

Next 50-75-100 Years MGS

Background

This matrix game simulation is about the future history of the 21st Century. It starts from the situation at the end of 2024, and works through in a number of turns to the date 2100.

Current Situation

Politically, the USA and China are the two global superpowers and are, to an extent, antagonist towards each other - but keen to avoid any direct confrontation. Russia's power and influence is waning, and the war in the Ukraine may completely destroy its economy, or at least see Putin removed from power if he is unsuccessful in gaining a significant victory there. India is slowly emerging as a force to be reckoned with, but currently lags far behind China in terms of its modernisation. Europe tries to be a cool head, but its nature as a loose coalition of countries means it does not take too much of an active role outside of its own region.

As well as state actors there are some significant non-state actors. One is Islam, in both moderate and extremist versions. With Moslem countries typically operating as a block, and the risk of the return of an extremist organisation like ISIS remains high - and perhaps even more significant could be the rise of a charismatic leader to better unite the Moslem world. Another state actor is a megacorporation, such as Elon Musk's companies or Amazon, both of which have economies larger than many countries.

COVID had a significant impact on the globe in 2020, with over 7 million being killed by it. There remains a risk of further outbreaks in the coming years and decades, possibly with even higher death tolls.

Challenge/Disagreement /Crux/Dissonance

There are a number of flashpoints and inflexion points in the world at the end of 2024. Some may be resolved in 2025, most will take years or even decades, or may not be solved by 2100. The key issues are as follows, and the state of each of these should be reported at the end of each turn. If no actor has taken an action that directly effects them then make a judgement as to how they might evolve during that turn. Remove an issue from the list if it is resolved. The 7 issues are:

- Ukraine: Russia appears to be getting the upper hand with its invasion, but certainly doesn't have the force to take the whole country, and if the war lasts beyond 2025 the Russian economy might collapse. It is likely to take Russia many years to recover either way to the point where it could take a repeat action against somewhere like the Baltic States and the Sulawki Gap. Europe could increase its support for the Ukraine if US support decreases.
- The Levant: Israel's war in Gaza and in Lebanon continues. Israel seems intent on the near elimination of the Palestinian people. Iran has not yet been brought into a full-scale (if remote) war with Israel, but it remains a possibility. Syria and Lebanon are close to failed states. Foreign countries (and the superpowers) seem to have no appetite for a peace-keeping force, let alone a peace-making one.
- Iran is currently a religious dictatorship, with an oppressive attitude towards women. It is one of the dominant Islamic states, but is seen by many as too much of a pariah. If Iran were to shift to a more democratic and moderate Islamic state it could become a very powerful force.
- China has expressed its aim of re-incorporating the island nation of Taiwan by 2030. Taiwan wishes to remain independent, and the USA is expected to provide military support to Taiwan if it is invaded.

Any invasion that led to direct conflict between US and Chinese forces in Taiwan or anywhere in the Pacific region could lead to a major war across that hemisphere.

- Africa is expected to experience dramatic population growth over the next few decades. However none of the countries really have the economic or political engine to exploit this - Nigeria being the most likely. Africa could also be worst hit by climate change, creating millions of refugees.
- The coming decades are likely to see a new space race. Both the USA and China are likely to land people on the Moon by 2030, and start to establish bases on the Moon's South Pole. India may not be far behind, and Europe and Japan will be supporting the USA. Elon Musk is planning on landing humans on Mars in the early 2030s, China could be expected to do the same in the mid 2030s, and the USA by 2040. These moves may also open the way to asteroid mining, and the establishment of permanent basis on Mars and in the Asteroid Belt, as well as possibly scientific expeditions to Venus and the moons of Jupiter by 2100. All these areas could become flashpoints between nations.
- There have been significant developments in artificial intelligence over the past decade. Estimates of human-level Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) used to be for around 2070, but we may now see it by 2050, possibly even earlier. The impact of AGI will depend on its cost and who develops it. It may lead to huge unemployment - leading to increased calls for a Universal Basic Income - and huge societal changes if it becomes possible to create replicas of yourself, and those replicas start to work and earn and lead their own lives - and live beyond your death. Would such Digital Immortals (DIs) to completely integrated with human society - in the physical world and in the metaverse - or will they be shunned and live in their own largely isolated thanoverse. AGIs may also be idea for the exploration (and even settlement) of the farther reaches of the solar system.
- A key challenge is that of climate change. Current forecasts are for at least a 2 degree rise in temperature, which may naturally escalate to 3 degrees unless CO2 and other Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from power generation, transport and manufacturing are curbed by all nations. Rises in temperature would make many of the equatorial parts of the world uninhabitable or unfarmable - leading to mass migrations from the areas typically further into the Northern Hemisphere. Rises in temperature will also lead to rises in sea levels, and many of the worlds cities are in coastal locations - leading to refugees movements away from the coast.

