

# Third Nation Strategies for Navigating Great Power Rivalry

Asia Visions and Voices: Geopolitical Consequences of US-China Tensions

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Danny Quah

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Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS

## 80% of humanity

- Not about small states, middle powers, . . .

## Exercising agency

- Beyond “poisoned shrimp” and other neo-Thucydides realism

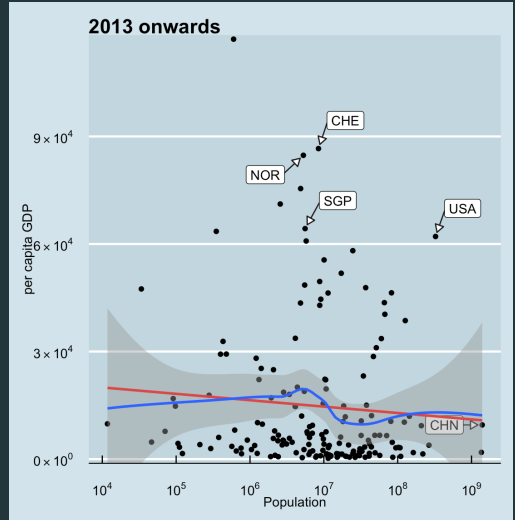
## Exogenous and not

- What shifts the general equilibrium

## Agency: Third Nation Strategies

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1. Inadvertent cooperation
2. Nudge out of Great Power gridlock
3. Pathfinder multilateralism



# 1. Inadvertent cooperation

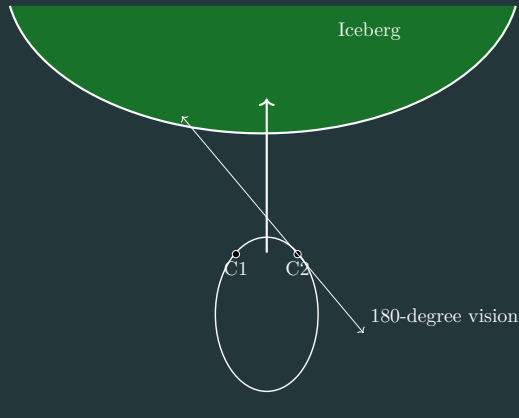
Cooperation does not have to be contractual

1. “butcher, brewer, and baker”
2. Renewables, sanctions, and subsidies  
“make my nation feel awkward”

## 2. Nudge out Great Power Gridlock

### Playing games

1. Prisoners' Dilemma and Epic Fail equilibria
2. The Titanic tragedy



### 3. Pathfinder multilateralism

#### When multilateralism is unavailable

1. Plurilateralism, minilateralism, regionalism, . . .
2. Open and inclusive by design, but robust to non-unanimity

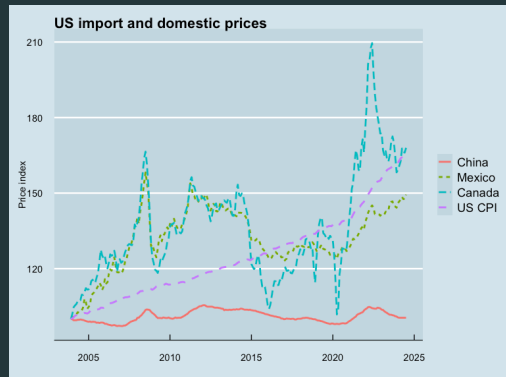
# Environment

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# Era of Coalescence and of Fragmentation

1. “Geopolitical convergence. Economic efficiency. Comparative advantage”: Grand themes of the new millennium
2. Economics is the glue to hold together global order. Fragmentation too costly.
3. “China Shock”. Economics no longer standing up to national security



# Conclusion

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1. Agency, not just passive Thucydides response
2. Strategies
  - 2.1 Inadvertent cooperation
  - 2.2 Nudge out of gridlock
  - 2.3 Pathfinder multilateralism
3. The switching global environment:
  - 3.1 Coalescence
  - 3.2 Fragmentation

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