M22

Mid-22nd Century

# The Current World Order

Incomes range from levels 2-6, 2 for NK

Nuclear WMDs are obsolete due to missile defence systems, biological WMDs have been used instead for many decades

Political awareness is very high and education on different ideologies is a core part of curricula. Anti-fascism is a core part of modern culture and there is a constant vigilance against fascism; rightist populism; authoritarian conservatism

Market socialism is the current world order, as is supranationalism. European Union, ASEAN, and Africa are the most significant examples of this, but every region of the world has regional organisations that exercise some degree of restriction

The majority of the world lives in liberal democracies, the strongest liberal democracies are committed to militarily spreading the values of liberal democracy and countering rogue states

There is no longer an economic distinction between Western and many non-Western nations

# Sociocultural Changes & Views

* The sociocultural distinction between Western and non-Western fades but never entirely vanishes. As regions outside the West grow wealthier, their values become more progressive; different regions experience different rates of economic and sociocultural progression
* The wealthiest non-Western nations essentially hold Western values by M22 though with minor differences, e.g. slightly less individualism due to cultural factors. Non-Western nations that are less wealthy tend to hold the same sociocultural values as the West to the same extent that they have the same income levels as the West
* Essentially, in E21 one might talk of the differences between the social values within the West and outside the West. In M22, one would talk of the differences between the social values within high-income countries and outside high-income countries
* Since the Industrial Revolution, people’s values have drifted leftward in proportion with their country’s level of industrialisation: the West industrialised the most from L18-E21 and thus their sociocultural values changed the most, for example. Even in the early 21st century, by looking at the Global Values Survey’s data you can see this movement occurring in about a decade
	+ The gradual change in society’s values towards the progressive from generation to generation has been generally constant from L18-E21, with some temporary setbacks based on time and region (e.g. Germany in 1920S and 1930S)
	+ However, this change eventually reaches a point where things go too far for some, and a ‘new right’ emerges which opposes the most recent sociocultural changes and advocates a return to an earlier consensus. This new right temporarily holds power of some kind before eventually losing it
	+ E.g., in E19 the new right opposed the progressive changes of the French Revolution and advocated a return to pre-Revolution feudal values. Though this new right, consisting mostly of European monarchies an aristocracies, temporarily suppressed the leftward drift of society (e.g. by crushing the Revolutions of 1848), eventually they definitively failed
	+ E.g., in L19/E20 the new right opposed the progressive changes of the post-WWI era (e.g. new Weimar values) and advocated a return to traditional values of community, hierarchy, authority, and racism. Though this new right, consisting mainly of fascists and their allies, temporarily suppressed the leftward drift of society (e.g. by crushing leftists in 1920S/1930S and establishing fascist regimes), eventually they definitively failed
	+ E.g., in L20/E21 the new right opposed the progressive changes of the post-WWII era (e.g. Civil Rights, the New Deal, etc) and advocated a return to traditional values of sexism, racism, and economic deregulation. Though this new right, consisting of neoliberals, rightist populists, and neofascists is undoubtedly currently threatening to the leftward drift of society, even in 2020S most people oppose this new right and both people and governments are starting to take measures against them and condemn them more strongly. Their definitive failure is approaching
	+ This trend in history, wherein a new right arises about every half a century to protest society growing more progressive, continues, occurring again in L21/E22 before being decisively defeated in M22
	+ However, this new right is still considerably more progressive than the new right that preceded it, and near-unilaterally rejects fascism, neoliberalism, populism, and discrimination
	+ Westerners are all (by 2020S standards) very left. This means that rightists by L21 standards are centrists in 2020S, and unlike 2020S rightists respect democracy, rationalism, and government intervention in the economy
	+ This apparent progressiveness of L21’s new right is due to many factors. Most importantly, they are raised in a culture which repeatedly and explicitly endorses these values and dedicates themselves wholly to them. They are raised in societies whose institutions are designed to engender these values.
	+ Society has a level of political consciousness and education which far exceeds that of L20, so forces like populism, neoliberalism, irrationalism, and discrimination fail to generate almost any traction
	+ The political and ideological opposition of the West to authoritarian regimes like China gives Western populations a common enemy to unite against and an ideological frame of reference
	+ In WWII, the West’s opposition to Nazi Germany automatically caused its values to shift in opposition to Germany. E.g., eugenics, which had been popular throughout the West in the 1930S, become toxified by its association with the Nazis. In the Cold War, the USSR toxified authoritarianism and communism for the West
	+ The Second Cold War, defined as liberal democracy vs conservative authoritarianism in the popular consciousness, provides an ideological frame of reference for all Westerners: ‘us’ is liberal democracy, ‘them’ is conservative authoritarianism. Hence the new right, developing in the West and the more wealthy/progressive non-Western countries, still commits to liberal democracy
	+ The new right of L21/E22 is not exclusive to the West. In F21, many non-Western nations become as wealthy as the West and sociocultural values shift due to peoples’ rising incomes. Thus, the leftward drift of society seen hitherto mostly in the West occurs here as well
	+ This means that the eventual rightist backlash against this leftward shift occurs in these non-Western societies as well. The new right of L21/E22 therefore is not a Western phenomenon but rather a general phenomenon of high-income countries, although initially it is still generally Western as in L21 there is more of an economic gap between West/non-West than in E22, by which point many non-Western nations have had time to reach economic parity with the West and then, over many decades, slowly reach the West in terms of progressiveness
* The new right that formed in L21/E22 as a response to the leftward drift of society in the 21st century defines itself in opposition to economic changes towards the left (i.e. increased government intervention in the economy) and sociocultural changes towards the left (i.e. more progressive values)
	+ Economically, the new right supports government intervention in the economy but rejects socialism
	+ Socioculturally, the new right rejects sexism, racism, homophobia, fatphobia, transphobia, etc but refuses to join society’s hatred of genetic engineering and posthumans, suprahuman AI, etc
	+ They also reject the left and centre’s stigmatisation of things like ‘heightism’, discrimination and mockery based on height, and ‘adultism’, the definitive authority of adults over children. They also rally against the stigmatisation of things mocking someone’s looks, mocking their accent, mocking vegetarians/vegans, mocking ‘nerds’ and other people of low social status, etc
	+ Whilst most of the new right will acknowledge that these things are wrong, they don’t think that they should be stigmatised in the same way as sexism or racism, for example
	+ The leftward drift of society throughout the 21st and 22nd centuries is such that these views of the new right, which most of society rejected in E22 and which society as a whole abandoned in M22, would be considered progressive and reasonable in E21, whilst something like mocking someone’s height being hate speech would be seen as absurd and disturbing by even many E21 progressives
* By M22, in the West and the wealthiest non-Western nations this new right has generally been considered to have lost support and influence. The changes that they fought against have become a core part of society, e.g. height-based jokes are stigmatised in the same way that race-based jokes are
* E.g. the average person from a high-income country would view mocking a short person for their height as hate speech, or mimicking someone’s accent as potentially deeply offensive
	+ The views of the average person are not necessarily the views of *everyone*, however
	+ In any snapshot of any society, people’s views lie on a bell curve; most people will share a ‘normative belief’ that is the most common, and others will have views that are more progressive or conservative than this normative belief
	+ As views get further and further left/right, fewer people hold those views
	+ Generally in Western societies, this bell curve of opinions has shifted leftwards, e.g. a conservative at one point would have been seen as a progressive had they lived around a century ago
	+ E.g. in E19 in the American South, the normative belief was that slavery was good, the progressive belief was that it was bad but racism was good (i.e. the races were *not* equal and should not be treated as such), and the conservative belief was that all African-Americans should be exiled or killed
	+ E.g. in E20 in the American South, the normative belief was that slavery was bad but that racism was good, the progressive belief was that racism *was* bad, and the conservative belief was that slavery was good. The idea that African-Americans should be exiled or killed would shock almost everyone except the most extreme
	+ E.g. in E21 in the American South, the normative belief is that the racism is bad, the progressive belief is that not being racist is insufficient and one has to be actively anti-racist, and the conservative belief is that racism is good. The idea that slavery was good would shock almost everyone except the most extreme
	+ By this projection, in E22 in the American South, the normative belief would be active anti-racism, the conservative belief would be that simply not being racist is sufficient, and the idea that racism is good would shock almost everyone except the most extreme
	+ The progressive belief of E22 is less certain, but would likely be a belief that, in E21, is held only by the extreme left and is not at all mainstream. In this project, the progressive belief of the 22nd century is that white people owe black people financial reparations for slavery and discrimination
	+ Something key to note is that the progressive, normative, and conservative beliefs found in a population are not necessarily as strong as each other, and within the same tripartite set of beliefs, the strength of one belief can change. E.g., in E21 far more Southerners are racist than in M21. The progressive, normative, and conservative beliefs of the society haven’t changed, but the strengths of different sides of the spectrum have
* In many non-Western nations these ‘new right views’ are still those of the majority, although the left and younger generation opposes them. However the progressive Western values of E21 have by now been adopted by generally the entire world
* E.g. the average person from one of the least progressive countries in the world in M22 would laugh at the idea of mocking a vegetarian being hate speech, but would firmly reject racism and sexism

# History

## Key

2020S = Decade of 2020s

W21 = Whole 21st century

F21 = First half of 21st century (approx.)

S21 = Second half of 21st century (approx.)

E21 = Early 21st century

M21 = Mid 21st century

L21 = Late 21st century

T22 = Turn of the 22nd century (approx.)

E22 = Early 22nd century

## General Global Trends

L21

* East Asia becomes a stronger political and economic force than the West, though most of East Asia aligns with the West

F22

* South Asia also forms an area of political/economic influence, with the world’s poles of power colloquially dubbed the Atlantic pole (Europe + USA), Pacific pole (East Asia + USA), and Indian pole (South Africa)

M22

* People predict that Africa will become a centre of world power and wealth and that the 22nd century will be the ‘African century’

## Intergovernmental Organisations

### Group of X [F.K.A. Group of Seven]

The Group of X, abbreviated to the Gx, isn’t actually called as such, but due to the variation of the G7’s membership throughout E21-M22 this document refers to the IGO as such

E21

* The Gx essentially becomes the mouthpiece for the Western geopolitical position against China and Russia, and assumes the role of a bloc of states committed to liberal democracy and, in practice, a US-based world order (as opposed to a China based world order)
* Membership of the Gx expands to Australia, South Korea, and in an unofficial capacity Taiwan. It adopts the US initiative D-10 Strategy Forum’s organisation of having observer states, which are India, Poland, Indonesia, and Spain

M21

* Membership of the Gx expands to India as a full member,
* The considerable expansion of the Gx’s membership outside the West, and its continued role as an organised bloc of countries committed against China and for liberal democracy, changes political discourse
* People start to stop referring to ‘the West + Japan/South Korea’ as a political bloc because that bloc expands considerably outside of it
* The USA loses its relative hegemony of this bloc and its focus becomes less about rallying around the USA and more about rallying about liberal democracy, and- for now- against China
* This document uses the term ‘Gx’ as the geopolitical faction opposing the influence of China in favour of pluralist democracy

## Second Cold War

2020S

Blocs of Power

* The bipolar world system with the USA on one side and China on other starts to solidify. Tensions between the two poles increases and trade starts to decrease
* A US-dominated bloc of the USA and the West (and, to a lesser extent, Japan and South Korea) forms against a Chinese bloc of itself and Russia, which is improving ties to Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the other Gulf states
* Most countries don’t decisively align with one pole against the other but many join the IGOs (intergovernmental organisations; e.g. the SCA, G7, BRICS forum, etc) of a pole
* The G7 group expands to