Game Turns

The game consist of turns, with dates and durations as follows:

- Turn 1: 2025 - 2030
- Turn 2: 2030 - 2040
- Turn 3: 2040 - 2050
- Turn 4: 2050 - 2060
- Turn 5: 2060 - 2080
- Turn 6: 2080 - 2100

Ensure that all actions reflect actions that could feasibly done within these timescales.

Actors

For each actor you should track the following:

- their military capability
- the extent of their decarbonisation to reduce climate change
- the level of their resilience to both climate change and COVID type outbreaks

- their internal stress - with high stress levels potentially leading to coups, break-up or other forms of regime change
- Their cyber and information security and resilience
- The extent of their space exploration and settlement
- their wealth and power
- their prestige

Report on each of these for each actor at the end of each turn.

The actors/players and their aims are:

- USA
 - Starting Stats
 - Military capability: very high
 - Decarbonisation: low
 - Resilience: low
 - Internal stress: high
 - Cyber and infosec: high
 - Space: high
 - Wealth and power: very high
 - Prestige: moderate
 - Per Capita GDP: very high
 - Culture: capitalist, militaristic, short-term, individualistic
 - Resources and Capabilities
 - A big army
 - Fairly extensive natural resources
 - Aims and Objectives
 - Assuming Trump has won the 2024 presidential election the USA is likely to become increasingly isolationist - with the desire for trade and money being greater than overseas military intervention. A President Trump would make both Russia and China more adventurous with their own objectives. Until 2028 the USA may effectively withdraw from the world stage.
 - The USA is keen to regain its lead in the space race, but struggles with the funding to resource it.
 - Challenges
 - What happens at the end of the Trump presidency in 2028? He cannot stand for a 3rd term, but might change the law, and has even talked about ending elections and using military force to subdue opponents. Alternatively Vance might succeed him and continue with similar policies. Alternatively the Democrats may regain control and the US might return to the world stage.
 - Climate change would have a major impact on the USA, reducing its ability to grow food, and putting coastal cities at risk of sea level rises - all increasing internal stress.
- China
 - Starting Stats
 - Military capability: very high
 - Decarbonisation: low
 - Resilience: low

- Internal stress: high
- Cyber and infosec: high
- Space: high
- Wealth and power: high
- Prestige: moderate to high
- Per Capita GDP: low
- Culture: a communist/capitalist blend, militaristic, long-term, communal
- Resources and Capabilities
 - A big army
 - Fairly extensive natural resources
 - A huge population (at the start)
 - Strong economic linkages into Africa and developing nations worldwide
- Aims and Objectives
 - Regain Taiwan
 - Become the worlds dominant super-power, with every nation showing respect, and even awe, to China
 - Spread China to the Moon and beyond
- Challenges
 - China's population has just started a rapid decline and may halve by 2100. To maintain its power China needs to increase its efficiency and per Capita GDP.
 - Climate change would devastate much of the innermost parts of China, and its coastal cities
- Russia
 - Starting Stats
 - Military capability: moderate, becoming low
 - Decarbonisation: very low
 - Resilience: very low
 - Internal stress: very high
 - Cyber and infosec: moderate
 - Space: moderate
 - Wealth and power: low
 - Prestige: very low
 - Per Capita GDP: moderate
 - Culture: totalitairan/capitalist blend, militaristic, short-term, individualistic
 - Resources and Capabilities
 - It's military is pretty spent after Ukraine
 - It has reasonable natural resources
 - Many of its traditional allies across the globe are now more aligned with China
 - Aims and Objectives
 - To try and remain relevant and respected on the world stage
 - To stop NATO (i.e. USA/Europe) from becoming too powerful
 - Challenges
 - Russia may no longer count as a global power post-Ukraine, despite its large size, until it has completely re-invented itself

