



(RESEARCH ARTICLE)



## World chaos or a global process of establishing a new order

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World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews, 2026, 30(02), 1040-1047

Publication history: Received on 31 March 2026; revised on 11 May 2026; accepted on 13 May 2026

Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30574/wjarr.2026.30.2.1240>

### Abstract

Currently, the global processes taking place in the world have become chaotic, which has led to the emergence of natural and adequate questions in society. First of all, the question is: are these processes ;uncontrollable chaos;, which naturally causes great concern, or are they controlled processes of establishing a new world order? The present article, taking into account historical parallels and perspective, as well as an analysis of the existing policies of global organizations, states and aspects of cultural values, is an attempt to clarify the issue in more depth. The presented article will provide important assistance to the reader in adapting to an unpredictable political environment and in awareness.

Today we often hear that the processes taking place in the world are unpredictable. Consequently, it is a significant difficulty to navigate current events and, even more so, to draw correct conclusions based on adequate analysis. All of the above circumstances are due primarily to the fact that none of the historical facts and experiences so far corresponds to the current ones, and the processes are to a certain extent exclusive.

Thus, using various modern theoretical and methodological foundations, we will try to clarify the ongoing processes.

**Keywords:** Overexhaustion; Dairy cow syndrome; Chinese phenomenon

### 1. Introduction

Observing the current global shifts and processes unfolding on the global political stage, it's now fashionable to boldly say that the post-World War II international order is collapsing before our eyes. Undoubtedly, we are witnessing the greatest historical event in the world, in which the global order and international relations established over these years are undergoing a complete transformation. The world is engulfed in utter chaos, and international law is undergoing a complete erosion. Russia's war in Ukraine has destroyed all previously held ideas and expectations of world peace. It was the invasion of Russia, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, in Ukraine that set in motion the irreversible processes we are witnessing today. It can now be said that Russia's actions were a push of the button, although they were preceded by ill-considered and unpredictable actions by the European Union and the then US administration aimed at "pushing Russia into a corner".

The purpose of this article is to find out whether the unpredictable situation in the world is a controlled chaos or a self-perpetuating uncontrolled disorder? To fully understand this issue, it is necessary to take a brief historical perspective on the events that preceded all of the above.

The modern global geopolitical landscape is undergoing unprecedented transformation and reorganization. Created after World War II and guaranteeing global stability for many years, the so-called "liberal international order" has now fallen into ruins. as already mentioned, Russia's aggression in Ukraine was just a "press of the start button" that exposed the complete erosion of international law, as well as the fragility and weakness of the existing world order.

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The global banking and financial sector is characterized by similar or identical trends. The Bretton Woods system, created under conditions of Western economic hegemony, today clearly shows signs of systemic fragmentation. China's apparent economic expansion and the creation of alternative financial institutions around the world clearly indicate a lack of trust in existing financial centers and systems. Today it is a fact that the West's use of financial and economic sanctions as a "weapon" has accelerated the process of "depolarization." This, in turn, in the conditions of the new world order means the inevitability of economic multipolarity.

The current state of the UN can even be called functional paralysis. The current state of the UN is strikingly similar to the collapse of the League of Nations in the 1930s. In particular, when a permanent member of the Security Council becomes an aggressor and blocks justice with a veto, the organization loses its *raison d'être* and is doomed to collapse. Today, most experts and specialists in this field unanimously recognize that reforming the UN from within is virtually impossible due to the so-called structural impasse. Ultimately, we are witnessing a repeat of the historical cycle. Similarly, the League of Nations and any institutions incapable of adapting to new global circumstances and the new balance of global power are doomed to collapse.