## Global Economics and Industrial Revolutions

E21

* Although the acute economic crisis of early 2020S abates, growth rates and labour demand are still low, and inequality/inflation/unemployment is generally fairly high
* Since the post-war boom of M20, rates of output and productivity growth have slowed and labour demand has decreased throughout the decades, contributing to general economic malaise
* These trends continue into E21, although the acceleration of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the developed world begins to lift output and productivity rates
* This does not lead to increased labour demand and employment, however, but the opposite: unemployment increases greatly and the bargaining power of labour against capital falls further. Inequality rises greatly, both domestically in 4IR countries and internationally
* Manufacturing of high-value goods increases, but the percentage employment of manufacturing in the economy starts to fall greatly. The service sector also loses employment, but at a slower rate than manufacturing/agriculture so its share of employment increases
* The mass unemployment leads to widespread social discontent which greatly increases leftist demands for economic regulation, and labour begins to organise
* This leads to economic reforms and democratisation in many high-income countries, as government policy transitions from neoliberalism to greater social democracy, although with considerably more privatisation/liberalism than in the Keynesian years
* In the late 30s and 40s, most developed countries introduce Universal Basic Income, although governments generally impose these not to impose genuine equality but rather pacifies workers with subsistence so as to avoid further radicalisation of them
* Governments also pursue policies of upskilling and reskilling workforces, taxing the 1% and MNCs more as a result of public pressure and using this to invest further in education
* Conditions for the working class in these countries is still not ideal, with true, solid, mass-organisation being non-existent and labour demand and insecurity still very low. However, innovations like the UBI provide a foundation for the strengthening of labour against capital
* Outside high-income countries, results vary. In countries where the bulk of employment comes from low-income manufacturing labour (e.g. Bangladesh, Thailand, etc), the 4IR begins to seriously threaten employment
* Although these countries for now lack the wealth to industrialise more, unemployment starts to increase and many fear a coming crisis
* In authoritarian, upper-middle countries like China where companies are wealthier and labour’s influence over government is weaker, large companies do invest in automation, causing large unemployment
* The government increases welfare provisions but widespread unionisation doesn’t occur here as it does in many OECD countries. The working class thus lacks the power to agitate for political reforms

M21

* In high-income countries, unionisation and working class organisation/agitation increases, leading to further democratisations and more radical economic reforms towards social democracy
* Universal Basic Income becomes more generous and redistributive, aiming to tackle inequality. Non-permanent/’informal’ service workers also start to organise and win real labour rights. The divide between permanent and non-permanent workers is still certainly present, but starts to cease
* The Fourth Industrial Revolution comes fully underway, with employment in the service sector falling dramatically. Many services are roboticised or simply replaced with goods (e.g. how laundry services were replaced by washing machines)
* The quaternary sector of the economy starts to become the most dynamic and fast-growing in employment. The reskilling/educational investments of governments begins to really become clear here
* Moreover, the Second Cold War massively stimulates demand for products, which in turn stimulates labour demand, leading to a boom period. Although this boom is nowhere near as pronounced as the boom of M20, it is still a reversal in the L20-E21 trend of falling rates of productivity/output growth and prosperity increases
* Countries like China see UBI provision and

## United States of America & The West

2020S

* Discontent, political polarisation, cultural polarisation, economic stagnation continues. Demands for change accelerate and general disillusion with US society, politics, and institutions increases.
* Radicalism increases; the right drift further right and rightist numbers increase, but leftist numbers increase at a higher rate and also become more radical.
* The Republican Party doubles down to rightist populism and increasingly drifts from democracy, relying on sociocultural polarisation to appeal to voters. Though Trump doesn’t re-enter politics, his legacy of populism guides the Republican Party, and its candidates increasingly appeal to this
* The Democrats move slightly leftwards but are still not representative of the left’s politics, which people become more conscious of. People like Sanders gain in popularity, but the Democrat establishment continues to reject them

2030S

* Discontent and desire for major reforms reach all-time highs, fuelled by neoliberal stagnation, climate change pressures, political polarisation, and neither Republican nor Democrat Presidents enacting real change. Increasingly, people talk of overhauling the US system rather than just reforming it
* Leftist views on society and the economy become more and more common, but the right also grows in numbers and becomes more violent. Politically motivated crimes and domestic terrorism, mostly from rightists, increases. The Republican Party becomes shunned by the left
* 2030S is a time of general global discontent, triggered (in the same style as 2011 with the Arab Spring) by the Arab Autumn, leading to a new ‘Occupy’ movement in the West. This is strongest and most chaotic in the USA. It fails to enact real political change, but its significance lies in changing attitudes and beliefs in the USA
* In the popular mood, leftism becomes dominant over rightism; the latter still exists and is still violent and populist, but most people become committed to leftist, democratic values. These people wholly condemn the Republican Party and clamour for it to be abolished, whilst becoming increasingly dismissive of a Democrat Party that fails to offer real reform. They demand national healthcare, trade unions, an end to the two party system, and more direct democracy. Primarily, there is a growing feeling that US politics is controlled by the corporate elite
* New political organisations dedicating to rallying the left under certain ideologies- like unions and new political parties- are formed or become considerably more popular. Political consciousness greatly increases and these new organisations coordinate the masses of discontented protesters.

2040S

* The rise of automation plays a pivotal role in driving people towards the radical and organised left, as the right is based on sociocultural issues rather than economic
* Huge numbers of protesters swarm government buildings and a non-Democrat is elected as President, someone from a leftist Liberal Progressive party
* Republicans lose almost all their places in the government, with the houses mostly Democrat but some Liberal Progressive. However, major protests everywhere and lobbying of Democrat senators force major reforms
* The two-party system is abolished, with the first past the post system being abandoned, the Electoral College is reformed, campaign funding limits set so as to counter lobbying, and the most egregious county borders redrawn to prevent gerrymandering
* National healthcare is implemented and the economic system becomes similar to Keynesianism, although further economically right
* The majority of Washington D.C. is made into the 51st U.S. state, with a small part of it becoming a new Federal District containing the White House, Capitol, Supreme Court, etc
* The 51st state is officially incorporated as the ‘State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth’ (rather than the State of New Columbia), which is often shortened to Douglass colloquially

M21

The USA prospers; real wages increase, inequality decreases, etc, and a sense of optimism comes about the country, focussed on the value of organised labour and trade union power. A new workers’ party becomes prominent, with the Liberal Progressives and American Workers’ Party representing the most dominant. The Democrats still exist, but are the most far right and wield little power. The phrase ‘socialism’ becomes less stigmatised. Big business loses much of the political power it still had in 2040S

S21

Puerto Rico becomes incorporated as the 52nd state of the USA

L21

Reindustrialisation reaches full force, as automation is advanced enough to become more cost-effective than cheap human labour from developing countries

E22

Guam becomes incorporated as the 53rd state of the USA

## Western Europe & the European Union

## Eastern Europe

## The West Outside Europe & the USA: Canada, Australia, New Zealand

Australia

* F21: Indigenous representation is added to the parliament there via the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, although it is established in a referendum *after* the original 2023 one. The first indigenous treaties between Aboriginals and the government/states are established
* S21: Treaties between Aboriginals and governments/states continue and eventually taper off. Full independence of any Aboriginal nation is rejected, and the majority don’t support it for economic reasons

## Mexico, Central America & The Caribbean

## South America

F21

* South America becomes a field of competition between the USA and China, who increase their economic ties to the region rapidly in an attempt to wield influence
* South America- indeed, Latin America in general- pursues a policy of explicit non-alignment, playing the USA and China off against each other for economic gains without making real concessions
* The stronger countries in the region successfully use this policy to boost development, but the weakest states become suspect to foreign influence and both the USA and China increase military ties with them
* The increased militarisation of parts of South America is a large point of contention in the Second Cold War, with the USA perceiving increased Chinese military presence as a security threat
* South America diverges in this period between countries that quickly develop, countries that slowly develop, and countries that stagnate
* The region also diverges between countries that align with China and countries that remain non-aligned, though in this latter group countries tend to be closer to China than the USA. China is economically dominant in the region compared to other Latin American countries but not the USA, which is a close second
* Chile becomes a full member of Mercosur and Mexico becomes an associated member. Latin American integration increases in general, spurred by the non-alignment policy adopted by most Latin American nations
* Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay emerge as developed countries and gradually become less corrupt and more democratic. They strongly increase ties to each other and keep the USA and China at arm’s length, and remain stable countries
* Argentina faces competing US and Chinese influence over control of the Straits of Magellan. Argentina tends to lean more towards China than the USA but doesn’t make major changes to the status quo
* Brazil’s GDP grows greatly in this period, despite regression in 2020S. Political polarisation between rightist figures like Bolsonaro and leftist figures like Lula peaks in 2020S and 2030S before gradually resolving in favour of leftism
* Brazil does develop, but does not become a developed country. They remain officially non-aligned and only increase military ties with South American organisations like Mercosur, but greatly increases ties to China as well
* Brazil starts increasingly asserting itself internationally and the world is forced to treat it as a rising power. China is more amenable to growing Brazil assertiveness than the USA, spurring the USA to increase its respect amidst fears of Brazil favouring China- although it does
* Brazil becomes more assertive in the BRICS forum and supports the rising ‘South’ bloc in international relations rather than the USA and the West
* Paraguay switches its diplomatic ties from Taiwan to China and intensifies economic ties with it, becoming increasingly dependent on them economically. Paraguay develops a little in this period, but not a lot, and remains corrupt and inequal
* China doesn’t establish an explicitly military presence here, but Chinese have majority ownership over things like ports and telecommunications which could be used for military purposes
* Bolivia becomes more authoritarian and political unrest continues. The country does not become a federation but the eastern departments eventually gain more autonomy
* China consolidates a large degree of influence over Bolivia, both economically and, in a situation mirroring that of Paraguay, militarily

## China

### Mainland China

2020S

Domestic Issues

* Growth rates are still high, but begin to slow. Inequality and corruption increase as well. The CCP continues to drive economic growth by large amounts of non-productive investment and racking up debt
* The CCP slowly begins transitioning to investment in more productive sectors of the economy, but this is difficult and generally restrained due to the political changes that economic liberalisation might bring
* Xi Jinping remains in policy and continues pursuing an aggressive foreign policy

Foreign Policy

* Continuation and acceleration of existing Chinese foreign policy; South China Sea aggression and expansion, neocolonialism via the Belt & Road initiative and Maritime Silk Road; aggression with India, Japan, and Taiwan
* China especially focusses on Central Asia, threatening to become the dominant power there ahead of Russia and Turkey, and East Africa, whose resources China exploits
* China emerges as the leader of the BRICS bloc and begins using it as a geopolitical alternative to the G7 bloc, spurring the latter to expand in an attempt to stay ahead
* This alienates many, driving the USA, Australia, and EU closer together militarily and ideologically. ASEAN, Latam, and the wealthier countries of East Africa for now continue to accept Chinese loans and investments, although suspicion amongst them rises
* China and Russia become increasingly close together, both economically and militarily. In this partnership, China is clearly the senior partner
* As Western opposition to China intensifies, the latter begins increasing ties with anti-Western powers like Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. A more comprehensive association of powers aligned against the West starts to emerge
* Argentina and Saudi Arabia are added to the BRICS grouping, making it BRICSAS. Iran is planned to join when it increases in stability, population, and wealth, and for now remains associated closely
* India remains in the BRICS bloc but tensions with China increase

2030S

Domestic Issues

* Economic growth rates slow even more (though growth still continues), and the tapering off of economic prosperity causes increased domestic unrest. The CCP invests in security technology to repress this
* Xi Jinping seeks to solidify his rule against the backdrop of unrest with some party purges, ostensibly ‘anti-corruption measures’, although some legitimate anti-corruption measures are also taken
* Xi Jinping’s health begins to fade and China starts to not do as well as before, facing increased domestic issues- still comfortably suppressible- and mounting international opposition
* Some economic liberalisation measures are passed and workers’ rights are somewhat bolstered, and the CCP focusses on education and social welfare in order to boost household consumption, hoping to drive further economic growth by this
* This is mildly successful, but key economic issues- like the heavy-handed state control over private enterprise and consequently insecure property rights- are not addressed. The fear is that this will lead to political changes

