrees C
- Each nation to set National Determined Contribution
- Transparent reporting
- Rich countries to fund developing countries controls
- Technology transfer

A Multi-Polar World United!

Nations Unies

Conférence sur les Changements Climatiques 2015

COP21/CMP11

Paris France



Obama at Paris Agreement

“We are here together because we believe that for all the challenges that we face, the growing threat of climate change could define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other challenge.

One of the reasons I ran for this office was to make sure that America does its part to protect this planet for future generations. Over the past seven and a half years, we’ve transformed the United States into a global leader in the fight against climate change. But this is not a fight that any one country, no matter how powerful, can take alone. That’s why last December’s Paris Agreement was so important. Nearly 200 nations came together as—a strong, enduring framework to set the world on a course to a low-carbon future. This is the single-best chance that we have to deal with a problem that could end up transforming this planet in a way that makes it very difficult for us to deal with all the other challenges that we may face.”

Nations Unies

Conférence sur les Changements Climatiques 2015

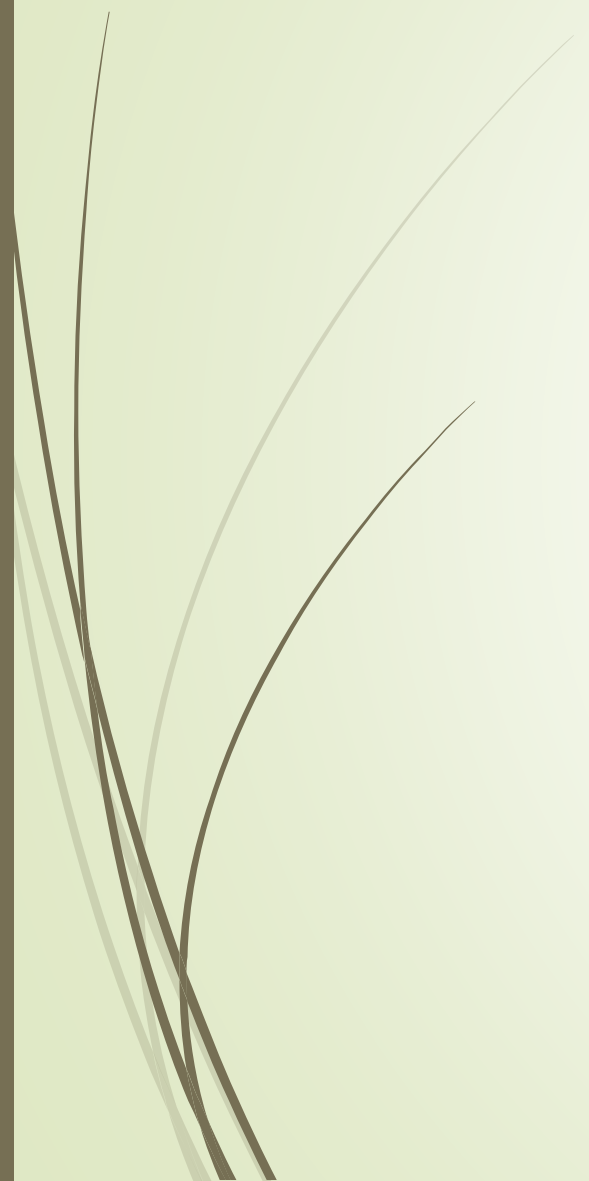
COP21/CMP11

Paris, France



Sec of State John Kerry signs Agreement
.....with support...the world in agreement





Obama and the World



Until the Republican controlled
Senate rejects treaty

A man before his time



Or a victim of his own delusions?



Gary Korvel
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Achievements ?

Ending Forever wars

Iraq: Partial success.....remains unstable,
Afghanistan collapse as soon as US leaves 2021

Middle East

Agreement with Iran

Syria Assad/ ISIS emboldened by “Red Line” failure
Russian influence expands.....anarchy continues
ISIS in retreat but still a power

Russia

Putin emboldened response to Ukraine invasion
.....NATO does not rearm, sanctions ineffective

Cuba

Agreements blocked by Senate

China

Trans Pacific Partnership....blocked by Senate

Climate Change

Paris Agreement signed....blocked by Senate

Multipolar strategy will fail.....but not due to Obama



Americans were not listening to Obama
...other voices more loud and more compelling

Next Talk: “The Road to Trump”..US
culture 2000-2016...June 1st 10:00 am