In fact, today we are witnessing the historic collapse of the existing world order and the transition from a unipolar to a multipolar system. This process is driven by several fundamental factors. One of the main, but not the only, factors is the crisis of US "unipolar rule." In our opinion it's important to conduct an in-depth analysis of this problem and identify its true causes, giving specific examples.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world entered the so-called "unipolar moment," in which the United States was the sole superpower. In his article, "The Unipolar Moment Revisited," renowned American political columnist Charles Krauthammer spoke as early as 2002 about the current crisis of unipolarity and the problematic issues of American resources for managing global politics. From today's perspective, the underlying causes that led to the collapse of US unipolar rule are clearly visible. The above-mentioned reasons may be:

### **1.1. Strategic Overexhaustion**

The long and costly military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have made it clear that military power alone is not enough to stabilize and export democracy, leading to the depletion of US resources and the rise of domestic political isolationism.

### **1.2. Economic centrism**

The 2008 financial crisis, which began in the United States, seriously challenged the idea of the invincibility of the neoliberal economic model. It was during this time that China achieved an economic breakthrough, marking the first real sign of multipolarity.

### **1.3. Dairy cow syndrome**

The fact is that after World War II, the United States became the main guarantor of prosperity and peace for European countries. While initially this role did not extend beyond its primary purpose, later it acquired a certain speculative nature. Important European countries began the process of realizing their own political ambitions under the wing of American financial capabilities and American security. Moreover, they began openly talking about all sorts of autonomy and distancing themselves. Meanwhile, they did not allocate even 2% of their national budgets to their own security. Nevertheless, for many years, the United States continued its policy of unilaterally preserving the North Atlantic Alliance, spending enormous financial resources on various projects and programs, which earned it the image of a so-called "cash cow." The Trump administration lifted the veil of secrecy on all of this, and information about questionable financial and economic transactions became public. However, all of the above had a significant impact on the economic power of the United States, which ultimately led to the strengthening of China's position. Now, under the Trump administration, when many EU countries still risk being left without American financial and security guarantees, they have begun the process of shifting to China's economic wing. This seems somewhat immoral.

Today, signs of multipolar governance in the world are obvious. The global order is no longer controlled from a single center (Washington). Power is distributed among several poles. A clear confirmation of this is the rise of alternative alliances (BRICS+): the expansion of BRICS (Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates) is a direct challenge to the hegemony of the G7. These countries are creating their own tax systems and attempting to trade in national currencies, which weakens the dollar as the primary instrument of "global governance."

#### **1.4. The rise of so-called "middle powers"**

Turkey, India, Saudi Arabia, and Brazil no longer pursue policies limited to Washington or Beijing. They pursue "multi-vector" policies and often act as independent poles. Overall, this makes it more difficult for the United States to unilaterally set the global agenda.

#### **1.5. Technological sovereignty**

The struggle for artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and 5G technology means that the world is dividing into technological blocs. This is no longer just an ideological confrontation, but a struggle for control of the technologies of the future.

If we summarize the reasons for the weakening of the US position, it becomes clear that these reasons are complex and include both internal and external factors. Among them, we would single out 3 main reasons.

#### **1.6. Excessive ambitions of liberal hegemony;**

The United States attempted to subjugate the entire world to a single liberal rule, which many cultures and regimes (Russia, China, the Islamic world) perceived as an existential threat. This led to the creation of "counter-alliances." Furthermore, it should be noted that the spread of liberal ideology significantly weakened the reputation of the United States, which was skillfully exploited by China, Russia, and other confrontational states

#### **1.7. The Chinese phenomenon**

China used globalization to strengthen its position, but did not adopt the Western political model. As a result, the United States acquired an economic competitor that could not be "managed" by liberal institutions (e.g., the WTO).

#### **1.8. The erosion of Western unity**

The EU's attempt to achieve "strategic autonomy" demonstrates that even the closest US allies are no longer willing to blindly follow its decisions.

In the process of analyzing the issues of the end of American hegemony and the transition to a multipolar world system, it is important to analyze the "theory of hegemonic cycles," which cannot be used within the same methodological framework of the presented process. According to the theory, any hegemony sooner or later faces "imperial overstretch", when the costs of maintaining the system exceed the benefits obtained from it. Today we see not only a US retreat, but also a systemic transition to an anarchic multipolarity, where international rules are replaced by brute force and regional deals. This is a "transitional age," which historically has always been the most dangerous and unpredictable.