Foreign Policy

* China continues on the path of 2020S, playing a more actively interventionist part in world affairs and using economic neocolonialism to consolidate control in parts of the world
* A geopolitical bloc between China, Russia, Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE strongly takes place. Although events of the Arab Autumn cause Iran and Turkey to drift from China, the cohesion between Russia and the Gulf states continues, with China being the dominant partner over all of them
* China’s aggressive foreign policy alienates ASEAN, who align more with Japan and South Korea. Kenya in East Africa also breaks away from economic ties, although ties with Latam and most of Africa still remain strong

2040S

* Xi Jinping loses power; his health has been declining recently, as has his grip on power. He is replaced in a coup by the CCP and placed under house arrest
* The transfer of power causes demonstrations in China agitating for democracy, but these are violently suppressed, drawing international condemnation
* To avoid a massive wave of protests, the CCP combines standard repression with further economic liberalisation and starts to leave the private sector alone, although still maintains some control
* Despite this, Chinese growth stalls. Previous economic issues, like an aging population, high inequality and corruption, and slowing urbanisation, are still prominent and contribute to political unrest
* However, by now economic reforms have produced a sturdy middle-class and a civil society, which continue to agitate for political reform
* In foreign policy, Chinese aggression abates somewhat, as the CCP is aware that it is drawing more and more aggression against it and that China’s own power is declining
* Although neocolonialism in Central Asia, the Gulf states, and parts of Africa continues, China scales back aggression in East Asia and tries to improve relations with ASEAN. They also focus on maintaining ties to Latam
* Chinese anti-Western rhetoric slows down, but the fundamental geopolitical opposition between China and the West continues

M21

* Due to massive domestic pressure, China begins to undergo democratisation, similarly to how countries like South Korea underwent democratisation once their society had become prosperous enough
* This process occurs in a very similar fashion to Taiwan’s democratisation, taking the form of a gradual few-decades transition starting with loosening of political controls and ending with free and fair elections resulting in the ruling party losing
* China’s democratic transition begins in M21 and finishes in L21, lasting around the same amount of time
* In pursuing the Second Cold War, the CIA begins to covertly back the Tibetan independence movement in India and Nepal. They provide funding, arms, advisors, and guerrilla training
* This is done out of political expediency, not altruism, with the aim being to establish stable liberal democracies that align with the US in foreign policy, allow US investment, and provide a market for US exports
* They do not dare to undertake any actions in China itself; the CCP is aware of CIA support for the Tibetans and this is a major source of tension. It is thought that the CIA being active in China itself would be an unacceptable provocation that could lead to WWIII, with lessons learned from the USA funding protesters in Hong Kong

L21

* China becomes a democracy during this period, though like the USA in L20 it is a flawed democracy rather than a full one
* The nature of the Second Cold War does change; now the anti-Western power bloc is also a liberal democracy. The ideological nature of the war changes from democracy vs authoritarianism to the Gx system vs the SCO
* However, just because China is a democracy, doesn’t mean China has any major foreign policy changes: the general population, like the CCP, wish to assert Chinese influence as much as possible
* They harbour the same irredentist sentiments that the CCP did and are still opposed to the West as they perceive the West as having historically humiliated the Chinese state and seeking to do the same thing now
* The phenomenon of democratic states still seeking to expand their borders is not new: the USA is a prime example, as well as India or Israel
* Therefore, China continues its hostility against Tibet, India, and Taiwan. Just like the USA in the 19th and 20th centuries, China also backs authoritarian regimes abroad if doing so furthers Chinese interest
* For example, in the 20th century the USA- though a liberal democracy- directly caused the autocratisation of many other democratic societies, e.g. Iran and Latam
* China is still geopolitically and strategically opposed to the West, and in foreign policy simply acts as the USA has done up until the point of writing this document
* There is also an ideological component: though a liberal democracy, China is suspicious of the West due to decades of CCP-brainwashing and the simple fact that China is geopolitically opposed to the West
* The ideological component of the Second Cold War starts to take the shape of ‘Western vs Southern’
* China continues its foreign policy of promoting its interests by backing authoritarian regimes and engaging in proxy wars; exactly in the same manner as the USA in the 20th century
* However, Chinese public opinion starts to diverge with its government’s actions. A particularly atrocious engagement in another country, e.g. war crimes committed by the PLA, triggers Vietnam-style protests in China itself
* China’s democracy is in the same state as the USA’s democracy a century ago; it is a genuine democracy, but there is an elite in society which wields disproportionate influence on politics (especially by lobbying), and the government often does things abroad that the citizens would find odious
* In this period, Chinese public opinion starts to diverge away from its foreign policy, and although people still take a hardline stance against Tibet, India, and Taiwan, people generally want to stop backing authoritarianism/neocolonialism in foreign countries
* Another major factor is international opinion; in the 21st century, the UN becomes much more interventionist and assertive. Although China vetoes multilateral UN action against it, individual UN states and even the EU support democratic rebellions and unrest in Chinese-backed autocracies/anocracies
* By the end of the 21st century, diplomatic pressure is a significantly greater force than in E21, and international pressure especially is much harder to resist
* Moreover, the US support for Chinese independence movements results in more organised, disruptive, and effective independence movements that are increasingly harder to suppress

T22

* China democratises further, similar to the USA in M21, and its elite lose much of their power over politics. Foreign policy is brought more into line with public opinion
* This is due to domestic pressure, just as the USA experienced in the 20th century, but mainly due to international pressure. The world simply isn’t willing to tolerate great power backed- authoritarian regimes and insurgencies anymore, and China is forced to back down from these policies
* It takes a more subtle approach to consolidating worldwide control, mainly operating through trade agreements and diplomatic summits
* This change in Chinese foreign policy brings a rapprochement with the Gx powers, especially India, as China decides to diplomatically fix the Sino-Indian border and boost Indian relations
* People are divided on when to pronounce the end of the Second Cold War; some say it’s here, but because China still refuses to countenance Tibetan/Uighur independence and refuses to accept Taiwan’s existence, although military provocations cease
* Most historians therefore date the Second Cold War as continuing

E22

* As time goes on, international organisations like the UN/EU increase their commitment to liberal democracy and self-determination, and become more and more assertive in pursuing this aim
* By E22, the international community call for China to stop suppressing the by-now considerable Tibetan independence movement, backed by the CIA and internationally supported
* Chinese opinion is divided. Younger generations tend to be more pro-Gx and believe that if Tibet wants to be independent, then it should be. The younger generations generally want to reconcile with Gx and abandon antiquated notions of nationalism and Chinese exceptionalism, committing to promoting democracy worldwide and joining Gx
* The older generations tend to be more anti-Gx and don’t want to see any dismemberment or weakening of China. They see Tibetan independence as a fundamental affront to the Chinese state, whose hegemony they seek to promote worldwide. They see Tibetan independence as capitulation to Gx
* This causes a significant political divide between left and right amongst the Chinese electorate- this divide was present in L21 after Chinese democratisation was completed, but it becomes considerably sharper in E21, with the Tibetan Question focussing enmity
* Eventually, however, the independence movement and international pressure are too great to resist. The Chinese government works out a deal with the movement, agreeing to let Xizang (the Tibetan Autonomous Region) gain independence but keeping Qinghai and Sichuan
* This inflames the Chinese cultural-political divide, and political polarisation greatly increases, similar to the situation in the West in E21

M22

* Eventually, just as with the left in the West in M22, the left in China emerges as socioculturally and politically dominant
* Just as the USA transitioned from a flawed to a full democracy in M22 by eliminating the influence of its own elite, China does the same, and democratises fully
* The new national mood is rapprochement with Gx, support for democracy and self-determination worldwide, and the settling of the Taiwan issue
* Bowing to a powerful independence movement and equally powerful international pressure, China permits the secession of East Turkestan, a Uighur nation-state, although the name Uyghurstan is deliberately avoided to promote Turkic unity
* China also finally acknowledges the existence of Taiwan, which by now no longer calls itself the Republic of China but rather is formally independent, although in practise the two nations had been heavily economically linked by trade for decades now, and had even assumed unofficial relations
* China is accepted into the Gx powers; this is the latest date at which the Second Cold War is dated to end
* Separatist agitation for Inner Mongolia, which has accelerated throughout W21 and F22, reaches an apex with the independence of East Turkestan. They seek to establish the Republic of South Mongol, although the region is still divided on the issue. It remains an area of controversy in Chinese politics

### The Special Administrative Regions

2020S

* The National Security Law is the beginning of an erosion of civil liberties, democratic processes, and autonomy from China
* Its prosperity as a world financial centre also starts to decline
* Protests continue sporadically but are suppressed. In Hong Kong politics, the democrat factions begin to grow in popularity

2030S

* As Hong Kong gets increasingly dominated by Chinese autocracy, unrest rises. This decade is a general time of global unrest, e.g. with the Arab Autumn and Western movements, and protests reignite with great force
* People protest both lack of freedom and economic issues caused by foreign companies moving money out of an increasingly unstable city
* Politically, the democrat faction gains clear ascendancy over the pro-establishment faction, and Hong Kong passes key legislation to democratise that the CCP proclaims is invalid and passes legislation overruling radical Hong Kong changes
* China suppresses the protests with considerable violence in Tiananmen Square-magnitude, resorting to open murder, drawing international attention and condemnation
* Some historians date the Second Cold War as starting here due to the flurry of anti-China legislation passed by Gx. ASEAN, already suspicious of China’s neocolonialism, decides to move away from Chinese influence
* Within Hong Kong, the focus of the protests starts to shift from increased autonomy to independence, although out of all the diverse opinions, the plurality simply want the CCP to leave them alone
* Taiwan, India, and Gx vocally support the protesters but don’t directly intervene
* Macau’s economy is so dependent on Chinese visitors gambling in their casinos that secession is out of the question, although they do seek increased autonomy. The PRC meets them in the middle, cracking down on wide-scale protests whilst reducing intrusion into local politics. Macau lacks a strong civil society and democratic institutions anyway and the protests fizzle out

2040S

* Hong Kong and Macau become integrated into the PRC- the events in each of these newly incorporated cities varies greatly
* Macau does not seek independence at all, but nevertheless wants autonomy in local affairs from the PRC. There is internal division on how much autonomy is gained, as many resent the PRC’s Sinicization of the area. Protests are cracked down on, but the PRC gives some way in giving local autonomy. This combination of repression and concession pacifies the region for now
* Hong Kong is a completely different situation, as by now protesters are organised and committed to a full liberal democracy in Hong Kong, and most people favour full independence over a return to being an SAR by now
* This is so antithetical to the PRC’s interest that they simply can’t allow it and crack down even harder, investing heavily in repressive security technology and social control mechanisms like social credit
* The CCP applies these repression mechanisms to the mainland, which stokes internal fires for democratisation
* Hong Kong becomes an international site of attention, and the CIA looks into covertly backing the protests. Although no actual military action is taken, the Gx powers orchestrate a wave of propaganda encouraging Hong Kong to seek independence

M21

* US involvement in Hong Kong accelerates to the point where they fund secessionist organisations. This is eventually ascertained by Chinese intelligence, leading to a massive international crisis that threatens WWIII
* Eventually, the US backs down in exchange for minor geopolitical concessions in East Africa. The incident is heavily compared to the Cuban Missile Crisis and is widely regarded as the closest the world has come to nuclear war since
* This, coupled with the beginning of Chinese democratisation, leads to a détente in tensions, although just as in the 1960s the Cold War is still very much ongoing
* Moreover, the heavy-handed US intervention in Chinese affairs greatly sours the population against the Gx powers, and even when the country democratises they still fiercely guard against intervention or secessionism
* Hong Kong is currently just too unstable and organised to continue repressing however. The PRC and Hong Kong come to an agreement wherein Hong Kong can manage its own affairs and be a democracy, but cannot secede from China
* Protesters in Hong Kong are divided on this, with many advocating full secessionism, but ultimately the repression levied by the PRC for the past few decades makes many simply want an end to it