- Russia moved almost instantly from a communist state to an oligarchy, with many people making billions from rampant capitalism. There does seem to be a class of younger, more liberal, citizens, and a power struggle between them and the "old guard" - currently represented by Putin - to make Russia more Western, or to carve its own more liberal/capitalist path seems certain.
- Russia may actually gain from climate change, as large parts of Siberia become more productive.
- Europe
 - Starting Stats
 - Military capability: moderate
 - Decarbonisation: moderate to high
 - Resilience: moderate
 - Internal stress: low to moderate
 - Cyber and infosec: moderate
 - Space: moderate
 - Wealth and power: moderate
 - Prestige: moderate
 - Per Capita GDP: high
 - Culture: liberal democracy, consensual, balanced
 - Resources and Capabilities
 - High-tech industrial base
 - Moderate army
 - Limited space programme
 - Cultural links across most of the globe as a result of colonialism
 - Aims and Objectives
 - A quiet life - peace in and around Europe
 - a good quality of life for its citizens and steady growth
 - Challenges
 - Climate change and other inequalities create large numbers of refugees who try to reach Europe to build a new life there, potentially causing internal stresses and increasing nationalism and associated violence
- India
 - Starting Stats
 - Military capability: moderate
 - Decarbonisation: very low
 - Resilience: very low
 - Internal stress: high
 - Cyber and infosec: moderate
 - Space: low
 - Wealth and power: very low
 - Prestige: moderate
 - Per Capita GDP: very low
 - Culture: religious, militaristic, communal
 - Resources and Capabilities
 - Moderate army
 - Moderate resources

- Aims and Objectives
 - To become number 2, or perhaps even number 1 in the world
 - Grow the wealth of the country and its people
 - Be respected around the world
- Challenges
 - There is constant tension between largely Hindu India and Moslem Pakistan
 - There are regular skirmishes across the Himalayas with China, and tensions will be high where both countries have an interest
 - Indian population is now the largest in the world and continuing to grow - and India needs to ensure these people have jobs and income, and ideally increase per Capita GDP alongside population growth
- Elon Musk
 - Starting Stats
 - Military capability: none
 - Decarbonisation: moderate
 - Resilience: moderate
 - Internal stress: very low
 - Cyber and infosec: high
 - Space: very high
 - Wealth and power: high
 - Prestige: moderate
 - Per Capita GDP: very high
 - Culture: capitalist, individualistic, long-term
 - Resources and Capabilities
 - In SpaceX Musk has the worlds most capable space company
 - Musk also has significant prestige through Tesla cars, and some social influence through Twitter
 - He may have significant influence over Trump and USA policy.
 - Aims and Objectives
 - To colonise Mars
 - May not be too bothered about what happens on Earth if he can build his own settlement and city on Mars, and then spread on out into the solar system
 - Challenges
 - Musk is only an individual, and runs only a company not a country.
 - Could Musk be ousted through some form of boardroom coup - unlikely
 - What happens when Musk gets old and dies? What is his succession plan? Is he considering an AI/Digital Immortal to replace him and continue his agenda and legacy.
- Islamic States
 - Starting Stats
 - Military capability: moderate to high
 - Decarbonisation: very low
 - Resilience: very low
 - Internal stress: high
 - Cyber and infosec: moderate
 - Space: very low
 - Wealth and power: moderate to high

- Prestige: moderate
- Per Capita GDP: moderate
- Culture: religious, tendency to totalitarian, tendency to militaristic, short-term, individualistic
- Resources and Capabilities
 - Significant oil reserves, but that may be less important
- Aims and Objectives
 - To ensure that Islam is not eroded by Western values
 - Maintain and grow the prestige of the Islamic world
 - Ensure that Israel is contained, and a Palestinian state established.
- Challenges
 - The Islamic states are not really united although many share common aims
 - The Islamic world may be vulnerable to the rise of another SIS like extremist organisation, or to a charismatic, probably religious, leader, who can unite the Islamic world in its endeavours