From this point of view, the book "The Post-American World" by the American journalist and political commentator Fareed Zakaria, which is considered one of the most influential works in modern geopolitical science, is very important.

The main value of the work is that the author views the end of US hegemony not as the collapse of America, but as the success of the rest of the world (The Rise of the Rest). According to the author, the world lives in an era of redistribution of global power. Chronologically, the process is described by three important events:

- First: the emergence of the Western world (from the 15th century).
- Second: the rise of the USA (from the end of the 19th century).
- Third (today): "Rise of the Others" - when China, India, Brazil and other countries become economic and political players.

The author does not view this process as the decline of America (Anti-Declinism), but America remains a military, educational and technological leader. However, its relative strength is declining as other countries grow faster. This is a world in which the US is no longer the only "giant" in all areas.

According to Zakaria, multipolarity does not only mean the strengthening of new states. Power is distributed not only between countries, but also between non-state actors (international organizations, corporations, networks).

- Zakaria advises Washington to change its strategy:
  - Instead of dominance, the US should become an "Honest Broker".
  - It must use its soft power (culture, education, democracy) to maintain influence in a multipolar environment.

The book notes that the main threat is not China's military power, but the rise of nationalism in various countries, which complicates global cooperation on issues such as climate change or economic stability.

To navigate today's unstable and unpredictable situation, it is important to remember and apply the "Black Swan Theory" of the great thinker and financier Nassim Nicholas Taleb.

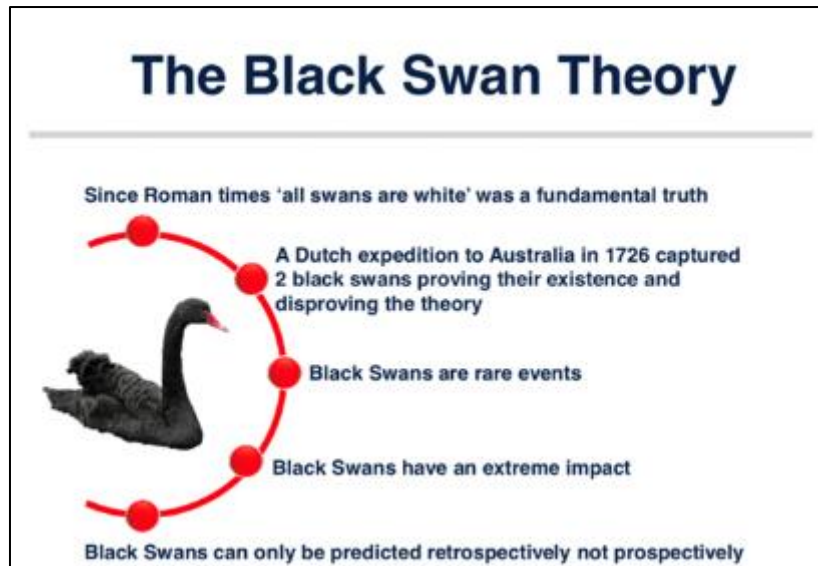
Returning to the article's main research question whether the current process is controlled or uncontrolled chaos Nassim Taleb's "black swan" theory will be of significant assistance in answering this question.

While superpowers are currently attempting to pursue their own interests through a strategy of "controlled chaos," unexpected events such as the global pandemic have demonstrated unexpected resilience in Ukraine, with sudden technological breakthroughs, and others disrupting their plans. Today, the global order is changing not according to a script, but rather due to an unexpected cumulative effect, which Nassim Taleb calls the "black swan" effect. If we return to the example of Ukraine, by February 2022, Western intelligence agencies predicted Ukraine's rapid defeat (within 72 hours). It was precisely this resilience in Ukraine that proved to be a "black swan" that completely changed the course of global politics and destroyed Russia's "targeted operation." The "black swan" theory is one of the most influential concepts of the modern era, explaining the nature of unexpected, catastrophic events and their role in global politics and history.