L21

* Hong Kong successfully and easily democratises, having a very strong civil society, democratic institutions, and middle class
* It recovers its status somewhat as a financial centre and starts to massively increase economic ties with South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan; this is as much a political/ideological move as an economic one
* The PRC, by now technically called the Democratic Republic of China, becomes aware of this. Chinese people are generally sympathetic to Hong Kong’s desire for democracy and repression at the hands of the CCP, and will not back autocratisation of the region
* However, China is still very much keen on projecting its power globally and protecting itself, and Hong Kong’s pursual of ties with the Gx powers and Taiwan is seen as something that could later become a security threat if unchecked, particularly as Hong Kong’s politicians are explicitly anti-China
* There is also national anxiety about Tibetan or Uyghur independence, and especially Gx getting involved and intervening. Hong Kong pursuing ties with them is seen as dangerous
* In response, China attempts to curtail Hong Kong’s autonomy- leading to another wave of protests, this time entirely organised and now irrevocably committed to secession
* Ultimately, China relents and allows secession; initiating a guerrilla war is seen as inviable due to the immense international scrutiny and sanctions it would bring, making them into a rouge state
* Hong Kong achieves independence

T22

* Macau, in response, agitates for increased autonomy- although not secession- soon after Hong Kong’s independence. This is granted, and the region generally becomes quiescent

## East Asia

### Singapore

* F21: Singapore remains generally prosperous and stable. Unrest against the ruling People’s Action Party increases which eventually leads to considerable democratisation of the country in a manner similar to Taiwan and South Korea
* Singapore still remains more authoritarian/intolerant than the West. Extensive social welfare reforms are put in place to respond to the challenges of automation
* Relations with China become more strained as a result of Chinese aggression and expansionism. Although they are still generally close, and remain closer than much of ASEAN’s relations with China, Singapore starts to explicitly condemn Chinese aggression when it becomes too brazen
* Singapore also pursues a more protectionist policy when it comes to China and prevents Chinese businesses gaining a hold in the Singaporean economy
* China generally refrains from going too far with Singapore and alienating them, using them as a mediator with ASEAN
* S21: Singapore democratises further and starts to explicitly support liberal democracy, becoming more tolerant (though still not to Western levels)
* Singapore also starts becoming explicitly non-aligned, pursuing a middle course between China and the West and keeping both blocs at arm’s length. The aim is to become, along with ASEAN, an independent pole of power in the world
* F22: Singapore becomes more aligned with the West than China, though remains part of an independent East Asian/SE Asian pole of power in the world. Social values change as well and start to generally converge with Western views
* M22: As China loses its hegemony in the region and becomes less aggressive internationally, it starts to integrate itself into the general East Asian/SE Asian region of power and wealth in the world, slowly becoming a sort of ‘first among equals’ of the various wealthy democracies in the region
* Singapore also has a fairly ascendant role in this group, being a world centre of finance

### Taiwan

2020S

* China continues to pursue an aggressive course in the Taiwan Strait and Indo-Pacific region, leading to a tightening of ties between the USA, Taiwan, Australia, Japan, and South Korea
* The USA maintains its policy of deliberate ambiguity towards Taiwan and officially refers to it as Chinese Taipei, but in practice strengthens its ties and commitment to it
* They increase the number and size of arms sales, expand commercial and diplomatic ties, and encourage the G7 (referred to in this document as Gx) to strengthen ties too. It also massively increases its military presence in Taiwan
* This does not go unnoticed, and the Indo-Pacific region becomes more divided over who aligns with USA or China more, although by this stage most of these alignments aren’t concrete and are purely diplomatic without any concrete backing
* ASEAN is mostly neutral, generally calling on both sides to exercise restraint, emphasising sovereignty and cooperation. Singapore is also
* Myanmar is a notable exception, strongly aligning with China, as are Vietnam and the Philippines, which starts to side more with the USA. The states of Pakistan and Central Asia lean towards China as well, whilst India leans towards the West. New Zealand is clearly aligned with the West over China but generally chooses to stay out of it
* Taiwan also pursues further free trade agreements with Singapore, currently the only economic partnership agreement with a level of ASEAN
* China ramps up intimidation of Taiwan, increasing the number of airspace incursions, military exercises, war games, and warships sailed into the Taiwan Strait
* More US warships pass through the Taiwan Strait in response, eventually inducing a face-off in the Strait between US and Chinese warships. Nothing happens, but it is seen as a symbol of new heights of tension
* Trade between China and the USA declines, as they both loosen economic ties to each other. At this point, however, there’s still a lot of trade
* Taiwanese nationalism rises, with more and more people identifying as exclusively Taiwanese and not Chinese. This trend continues throughout the whole 21st century
* Some analysts in the West declare a Second Cold War as having begun, although this is not the mainstream opinion at the time. Historians looking back on the 21st century sometimes date the Second Cold War as beginning at this time

2030S

* The Indo-Pacific region becomes the foremost geopolitical arena between the increasingly hostile two poles of the contemporary world order, the USA and China. Both sides seek to maximise influence in the region
* The Taiwan Strait is a focal point for military presences, with warships from nations that aren’t the USA or China being present, e.g. Russia and the UK
* The various countries in the region start to commit to a course of aligning with China, the USA, or remaining unaligned. Although actual military alliances are still out of the question, various countries join IGOs like the BRICS, SCO, OECD, and Gx
* Diplomatic and economic ties increase between the countries in this region, mainly accumulating in three loose, not yet definitive groups: China’s, the USA’s, and ASEAN, although ASEAN also increases ties with China’s and USA’s blocs, as well as ties between countries that vaguely align with one of the great powers
* A few more countries in the Indo-Pacific establish informal diplomatic relations with Taiwan
* Taiwan-China relations worsen and Taiwan increases economic and diplomatic ties to the USA, South Korea, Japan, and Australia. To a lesser extent, they do so with Vietnam, Singapore, and New Zealand
* Taiwan unofficially joins the Gx; some scholars/experts date this as the beginning of the Second Cold War
* South Korea and Japan establish a small military presence in Taiwan

2040S

* Tensions between the USA and China peak in this decade, coming to a climax with a crisis caused by the USA funding a secessionist organisation in Hong Kong
* In the decade of tension, Taiwan accepts a greater military presence from the USA, South Korea, Japan, and also Australia. The Taiwan Strait also becomes highly militarised, with warships from SCO and Gx nations passing through practically permanently
* Ties between Taiwan and all the Gx nations are strengthened in general, as well as ties to other nations in the Indo-Pacific that aren’t in the SCO
* Many nations in the Indo-Pacific region establish informal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, although at this time even the USA, Taiwan’s main ally, does not formally recognise it as it’s a provocation without any practical value

M21

* Taiwanese nationalism has increased throughout E21 and by now the vast majority of people don’t even identify as Chinese. Politicians consider abandoning any claim to China and simply being Taiwan
* The majority of the world has informal diplomatic and economic relations with Taiwan at this point
* Domestically, the rise of automation and consequent unemployment leads to considerable unrest that culminates in large social welfare reforms
* Taiwan and the area around it continues to be heavily militarised, and Taiwan continues to be a sort of chess piece in the Second Cold War
* Taiwan unofficially joins NATO
* Many Taiwanese in the country grow concerned at the levels of US influence and military in the country and advocate for some distance, but considering the strategic threat to Taiwan at this moment this doesn’t really go anywhere

L21

* Foreign military presence and economic influence decreases due to popular demand and unrest
* Taiwan is still very much aligned with the USA and the Gx, however
* Tensions between China and Taiwan slowly but gradually decrease

T22

* A democratised China begins to pull out of many of its engagements, signalling a reduction in world tension, and many in the country favour an end to the relentless hostility to Taiwan
* By now some tentative diplomatic ties have been established between China and Taiwan. The region becomes less militarised and Taiwan forces countries like the USA to reduce their military presence further

E22

* China and Taiwan establish informal economic ties and trade with each other frequently. Tensions ease further

M22

* The Taiwan issue is formally settled between China and Taiwan, and the latter declares independence as the Republic of Taiwan. China and Taiwan work towards improving relations

### North Korea

2020S

* North Korean nuclearization quickly accelerates, with ICBMs being capable of hitting the USA being definitively developed. It is unknown whether these are nuclear-capable or not, although Kim Jong Un asserts that they are
* North Korea is designated the number one security threat in US intelligence, and the USA increases sanctions rapidly, approaching a Cuba-style embargo
* The USA also increases security ties with China and South Korea, encouraged by North Korean drone incursions into South Korean airspace, and increases their military presence in the region; this concerns China
* Most other nations also increase sanctions against North Korea, as well as the EU and UN
* China faces mounting pressure to increase their sanctions on North Korea, as 90% of North Korea’s trade is with China. China legitimately wants to end North Korean nuclearization, but also desperately wants to avoid a regime collapse
* China can’t control North Korea’s nuclear program, which is an inherent source of anxiety, and Kim Jong Un has been diplomatically disrespectful in the 2020S and previous decades. Moreover, the increased tensions strengthen the USA’s presence in the area
* But a civil war or collapse of North Korea would bring an unacceptable number of refugees into the area, and more importantly would end a necessary buffer state between China and a US-backed South Korea. Finally, a collapse would seriously raise the prospect of unification, which would inevitably occur under the aegis of South Korea and the USA
* China thus finds herself between a rock and a hard place; they do legitimately want to denuclearise North Korea, and ideally unseat the Kim dynasty to do this as it seems blatant that Kim Jong Un will never denuclearise. However, they cannot impose enough sanctions to risk an unstable regime change or collapse
* China therefore responds by increasing sanctions minimally, especially as Gx pressure mounts, but failing to take significant economic measures. Instead, they continue their policy of strengthening the Workers’ Party of Korea, hoping to create an institution powerful enough to challenge Kim rule, and empowering the oligarchy through trade

2030S

* Kim Jong Un dies of health issues- although many theorise the prospect of Chinese or US assassination of some kind
* Up until his death is imminent, he doesn’t designate a successor, fearing that designating an heir earlier would lead to them undermining his regime
* He designates Kim Ju Ae, his daughter, as his successor, with Kim Jo Yong being a senior official and second-in-command, being First Secretary
* Kim Jo Yong begins eroding Kim Ju Ae’s authority, deducing that her inexperience is a weakness, just as how Kim Jong Il gradually eroded Kim Il Sung’s
* Kim Jo Yong gradually establishes her own elite loyal to her and a cult of personality, gradually seizing control of the North Korean levers of power, relegating Kim Ju Ae to a mostly figurehead role. Her cult of personality eventually supersedes Kim Ju Ae’s
* She then spends the remainder of the decade increasing monitoring and control over the elite, seeking to consolidate their loyalty to her. There is some unrest within the elite against her, but this doesn’t go anywhere
* Kim Jo Yong already has a child and seeks to establish him as the successor to her dynasty, grooming him for succession
* Kim Jo Yong’s foreign policy approaches are essentially expansions of her actions in her brief tenure of power in 2020
* She absolutely rejects the prospect of denuclearisation and does not seek reconciliation with the West unless under extreme concessions
* China’s urgings for opening up the economy and denuclearisation are ignored, and NK continues pursuing its ideology of Juche, which involves complete stifling of its domestic economy. It is a rogue state which needs to be propped up by Chinese trade and aid to survive
* Despite this, Kim Jo Yong is not deferential towards China, indeed often being aggressive and belligerent, e.g. shooting at any boats or planes in NK territory. Kim Jo Yong ultimately resents Chinese control over NK and wants to assert that they aren’t a client state
* She also expands North Korean trade with nations that aren’t China, although by now most nations outside the SCO won’t trade with them. India, Mexico, and Thailand, important trading partners in 2020, cease trade entirely
* China responds to all this by increasing sanctions, partly being forced to by the international community, but not greatly. They cannot risk a regime collapse, which would bring an intolerable number of refugees over the border, and they need a buffer state between them and South Korea
* Hence, they are still caught between a rock and a hard place. Chinese intelligence begins dedicating itself to engineering a coup to overthrow the Kim dynasty, although prospects for this are not high

2040S

* The international pressure on NK becomes crushing. The elite becomes disaffected with Kim Jo Yong’s rule, but are unable to coordinate a resistance as they are so closely monitored
* The USA, South Korea, and Japan cooperate heavily on intelligence and security services and together start formulating plans to assassinate Kim Jo Yong, although her level of personal security and isolation renders this near-impossible
* China also investigates plans to end the reign of Kim Yo Jong and the Kim dynasty in general, seeking to place a military junta in charge instead
* Though theoretically, China and Gx want the same objective, they refuse to cooperate due to the enmity and suspicion between them
* China attempts to use its existing influence on NK to pursue a different method of undermining the Kim dynasty. Instead of seeking to assassinate the Kims, they increase sanctions to the point where the elite’s discontent starts to seriously grow, although they continue to supply food and energy to avoid a regime collapse
* Chinese-NK relations sour further, but China needs the country intact and NK needs Chinese trade and aid, as the economy as non-existent. With extreme reluctance, they stay aligned with each other
* Kim Jo Yong tries to reduce economic dependence on China, seeing it as her number one priority in order to be able to act against them if provoked again
* She therefore allows an extremely small amount of economic liberalisation, although these reforms are mainly symbolic, such as recognising the country’s black market as legitimate and legalising internal trade
* These genuinely help the economy, but not significantly: the North Korean state is ultimately too reluctant to properly liberalise the economy as it predicts that enriching and educating the population will allow a revolution to occur
* The current impoverishment and hyper-repression of the country does indeed make revolution impossible for at least the foreseeable future
* Kim Jo Yong begins marginalising the children of Kim Jong Un and grooming her own heir for succession, worrying the country’s elite further. Their desire to form a coup starts to outweigh their fear of doing so, and they do what they can

2050S

* The international pressure on NK has effectively peaked by this point; Gx embargoes them and actively seeks Kim Jo Yong’s assassination, and even many SCO states reluctantly take part in sanctions
* Eventually, China backs an elite-led coup in NK. The elites of the country accuse her of treason against Kim Ju Ae, whom they back as a figurehead whilst excluding from real power. A military junta is established
* An engineered coup only occurs in this decade for many reasons. Firstly, a coup brings the risk of causing instability and state collapse, which is the absolute last thing China wants. The inherent risk of engineering a coup prevented China from doing so in E21, and policy only changed due to NK’s continued and accelerating belligerence and nuclearization posing an even greater risk to Chinese interest
* China also became desperately aware of Gx plans to assassinate Kim Jo Yong and feared that this would cause a regime collapse, so wanted to act first
* Moreover, China had to wait until the elite was motivated enough to back a coup and then to actually carry it out
* Finally, in 2050S drone, cyberwarfare, and stealth technologies advance enough to be able to carry out essential surveillance, communications, and other subversive operations needed to make a coup a reality
* In exchange for their newfound power, the military junta then promises denuclearisation to the international community. Sanctions ease correspondingly and diplomatic relations between NK and Gx are re-normalised, and the junta regains firm control over the country
* China enforces this nuclearization by threatening the re-imposition of sanctions, and forces the junta to allow regular internal checks by the CCP. The junta remains obedient to China, fearing that they could use sanctions to start another coup against *them*
* China urges them to open the economy more, but doesn’t care about this enough to enforce it. NK under the military junta remains a hyper-repressive, totalitarian society without a civil society

S21

* The brutality of NK does not change, and eventually it incurs sanctions again due to its extreme repressiveness and human rights abuses
* China continues to prop up the regime and has good relations with NK now that it has firmly denuclearised. As the country democratises, many Chinese citizens question the ethicality of backing NK and even advocate its democratisation
* However, North Korea’s existence as a buffer state and internal security is still crucial to Chinese interest, and the government fears that destabilising North Korea may allow South Korea and the USA to easily take over and unify the country
* The military junta ruling the country continues to use Kims as figureheads despite their total disconnect from any real power. The juntas that form change occasionally in number and balance of power, but NK’s form of government remains
* They consider renuclearisation numerous times, but the vigorous Chinese checks prevent this, and NK is still economically reliant on China; although the regime is denuclearised, its repressiveness still makes it a global pariah, and only China engages in much significant trade with it
* The junta therefore tries to encourage domestic prosperity by instituting some economic liberalisation reforms and opening itself up a small amount. However, the reforms don’t go far enough, as the junta are too afraid of encouraging real domestic prosperity as people would then overthrow the regime
* As the century wears on, the number of democracies in the world increase and the interventionism of IGOs like the UN increases. The Gx and IGOs pursue liberal democracy increasingly strongly worldwide and with increasing aggression
* Pressure on NK increases yet again, having peaked in early 2050S, falling sharply after denuclearisation and gradually rising. Moreover, pressure on China from the international community greatly increases, as China backs NK’s existence
* There are some protests in North Korea for the first time, but these are sporadic and unorganised, and are crushed almost immediately
* The regime itself starts to tone back the explicitly anti-Gx rhetoric and propaganda and cease diplomatic provocations against the wider world, generally seeking to just avoid notice from the powers of the world and to be left to brutalise its population
* This is generally successful. Whilst many countries impose sanctions on North Korea, they do nothing beyond this as there’s simply no reason to. Without the nuclear threat, NK is just another authoritarian regime
* It is admittedly anomalous in that it’s considerably more totalitarian and closed off than any other authoritarian regime, but

E22

* Things begin to change in the 22nd century. North Kore stands out as one of the few remaining autocracies, and out of all autocracies it is the only Stalinist and the only totalitarian state
* Moreover, in this period protesting starts to accelerate. It is not at all at a level where it can threaten the government, but it means that government crackdowns on protests catch the attention of the international community
* Finally, South Korea starts to push unification, and SK is an influential Gx power
* In the 22nd century, the international community is far less willing to tolerate this kind of thing than a century ago
* The idea of invading the country, ending the regime, and gradually democratising it becomes seriously discussed, and eventually an acceptable solution
* The idea of overthrowing a regime to further a country’s interests shocks nobody, being a regular occurrence in the 20th century. Nonetheless, it is still a significant step to declare war on a country simply to end the regime there and democratise it
* This becomes a legitimate idea only because NK is a unique country
* It ideologically and geopolitically dedicated to attacking the Gx as much as it can, and in fact has produced various provocations over the 21st century (although these eased considerably in S21)
* It is the most authoritarian, repressive regime in the world and maintains the lowest standard of living for its citizens. North Koreans live in such terrible conditions that the case for a Gx takeover of NK is pushed as a humanitarian, not geopolitical situation
* The UN first intervened in a country’s politics for humanitarian reasons in 2020 (the DRC), and in the past century the remit of the UN to politically involve itself in other countries has increased massively
* Justification for taking over the country is generally unassailable for these reasons, questioned only by China and North Korea
* In fact, many argue that justification for doing so was present even in E21, but at this time the idea of invading NK, even with Chinese permission and without North Korean nukes, would have led to a bloody war with many casualties, difficult to justify in an ostensibly humanitarian war
* But by this point military technology has progressed to the point where NK simply does not pose any threat to the world anymore, or even to South Korea
* The Gx by now has orbital defence systems that can destroy missiles like ICBMs and artillery shells in the air and automated special forces units powered by AI that supersedes human intelligence
* Since the start of the modern era, the newest military technology has become exponentially more expensive, and this rule continues throughout the 21st century into the 22nd
* By now, NK simply cannot afford the newest military technology. It is too archaic as a state; it is built on repression, not innovation, and all its wealth is generated from exploiting its populace. Ultimately, a country can only become so wealthy with the extractive institutions that NK has
* Invading and annexing NK could thus be done by the Gx with ease by this point as their military could destroy the regime with practically no casualties. Air superiority would be established immediately and with ease and automated soldiers could be dropped at specific locations to secure the areas there without ever needing to make a front against North Koreans
* Ideally, people would rise up by themselves to establish a democracy. Whilst economic institutions have been reformed to be slightly less extractive, and there is some increased prosperity as opposed to previous nadirs, this option is regarded as a pipe dream
* Even if the North Korean people somehow managed to organise a revolution *and* make it successful and overthrow the regime, a democracy almost definitely wouldn’t be established as nobody in the country has any experience of democratic institutions, there is no sizeable middle class, and other structural conditions necessary for successful democratisation are absent
* The Gx decides that in order to democratise North Korea, they shouldn’t rely on an internal revolution to do this, but rather an invasion which could impose a liberal democracy in the manner of Nazi Germany or Imperial Japan
* The obstacle to this happening is China. China dislikes North Korea by this point, seeing it as a massive, outdated, repressive liability. But China is bound by geopolitics to support the country’s existence, and she knows that any Gx invasion of NK, despite establishing a legitimate democracy, would still establish a country aligned with them, not China
* There is large international pressure for China to allow the toppling of North Korea’s regime and to allow unification, but they are still hesitant

M22

* Eventually, international pressure and domestic pressure from protesters is simply too high, and the Chinese government agrees to a treaty to allow unification of North Korea with South Korea

They will allow a South Korean invasion of North Korea (with the UN backing South Korea) if it establishes a liberal, unaligned democracy; a neutral state with no military alliances; has free trade with China; and joins the SCO

* The Gx accept and invade NK. The Second Korean War is one of the shortest wars of all time, fought between the United Nations and North Korea. China remains neutral, and by doing so violates its treaty of mutual aid with NK
* As a gesture, the UN unifies the Koreas, forming the Korean Confederation. It is seen as a landmark moment in global history, similar to man landing on the moon or the fall of the Berlin Wall
* In practice, Korea is a confederation for good reason; the economic and ideological disparity between the Koreas is so immense that simply amalgamating them into one state would be impossible
* In practice, South Korea, with the advice and aid of the United Nations, administers North Korea and encourages its development. North Korea is a totally different polity from South Korea and is governed differently, although being part of the same country the two states follow the same federal laws, have the same foreign policy, etc
* North Korea, of course, is governed by Seoul; South Korea and the UN are totally in charge of its governance. Nearly everyone complicit in the NK regime has been deposed or jailed
* Projections suggest that NK and SK will only be economically and socioculturally similar enough to allow an actual unification sometime in the 23rd century