The history of the term "black swan" dates back to ancient times, although its modern scientific understanding belongs to Nassim Nicholas Taleb, an American thinker and financier. Even in ancient Rome, the expression "a rare bird on earth like a black swan" existed. At that time, only white swans inhabited Europe, so a "black swan" signified something physically non-existent, unexpected, and extremely rare.

In the 17th century, when the Dutch explorer Willem de Vlamingh discovered true black swans in Australia, this discovery radically changed zoological understanding. It became the best example of how a single discovery or fact can overturn millennia-old beliefs.

- According to Taleb, a "black swan" event must be a sudden occurrence (fact) that meets three main criteria:
  - Anomaly (unexpectedness): the event goes beyond ordinary expectations. Past experience provides no basis for a priori assumptions about it.
  - High Impact: The event has widespread, often transformative consequences (political, economic, or social).
  - Retrospective Explanation: After an event occurs, people begin to search for a logical explanation for it and claim that it could have been predicted (the so-called "hindsight bias").
- When drawing historical parallels, we can consider examples of "black swans":
  - The outbreak of World War I: the assassination of the Archduke in Sarajevo, which toppled empires like dominoes.
  - The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001: an event that changed the global security paradigm.
  - The global financial crisis of 2008: which called into question the resilience of banking systems.
  - The COVID-19 pandemic: a classic "black swan" that briefly halted the global economy.
  - These events were the cause of the collapse of the old order. Nassim Nicholas Taleb's "black swan" theory describes highly improbable, unpredictable events with extreme consequences that are falsely rationalized in hindsight. According to the theory's author, people are unable to predict events because they rely on flawed models and overestimate existing data.



**Figure 1** N1 Visual representation of the Black Swan theory

Taking into account all the historical facts and considerations outlined above, we can, by presenting a compelling argument, determine whether these processes are managed or chaotic.

- The following key facts and considerations can be used as arguments in favor of managed chaos:
  - Regional power redistribution: major players (US, China) may have intentionally allowed old structures to collapse in order to create new alliances that align with their interests (e.g., AUKUS, BRICS+).
  - Economic restructuring: the transition from globalization to a "friendly market"—maintaining economic ties only with trusted partners.
- Arguments against managed chaos and spontaneous disorder include:
  - Complete loss of control: escalation of nuclear rhetoric and technological advances (AI-based weapons) that go beyond diplomatic relation

The "Black Swan" effect: events (such as a pandemic or a sudden escalation of local wars) that no intelligence agency could have predicted or controlled.

In our view, to determine reality, it is important to answer the following key questions:

If the processes are manageable, what signs and indicators of a ;new order; are visible? Are new international organizations being created? If the old system simply dies and nothing emerges in its place, it is chaos. As far as we know, there are no cases of new organizations being created at this stage, with the exception of Trump's "Peace Advisor," who currently has no tangible leverage or power.

Is the balance of power being maintained? Is there a concentration of power at several poles (bipolarity/multipolarity), or is a "war of all against all" underway? Unfortunately, there are no signs of a maintained balance. The current situation resembles more a show of force and the so-called "back-to-back standoff" to determine who is superior. Are the fundamental rules of the game, the rule of law, being observed, or have international relations become the "law of the jungle"? As far as can be seen, the rule of law principle is not respected. It is not a game to follow the rules.

Thus, if we follow the discussion developed so far in this article, the real signs of so-called "unpredictable disorder" are clearly visible, and most of the arguments presented here point to uncontrolled chaotic processes occurring in the world. However, to see the picture more clearly, it is important to consider the issue from a different perspective. Specifically, from the perspective of the actors. Who might be driving these processes, what are their interests, and what benefits do they see from chaotic processes?

- In this article, we will examine three global forces as actors:
  - Liberal forces
  - Conservative forces
  - The so-called "Deep State"

The current global chaos in the world is certainly not simply a territorial or economic dispute. It represents a sharp existential confrontation between two fundamental worldviews.