## South-East Asia

## South Asia

### India

2020S

* Modi continues to be highly popular in India and pursues a course of economic reform, increased industrialisation, and growth. The reforms are partly successful, with infrastructure construction being especially prolific
* But the Indian economy, whilst it and standards of living do improve, does not skyrocket at the rate that Modi declares at will. Inflation and unemployment still rise, and the manufacturing share of GDP is still fairly low, although it does increase by a few points
* Democratic backsliding continues and accelerates under Modi, and the country becomes an electoral autocracy. Modi assumes greater control over the press and concentrates more power
* He is re-elected in both 2024 and 2029, with the BJP breaking the unwritten rule of the age cap on leaders of their party
* The BJP becomes the firm hegemon of Indian politics and back Modi entirely, allowing the erosion of liberal democracy, although elections themselves are still generally free/fair at this time
* These developments are noticed by many corners of the population, but the majority of the population still rallies around Modi and the Hindutva (Hindu nationalism) that his party backs. Much of this is from the fact that Modi has delivered economic progress and prosperity
* India starts to become an explicitly Hindu-nationalist state. Violence, both popular and police, increases against Muslims, which the BJP permits. Ties between the BJP and paramilitary RSS increases, and Modi continues to place RSS loyalists in charge of key institutions like universities
* Immigrating Muslims continue to rounded up and placed into internment camps. The BJP also continues with their ‘D-voter’ plans that allows ‘doubtful citizens’ (politically activist Muslims) to be interned as well
* These schemes start to draw wider condemnations from human rights organisations
* Relations with Pakistan, Nepal, China, and Bangladesh are heavily affected by Indian domestic and foreign policy. India-China enmity increases and by extension enmity increases with Pakistan as well. India notes Nepal’s increasing alignment with China and punishes it by imposing further blockades, drawing more condemnation and drawing Nepal further towards China
* The USA is disturbed by India’s movement away from liberal democracy and secularism, but ultimately relies on India for its position in the Indo-Pacific region
* Military ties between the USA (and some other Gx powers) and India increase, spurred on by India’s strong alignment against China and Pakistan
* Modi does not seek to undermine the Gx, recognising that they form a useful bloc against China, and pays lip service to liberal democracy in official meetings. Of course, everyone recognises that this is lip service, but the Gx needs India to align with its foreign policy goals
* The India does become more pro-Western as a result of the stronger ties, and internationally takes a much stronger pro-Western stance. However, neither the government nor the populace want to become absorbed into a Western power bloc; they desire Indian exceptionalism, with India asserting itself as its own global pole of power
* Border skirmishes with China continue and intensify, although both countries avoid declaring an actual war
* China continues to fund insurgents in northeast India, whilst India in turn accelerates relations with Taiwan and seeks to wean itself off of Chinese trade

2030S

* Modi is eventually replaced as the leader of the BJP due to his growing age and declining health. He is glorified by them as a national hero
* The BJP begins undermining how free and fair elections are and consolidating press control further, although protests against the party do increase
* Without Modi at the helm, the BJP does decline in popularity, especially as the economic gains delivered by the party have faltered since their peak in mid-2020S
* Moreover, the massive problem of water shortages in South Asia causes desperate conditions for many, and the BJP cannot remedy all of these issues
* The dire situation sours public opinion of the BJP and, to a lesser extent, Hindu nationalism in general
* The weakening of the BJP’s hegemony over Indian politics promotes opposition, but the Congress party continues to lack a clear narrative alternative to Hindutva and is still associated with corruption amongst voters
* Regional linguistic parties form the vanguard against the BJP, playing on subnational identities but contrasting themselves to the BJP by promoting pluralism, and these parties unite and reinvigorate themselves
* Although in late 2030S the BJP is removed from power, populism and Hindutva remain prevalent ideologies and the opposition only tries to replace this by promoting linguistic nationalism in place of Hindu nationalism
* The Congress party seeks to reinvent itself, remaining a party of secularism and anti-nationalism, but trying to appeal to a broader base of voters and offer a consistent narrative of liberal democracy
* On the border with China, a serious skirmish leads to a Crisis as both sides threaten war, although it gets de-escalated at the last second. The Crisis raises worldwide fears of a nuclear war and leads to a slight warming of relations between the two powers and greater cooperation on water sharing issues
* Tensions are still fairly high, however, and the border issues are not resolved

2040S

* India starts to re-democratise after BJP rule, but it doesn’t yet reach the levels of the start of the century. Elections are free and fair, however
* India starts to recover economically and becomes wealthier, although it is still riddled with inequality and, in some places, poverty
* Growth rates become higher, mirroring those of China a few decades ago
* It also becomes increasingly assertive internationally, seeking to promote its influence in the Indo-Pacific region. The USA eagerly supports this, seeking an alternate pole of power to China, and military ties between the powers, already growing throughout E21, accelerate
* India begins funding Tibetan separatists

M21

* India starts emerging as a formidable power on the world stage, reaching income Level 3 and becoming more prosperous
* The increased prosperity starts to erode popular support for Hindutva, and the populace’s hostility to its Muslim minority starts to ebb
* Secular democratic parties like the Congress party starts to once again regain power and although Hindutva is still prevalent amongst many, it is kept out of politics and governance
* Automation begins to play a role in the Indian economy, with parties promising large social welfare reforms to deal with rising unrest
* Internationally, India aligns more definitively with the West against China, jointly backing the Tibetan independence movement and seeking to foment a proper Uighur one
* The Gx seek to establish India as a Gx-aligned pole of power in the region that can stand up against China, and the IMF correspondingly abandons neoliberal policies for India and backs protectionism and social democracy to stimulate its economy
* These approaches are successful and considerably contribute to Indian prosperity, although for the time being India is still seen as a developing country

E22

* India becomes a developed country in this period and a full democracy
* Diplomatically, there is a rapprochement with China, although the two countries are still semi-suspicious of each other. The Sino-Indian borders are fixed and the two countries cease much of their intervention with each other’s affairs

F22

* India becomes populous and wealthy enough to assert itself as a new pole of power in the world. Though the world system was formerly bipolar, between China and the USA, it is now multipolar, between China, the USA, and India

### Kashmir

* E21: Indian-administered Kashmir sees increased repression, revoking all its autonomy and brutally suppressing the populace
* This leads to the various insurgencies of the region growing in influence and beginning to coalesce together, funded by Pakistan (with the exception of radical Islamist groups) and now China
* Religious violence between Kashmiri Muslims and Hindus intensifies and leads to another exodus. The BJP ramps up military presence in the area to establish a homeland for Hindus
* Pakistan also slowly erodes the autonomy of Pakistan-administered Kashmir (AJK), but doesn’t go so far as to trigger its own insurgency. Calls and protests for independence do increase, however
* M21: Pakistan-administered Kashmir also becomes a site of unrest due to calls for independence here, although things don’t reach levels of repression in India and Pakistan pursues more of a concession than repression route
* Under significant pressure from the insurgency and international community, India reluctantly grants its Jammu and Kashmir province considerable autonomy in a gradual series of legislative measures and curbing of repression, but rejects any prospect of Kashmiri independence as they claim that it would be a Pakistani/Chinese client state
* Insurgency in Indian Kashmir continues at a lower level, agitating for formal secession
* Chinese-administered Kashmir is largely uninhabited so lacks any large protest movements, but starts moving Han Chinese people into the area
* India protests this, but Pakistan is so tied to China that it can’t really do so, and it relies on China to support insurgencies in India-administered Kashmir and to bring the issue to an international level
* L21: India continues to suppress insurgency in the region, using fairly brutal counter-insurgency methods. The resulting unrest causes India to allow the region to become a self-governing entity within India, similar to Azad Kashmir in Pakistan, in exchange for disbanding all insurgencies and becoming civil movements instead
* Insurgencies still exist afterwards but the larger ones that cannot escape Indian military notice do become civil resistance movements instead, and most people cease to support insurgency as a mechanism for achieving demands
* F22: Civil resistance movements eventually force India to hold a referendum on Kashmiri independence. They overwhelmingly vote for yes. India allows the formation of a Kashmiri state as long as it is secular, neutral, and legally protects Kashmiri Hindus
* The independence of Kashmir causes similar agitation in Azad Kashmir for independence. The internal community and growing unrest forces Pakistan to hold and honour a referendum for independence, and Azad Kashmir unites with Indian-administered Kashmir
* China still refuses to relinquish its administered (in practice annexed) areas of Kashmir to the new state, and because it’s almost entirely inhabited by Han Chinese at this point there’s no internal pressure to do so, only international, and this is fairly low-level
* There is diplomatic pressure on China to relinquish these areas to Kashmir, but so far there’s a stalemate on the issue. Kashmir lacks the power to exert significant pressure, Pakistan is a Chinese ally so won’t antagonise them, and India dislikes Kashmir at least as much as China so doesn’t really support them getting more territory

### Pakistan

2020S

* Pakistan teeters on the brink of collapse. Severe economic and climate distress compounds with power games between the civilian and military elites, neither of whom care about the common people
* There is also a resurgence of extremist groups along the border with Afghanistan, especially the Pakistani Taliban. These are strongly suppressed but still exist
* The military continues to be deeply involved in politics, and conspires to ensure Khan does not get into office, triggering massive civil unrest which is suppressed. Although the military does not launch a coup, there is still a military takeover
* Ex-soldiers hold most government posts, dictate foreign policy, and are loyal to the military. The country essentially becomes a hybrid regime under martial law
* The IMF does not grant Pakistan the aid that it needs, and China fills the vacuum with packages of aid and investment. The military in Pakistan owns a large proportion of its businesses, and China starts to emerge as a competitor to them domestically, wielding significant influence
* Internal chaos causes decentralisation as the army fails to keep a proper grip on peripheral regions

2030S

* China encourages the military-civilian elite, though it is mostly the military in control, to run a governmental model of moderate authoritarianism
* China provides huge assistance to Pakistan to sustain the state and stabilise it, and establishes a military presence in the region
* Climate change related emergencies like massive flooding and water shortages are common. China prevents a UN peacekeeping mission and intervenes unilaterally, narrowly avoiding state collapse
* They help suppress Islamist insurgencies and support Pakistan in pressuring the Afghan Taliban to rein in their Pakistani counterpart
* This brings increased stability and order, which takes the sting out of some protests, but the various ethnolinguistic groups of Pakistan reject attempts at centralisation and violence continues
* There are still significant economic problems and climate change-related incidents, however, and demands for real democratisation are suppressed
* China is increasingly called on to help suppress these insurgencies, putting Pakistan down the track of becoming a Chinese client state as it is dependent on Beijing for maintaining cohesion

M21

* Pakistan becomes a formal Chinese ally and a de facto client state. They slowly push for the balance of power to shift from the military elite to the civilian elite
* The country fails to meaningfully democratise at all. China causes limited development of the country by centralising it and bringing stability, but its neocolonialist policies stymie any real development
* The population begins to perceive this, and the Baloch and Sindhi minorities start to favour total secession from Pakistan, starting to believe that real change cannot be constitutionally mediated
* The people start to believe this as well, and violent protests and riots become more common. China helps suppress this
* The government continues to harshly suppress the insurgencies here, which India funds and supports diplomatically. Violence and repression become high, leading to more instability
* Eventually, the Pakistani government allows the Baloch and Sindhi minorities autonomy as a compromise with the insurgencies in exchange for them becoming civil movements
* The Pakistani government isn’t really strong enough to continue suppressing the Baloch insurgency, but China uses their military presence to prevent Balochistan becoming independent
* They do so, but continue to campaign vigorously for independence and many wings of the movements are violent
* In this period there are a few popular revolutions against the ruling elite- these succeed, but replace one elite with another
* Although people formally leave the SCO and annul treaties with China, they continue to be highly influential due to their economic control over the country

S21

* Agitation for democratisation becomes extremely high, forcing the government to enact certain reforms for greater transparency and less corruption, but people still aren’t satisfied
* Some anti-Chinese legislation is enforced e.g. leaving the SCO and some free trade agreements, but it doesn’t have much of an effect on their economic influence as they own many Pakistani businesses
* The military loses much of its influence in the country, partly due to Chinese influence, partly due to mass-protests, although the country is still ruled by a civilian elite
* Balochistan becomes its own country; hydrocarbons are no longer a potential source of wealth for countries so Pakistan doesn’t need them as much anymore, and besides lack the strength to suppress the considerable insurgency
* China does not intervene as they recognise the situation as unsustainable; they need a stable client state on their border and repeatedly using tanks to suppress an insuppressible movement just wouldn’t work

T22

* The independence of Balochistan provides a major impetus for Sindhi nationalists and Sindhuhesh becomes independent as well
* India has supported the Baloch and Sindhi insurgencies for decades now and these new countries are closely aligned with India

E22

* Pakistan has another revolution against the elite, which is more successful this time as the country is wealthier and has a greater middle class
* The civilian elite is largely displaced from political power. The country still isn’t very democratic or wealthy, but there is undeniably an improvement
* Chinese assets are confiscated, nationalised, and re-distributed. China protests, but ultimately doesn’t really need influence in Pakistan anymore so doesn’t really do anything beyond sanctions
* There is some tension between Pashtuns and Punjabs in the country, but nothing threatening state collapse as of yet
* Relations with India greatly improve after democratisation

M22

* India and Pakistan have good relations
* Pashtuns and Punjabs gain considerable autonomy over their own affairs. Independence movements exist for each, but as of yet no secession occurs

### Bangladesh

### Sri Lanka

### Nepal and Bhutan

E21

* Nepal and Bhutan become more strongly tied to China and India respectively

## Russia

2020S

* The war in Ukraine fails to make headway and galvanises much of the world against Russia and Putin; China, Turkey, and Iran are notable exceptions, and Russia becomes increasingly close to them, especially China. China begins investing more into Russia
* The war in Ukraine eventually peters out but although Russia ceases any offensive operations and leaves Ukrainian territory, Putin refuses to formally establish peace in order to save face. Economic sanctions from the West increase and Russia’s continued aggression spurs centralisation of the EU and various states seeking to join NATO
* Protests mount and Russian stability falls. Putin faces growing pressure from below- an angry population seeking reform and some (albeit still minor) separatist stirrings across the Federation- and an increasingly discontented oligarchy
* Putin is pressured by the elite to step down when his term ends in 2026, replaced by another hardline security services ruler with increased dependence on the oligarchy. The Russian leadership will continue to pursue the line that it is a bastion of tradition against the decadent West. Meanwhile, economic stagnation and repression increase
* Russia’s influence in Central Asia- and indeed worldwide- starts to decline, and it begins to become a junior partner of China. In this partnership, Russia contributes in technology and military aid, whilst China provides loans and provides a market for Russians hydrocarbons and agriculture
* Various ethnic groups in the Russian Federation seek greater autonomy within the Federation. Most of these applications are suppressed. Grassroots secessionism in Chechnya is unsupported by local elites and suppressed

2030S

* Discontent increases and economic stagnation continues. The elite introduces economic reforms to try and reduce the pressure on them from an angry population, and- too late- attempt to diversify the Russian economy and become less dependent on hydrocarbon production- but the demand for political reform grows and requires increasing brutality to suppress
* This sparks further condemnation and isolation from the world, pushing Russia towards China, Turkey, Iran, and other authoritarian regimes
* Russia eventually is pressured to formally conclude the war in Ukraine, and many demoralised, discontented, demobilised soldiers return home. A proportion of these troops contributes to the growing political agitation
* Separatist sentiment also increases, and some regions of Russia gain increased autonomy, although secession is explicitly forbidden
* No single Russian leader retains power for much of the decade; various figureheads are placed into power by the oligarchy, and none of them manage to consolidate enough political power to stay in charge
* The Arab Autumn and Occupy movements across the world encourage Russian protesters further, and the European Union vocally supports protesters and separatists, though refrains from direct action

2040S

Domestic Issues

* Protesters become more united and organised, with various political parties gaining huge following despite government repression
* After a rigged election once again returns the United Russia party to power, riots occur and through the machinations of the nation’s political parties and parliaments, the Russian legislature votes to overthrow the current President and call another election, which returns a reformist party to power
* A vast number of new reforms are passed, with the Constitution changing rapidly
* Russia remains unstable and many fear that history will repeat itself and Russia will once again become a dictatorship. People are unsure of whether Russia should adopt a pro-Western approach or try to be an independent power. People unanimously believe that Russia should distance itself from China and stop being its junior partner
* Eventually, an authoritarian President comes into power; Russians have no real experience of democracy and no frame of reference for what it should be like, and the democratic institutions erected are therefore not sufficient for preventing authoritarian relapse, similarly to post-1991. The Russian middle class is also still fairly small
* An authoritarian strongman is voted into power amidst the chaos and insecurity, who promises to bring stability. He begins halting democratisation and skirmishes with the seceded republics, though he decides to consolidate more power before accelerating military operations

Separatism

* Although the magnitude isn’t as severe, many compare the Russian Federation’s ‘collapse’ to that of the USSR, and various ethnic groups in Russia who had previously been agitating for independence decide to secede
* Chechnya and Ingushetia in the North Caucasus secede, allying with each other. Many within the countries want to make a confederation, but they don’t do so yet
* South Ossetia declares independence, and Georgia declares war on them. North Ossetia also declares independence from Russia in solidarity and the two nations establish a united Ossetia, at war with Georgia
* Crimea revolts and seeks to be annexed by Ukraine; in a landmark example of intervention, the EU supports the Crimean rebels and facilitates their joining of Ukraine
* Tatarstan and Bashkortostan declare independence and militarily ally with each other
* Karelia declares independence as well
* Russia is divided on how to respond to these republics; different factions support either re-annexing them by warfare, sanctioning them, or leaving them alone
* Other groups also declare independence and form their own republics, but these are very short-lived due to instability and are re-annexed by Russia as they can’t organise a military response

2050S

* The new authoritarian Russian government imposes sanctions on the seceded states and violates their borders with low-level skirmishing. Dagestan in the North Caucasus declares independence
* The Russian government moves to crush the rebellion, leading to Chechnya, Ossetia, and Ingushetia forming a confederation with the Dagestani rebels, seeking to establish a new state in the Caucasus
* Ethnic violence and war crimes occur in the fighting, and the UN launches a peacekeeping mission. The EU officially condemns the fighting and supports the new Caucasian Confederation, imposing sanctions on Russia- but doesn’t militarily intervene
* Eventually, the poor conditions lead to Russians overthrowing the new authoritarian leader and reforming the Constitution further to become a parliamentary republic, modelling Russian institutions on the West
* Despite ambivalence to the West in recent decades, the continual trend of authoritarianism angers Russians to the point where, although they still see themselves as culturally distinct from the West, resistance to adopting a Western-style constitution collapses
* Domestically, Russians are tired of crushing insurrections and incessant warfare
* Forces are withdrawn from the Caucasus and from breakaway states in the west
* The EU cessates sanctions on Russia and normalises relations

M21

* Russia is closer to the West than to the SCO, but it remains in the latter and does not seek to join the EU or NATO; not that these institutions would allow Russia in, although Russia and the West undergo a political rapprochement in this period
* There is a feeling that Russia show pursue its own course independent of the West and, most importantly, Chinese loans and influence, a topic of great contention amongst the people in E21
* Russia uses the Eurasian Economic Union as a tool for expanding influence, focussing on the Caucasus, improving ties with the region and encouraging free trade, and seeking to recapture Central Asia from Turkish and Chinese influence
* There is also a large investment in science and technology, particularly the space agency, which is given funding and prestige as a symbol of Russian power
* However, Russian policy doesn’t seek to expand control militarily, as now the country is more democratic and the people overwhelmingly reject this; indeed, Russia pursues few military alliances and especially seeks to avoid alignment with the West or the SCO
* Separatism does continue in Russia, with different republics seeking more autonomy or, in some cases, secession. Though Russia allows increased autonomy of certain groups, secessionist sentiment is still hostilely suppressed, similar to Spanish suppression of Catalan secession in E21
* Domestically, the oligarchy still maintains influence and prevents Russia from being a full democracy, although they lose some power in the country due to increased prosperity for the masses, democratic institutions, and reduced inequality

L21

* The Russian oligarchy loses power in this period and Russia becomes a full democracy
* Internationally, violent suppression of secessionists is far less tolerated in this period than in E21, and Russia eventually bows to domestic and international pressure and allows secession of different groups
* The Caucasian Confederation expands, absorbing other breakaway states in the Caucasus
* Udmurtia becomes an independent republic, as do Buryatia, the Komi Republic, and Kalmykia, with Astrakhan joining it
* The breakaway republics of Russia quickly develop economic ties and align with each other. Russia attempts to maintain some control via supranationalism, with intergovernmental organisations like the Eurasian Economic Union being expanded to tie the breakaway states to Russia

F22

* More states secede from Russia, including the Baltic Republic (Kaliningrad), Kuban Republic, Ural Republic, Mari Republic, Chuvash Republic, Tuvan Republic, and Yakut Republic

## Central Asia

E21

* Central Asian regimes continue to be entrenched kleptocracies, ruled by elites who neglect the population’s needs and the countries’ development
* Corruption, poverty, government opacity, and ethnic issues go unaddressed, leading to a rise in grassroots activism and social movements, as well as general discontent
* Politicians meet this with a mixture of repression and concession, with the proportion varying based on the country
* In even the most concessionary country however (the regime in Kazakhstan), the reforms are mainly populist (e.g. food subsidies, debt write-offs for the poorest citizens, etc) and not actual, systemic political changes
* Economic liberalisation does occur throughout the region, with the state’s grip over the economy loosening, but at a dissatisfying slow pace. In many cases Chinese companies fill the vacuum and become dominant
* Tajikistan is the most repressive, galvanising sentiment against the regime there and driving many to radical Islamism there and destabilising it further
* In Turkmenistan, the president-for-life’s heir, Serdar Berdymukhammedov, assumes power. This triggers a wave of protests which is generally suppressed, although some economic reforms are passed to offset popular anger
* The stagnation of these nations continues their reliance on foreign powers, who increase their influence- especially China
* As Russia’s general power declines and it increasingly becomes a junior ally to China, the latter starts to assume hegemony in the region. Russia is still influential at this stage, and in particular various regimes invoke the CSTO to get Russian forces to crush protesters
* However, China also starts strengthening security ties with the region as well as economic, and in direct clashes of interest Russia usually yields to China anyway
* The USA in response increases ties to the region as well but is outcompeted by China, who already has stronger influence there and who is considerably more motivated due to Central Asia’s proximity to it. The Central Asian regimes become increasingly hostile to the USA and reject military base expansions in the region
* Turkey and Iran also vie for influence in the region but, like Russia, these countries increasingly become aligned with China and cannot realistically match her power projection
* Turkey is more influential than Iran as the latter is initially Shia and after the Arab Autumn becomes secular
* India also seeks to consolidate influence here and is heavily antagonistic to Chinese power in the region, but cannot match it for the moment
* Ethnic clashes between Uzbeks and Karakalpaks increase, and the Uzbek government slowly seeks to erode Karakalpak autonomy, though not with any obvious constitutional measures as of yet
* Islamist agitation also greatly increases. Although none of the Central Asian countries stop being secular, their identities become a little more explicitly Islamic. The regimes in the region crush radical Islamist insurgency groups which are based in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan
* In Kyrgyzstan, suppression of the Uzbek ethnicity also leads to unrest and a worsening of relations between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan
* Clashes in the Gorno-Badakhstan region of Tajikistan accelerate, as does ethnic violence. Insurgency in the region eventually leads to changes like reduced military presence, police corruption, etc. The demands of protesters are mostly social ones like these rather than political ones
* Border conflicts between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, already fairly intense, intensify into a full war due to water scarcity, with each seeking control over water-rich regions
* Tajikistan is generally regarded as the aggressor, as it has been in previous clashes, although Uzbekistan aligns with it as a means of antagonising Kyrgyzstan. Most Central Asian countries remain neutral
* Foreign powers use the conflict as a mechanism to involve themselves further in the region. Russia does so by brokering peace, using the CSTO as legitimacy, the USA by providing aid, and China by doing the same, whilst also increasing ‘security’ forces in the region to protect Chinese businessmen and infrastructure
* Border adjustments made are minor