- If we touch on the issue of liberal hegemony in the world, it must be said that it is a kind of striving for universal order. In the post-Cold War period, the world, and especially the West, dominated the idea that liberal democracy was the most correct direction for human development, the ultimate and final point. For many years, Western elites deliberately pursued policies based on
  - The primacy of individualism over collective and traditional values.
  - The undermining of sovereignty in favour of global institutions.
  - The universalization of values, which meant that Western liberal standards should apply equally to all cultures, regardless of their religious or historical characteristics.

The collapse of this policy began when it became clear that most of the world (and a significant portion of the Western population itself) did not perceive these values as "natural."

The further continuation of these processes was the beginning of a conservative *revanche*, which is one of the main internal driving forces of the current chaos. In fact, we are witnessing a clash between liberalism and conservatism, a so-called cultural and values war.

The current confrontation is taking place not only beyond national borders, but also within societies. While the liberal vision emphasizes progress, the blurring of boundaries, and the dismantling of traditional hierarchies, the conservative vision emphasizes the nation-state, religion, family, and historical continuity. It is this clash that creates "internal chaos" in the West, weakening its ability to manage global processes. When the United States or European Union lacks consensus on core values, their foreign policy becomes unpredictable and unstable.

What is the role of the "Deep State" popularized by Donald Trump in these processes, and it is also important to find out what the Donald Trump factor is.

In our opinion the "Deep State", as the bureaucratic, intelligence and military elites behind the elected government, which have been pursuing a liberal globalist course for years, is a reality and not a realm of fantasy, as liberal forces present it.

If we look at the processes from a conservative perspective, the "deep state" is a force that prevents the pursuit of national interests and protects the international architecture that enriches global elites at the expense of the taxpayer. President Trump's role in these processes is that he has brought this invisible struggle into the public sphere. Resistance to him from the "deep state" is perceived as evidence that the liberal order is trying to survive violently. And here we come to the most interesting point, which takes the form of a paradox.

It is these "well-structured structures", which we call the Deep State, that are trying to manage chaos in order to maintain the status quo. However, the complexity of the problems has increased so much that these systems themselves often lose control. That is, the Deep State has switched to self-preservation mode. Yes, he tried and is trying to manage chaos, but as a rule, managing chaos leads to new chaos. A black swan gives birth to other black swans, a clear example of which is the so-called "managed democratization" implemented in the Middle East or in the post-Soviet space, which turned into long civil wars and regional destabilization.

Thus, today we all agree that the contemporary geopolitical landscape is fundamentally different from the era of the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences. While in those days, individual leaders made decisions by "drawing red lines on a world map," today power is dispersed and distributed across complex, often invisible networks.

Today's global chaos is largely due to a "conflict of values." The liberal order attempted to replace religion and tradition with rational, bureaucratic rules, which provoked a powerful backlash. Today, we see a struggle between the "sacred" and the "secular," the "local" and the "global," where the "deep state" and traditionalist forces stand on opposite sides of the front line.

The situation today is far more complex than it was after World War II. While in the times of Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill, there was a "legitimacy of force" and they had a mandate to draw red lines on the world map, today the situation is radically different. In today's reality, players are no longer just states. Tech giants, international financial institutions, and ideological groups can also be players, often wielding greater influence than the rulers of mid-sized countries. At this point in history, war is no longer simply a war over territory. It is a war over information, algorithms, and human consciousness. In the digital world, it is impossible to draw "red lines."

And yet, returning to the article's main research question: is this global chaos or controlled processes? Clearly, the current situation is a clear sign that global processes have spiraled out of control and, in many cases, are unfolding on their own. One black swan has spawned thousands of black swans, reinforcing the natural instinct for self-preservation. At this stage in history, the formation of new global institutions characteristic of ensuring a new order is not yet visible, indicating that the so-called red lines have not yet been drawn (the geopolitical interests and aspirations of the powers are not yet defined). Accordingly, the world should expect further escalation of the situation in the next 5-7 years. And maximum escalation is always followed by systematization and peace.

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## 2. Conclusion

Thus, the facts and opinions presented in the article represent a modest attempt to adapt to the current complex geopolitical environment and predict future processes, which will allow the reader and the audience interested in the issue to learn and appreciate relatively different opinions and judgments.

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