M21

* The prodigious unrest finally gives way to social, political, and economic reforms, starting with Kazakhstan
* Kazakhstan reforms the most, as do the other two water-poor countries in the region, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan become the wealthiest and most developed countries in the region
* The scarcity of water leads to heightened unrest which forces more reforms, although due to Turkmenistan’s massive authoritarianism its reforms must necessarily be more extensive to establish democracy
* These do *not* establish Western-style democracies or manage to shake free foreign influence; the former situation isn’t the aim of many protesters, anyway
* However, there is more accountability and transparency of government, along crackdowns on inequality/censorship. Economically, social welfare increases
* The reforms don’t lead to a transition from authoritarianism to democracy, but rather from poor governance to better governance- a main improvement being in corruption
* There is also increased integration between the Central Asian states, with the Central Asian Union (CAU), re-established in E21, increasing economic ties between the states
* India and China become the main competitors for influence in the region. China continues to back the existing regimes and the status quo, whilst India encourages subversion and disruption
* The regimes unilaterally back China, but most of the populaces of these countries by now resent Chinese control and favour India instead
* Kazakhstan also starts to secularise and modernise more, becoming the most powerful country in the region. It is still, however, subordinate to foreign actors at the moment
* Ethnic unrest remains prevalent in the region, with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan’s relations in particular worsening. Uzbekistan backs the Uzbek minority of Kyrgyzstan and Kyrgyzstan backs the Karakalpaks of Uzbekistan. Water scarcity sharpens these disputes and heightens tensions. This leads to clashes in the countries but no full-on wars or secessions
* India exacerbates unrest by backing secessionist and pro-democratic protester groups in the region
* Although people badly want freedom from foreign influence, the countries are highly dependent on it as they can no longer sell hydrocarbons to float their economy. They begin work on diversification, but remain generally poor

L21

* Unrest increases in Central Asian countries again, as protesters seek liberal democracy, Central Asian integration (some support the idea of Kazakhstan taking a dominant role), and an end to foreign influence
* This leads to various revolutions in T22 which overthrows regimes in the area, although the resulting countries are still relatively undemocratic and corrupt hybrid regimes with the exception of Kazakhstan, which establishes a flawed but real democracy
* The instability is also exacerbated by ethnic issues coming to a head, with various conflicts occurring in different regions, concentrated in south-west Kyrgyzstan and Gorno-Badakhstan
* These lead to increased autonomy for ethnic groups, a change in Central Asian borders to remove enclaves/exclaves in the region, and formal governmental protection for ethnic minorities in their countries
* Central Asian countries are still reliant on foreign actors economically, but are more resentful of this. Integration increases, especially with the resolution of certain ethnic issues softening diplomatic enmity
* People are particularly becoming intolerant of China’s treatment of Uighurs and many become sympathetic to the growing idea of an independent Uighur state
* These countries aim to economically diversify and broaden international relations. India takes great advantage of this by strongly improving ties to the region, and the USA bolsters its trade and aid as well
* Uzbekistan emerges as the economic powerhouse of the region, surpassing Kazakhstan

E22

* The Central Asian countries gradually develop and reduce economic dependence on China. Relations between Central Asia and China worsen, with the greatest threat to relations being the Uighur issue
* Ethnic issues finally start to lose intensity as the multi-ethnic Central Asian states devolve autonomy to ethnic minorities in their borders, and with this comes a large rapprochement of Central Asian states and strong military and economic collaboration

M22

* The Central Asian countries become flawed democracies due to gradual erosion of authoritarian government power

### Afghanistan

E21

* The Taliban consolidate their rule over Afghanistan and impose Sharia law. It is more moderate than in 2001 when they were last in power, but the country is still in repressive poverty. Hazaras are treated particularly badly
* Pakistan continues to back them, ensuring that a friendly government is on its northern border
* Afghanistan becomes a safe haven and staging base for Al Quaeda, but the Taliban relentlessly clamps down on Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) as Beijing and Islamabad are reluctant to invest in the country whilst the terrorist threat remains active
* They also clamp down on the National Resistance Front and other anti-Taliban groups, which isn’t entirely suppressed but poses no threat to Taliban control
* The main threat to Taliban rule is its own internal divisions at this stage, but these also do not lead to the breakup of the regime
* The Gx continues to withhold aid and the international community prevents Afghan assets reaching the Taliban
* However, the UN slowly starts engaging with the Taliban in baby steps so as to exert some leverage over the regime. Recognition doesn’t occur yet, however
* Although China and Pakistan do not officially recognise the Islamic Emirate, they continue giving aid and trade to establish informal control over the country and stabilise it. The Afghan economy is greatly dependent on this aid
* They leverage this to force the Afghan Taliban to rein in the Pakistani Taliban and prevent attacks on their own country
* US-Pakistan relations sour over the latter’s support for the Taliban and strong connection to China. Pakistan still provides air lines of communication and ground lines of connection, but ties between the two countries erode, replaced by enmity
* The consolidation of Taliban rule also has considerable implications for Central Asia, particularly the countries that border Afghanistan: Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan
* All of these countries greatly increase troop presence on the borders and military spending in general. Russia increases military cooperation with the countries here and establishes new bases
* It’s less that the Central Asian regimes fear an attack from the Taliban and more that they fear regional terrorism and radical Islamist groups, which the Taliban may support
* The Taliban generally refrain from doing so but do nothing to restrain their activities and turn a blind eye to Islamist activities in the region, even offering them a staging base
* Central Asian countries are wary of the Taliban, with Tajikistan in particular being hostile. Uzbekistan at the other end of the spectrum continues investment and engagement

M21

* Under pressure from foreign countries like China and Pakistan which it depends on for aid, the Taliban begin to seriously reject international terrorism and clamp down on internal Islamist groups like Al Quaeda
* Central Asian countries welcome these changes and strengthen both economic and diplomatic ties with the Emirate
* China, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, and the UAE recognise the Taliban’s regime, though the majority of the world does not. Afghanistan joins the SCO
* The Gx are galvanised by this recognition and refuse to do the same, although in practice overtures to the Taliban have increased over the past few decades
* The Gx starts to get involved in Afghanistan once again, financing the weak and suppressed National Resistance Front, which has absorbed Hazara nationalists in the region who seek greater autonomy
* This does not lead to any real threats to the Taliban, however. The Emirate remains in power, propped up by Pakistani and Chinese aid

L21

* Several more countries recognise the Taliban, with only the Gx, the West, and many East Asian countries refraining to do so
* International pressure for major changes in Afghanistan begins to mount. The international community has become far less tolerant of state repression and in particular radical Islamism, which declined in F21 anyway
* The Taliban represent the last bastion of radical Islamist power by this stage, and by this stage even its allies, China and Pakistan, urge major secularisation
* The Taliban refuses to relinquish power and establish any measure of democracy, but it does eventually give into international pressure and partially secularises, though it remains an officially self-described Islamic Emirate
* The Gx and India increase funding to the National Resistance Front, which by now has absorbed other pro-democratic movements and have promised to give autonomy to Hazaras and freedom from persecution

## The Caucasus

## Middle East & North Africa

2020S

* Syria’s Assad’s regime remains highly unstable, propped up by Iran amidst rebellions and protests. The AANES, colloquially known as, Rojava continues to pursue autonomy rather than secession. Fighting against Syria and Turkey stops save for some border skirmishes, but both these regimes are antagonistic
* Erdogan aligns more closely with China, although is still a NATO member. His strategy is to establish Turkey as a middle power in the region gaining as much benefit from the USA and China as possible
* The Kurdish insurgency in Turkey, PKK, continues, with little progress. Turkey’s occupation zones in Northern Syria see continued unrest, and Turkey launches military operations to expand these, eroding AANES territory
* Ayatollahs repress Iranian people, leading to mounting dissent that is brutally suppressed
* Iraq enters a period of political crisis, with ruling elites stifling the country and governments shifting rapidly in and out of power. Protests mount, but are violently repressed. ISIS loses power and influence
* Lebanon has a civil war caused by self-partition between Hezbollah and a secular state
* Yemen becomes informally partitioned, with opposing forces self-governing their own regions in a stalemate
* Libya remains undemocratic. Some rapprochement occurs between Dbeibah and Haftar and despite skirmishes and sporadic outbreaks of violence, but there is no real solution struck. Political elites in the region have no interest in democratising and therefore stall establishing real stability
* Sudan’s commitment to democratisation stalls as the military simply doesn’t act to establish democratic institutions or civilian government

2030S

* Water shortages trigger a new Arab Spring, some commentators call it the ‘Arab Autumn’ at the same time as the oil starts to run out. Caused by economic decline, continuation of authoritarianism.

Arab Autumn:

* Turkey, Iran and Egypt make strong steps towards secularisation and democratisation, In Turkey, Erdogan is overthrown and in Iran the Ayatollahs are as well. In both countries, secular democracies are established, although Iran is unstable
* Iran’s Kurdish minority declares independence and allies with Rojava. Iran doesn’t recognise this and a brief civil war ensues wherein Iran crushes the movement. Balochi independence movements are crushed with particular brutality, and counter-insurgency operations commence there
* Turkey erupts into a wave of Kurdish protests which advocate for their own state, North Kurdistan. They are harshly suppressed
* Iraqi protests are extremely widespread, but widely suppressed by Iranian-backed elites, who block all reform. Iran increases its control over the country. Iraqi unrest reaches colossal levels, but there is no organised resistance
* An Assyrian state is declared, but does not last, and Assyrian nationalism continues to fester
* Assad’s regime in Syria collapses and the AANES seeks to expand its reach to the whole region. It engages in fighting with various radical Islamist groups, but makes gradual progress
* Jordan becomes an Islamic republic, though it is unstable and not very democratic
* Lebanon formally partitions between a Hezbollah-controlled southern state and a secular democratic pluralist Lebanon
* Morocco and Algeria become constitutional monarchies, and come to an arrangement regarding the Western Sahara. Morocco annexes most of the region, but the Sahrawi republic becomes independent
* Yemen partitions between Houthis and majority, both are unstable republics. Saudi Arabia illegally occupies and annexes some Houthi land to get coastline access
* The Gulf monarchies keep protesters under control by repression and economic concessions; they use Chinese loans to do this, having run out of much of their oil wealth, and become aligned with China
* Oman and Yemen fail to enforce meaningful change, stagflation and unrest continues
* Libya faces huge protests for unification and democratisation, seeking a democratic government that is neither a Dabaiba or Bashagha government. The current elite, split between the GNA and LNA both prioritise crushing protesters over fighting each other, but do not unite
* Palestine achieves minor concessions but is generally repressed
* Sudan faces mass-protests and falls into a civil war between the military government and rebel groups. Ethnic violence in Darfur reignites, as the non-Arab Africans rebel and are attacked by the Arab military government. The non-Arab tribes join the rebel groups against the military government

The United Nations’ Response: Increasing Interventionism

* The UN launches a large number of peacekeeping missions in response to the massive ethnic and political violence, often in cooperation with other IGOs e.g. the African Union
* Due to the wide scale of violence, the UN lifts some of its restrictions on intervening in civil wars, and more militarily intervenes in human rights abuses like genocide
* The UN also becomes a political actor in some of these conflicts, similarly to how it has deployed troops in the DRC to counter rebels. Most notably, it intervenes in Sudan and Libya on behalf of rebel groups attacking governments there, whilst providing humanitarian aid and advice on establishing democratic institutions
* Many nations intervene in the Arab Autumn unilaterally to further their own interest in the area; Turkey is one of the key actors here, as well as Egypt
* Turkey and Egypt generally compete to wield the most influence in the region, with Iran and China also playing roles in backing certain regimes
* The USA and Russia back opposing sides in various civil wars, with Russia, Iran, China, and Turkey tending to back more authoritarian regimes

2040S

* Arab Autumn discontent continues as the core issues haven’t been solved and the region is still economically falling behind. Divergence in the MENA regions continue; the stabler countries become more stable whilst the less stable ones continue to be mired in civil war and domestic instability
* The UN intervenes heavily in many of these regions. The interventions are mostly of a humanitarian role but in cases where a clearly legitimate entity is opposed by a clearly illegitimate entity, the UN intervenes militarily and many commentators note that the UN is now waging wars
* The AANES consolidates its control over Syria, although there are a few rebellious holdouts. It redesignates itself the Syrian Federation and is widely recognised internationally, although Russia and other similar aligned countries refuse to do so
* Further democratisation occurs in Morocco and Algeria, although the nations are still constitutional monarchies where the monarchy is still powerful
* Yemen formally splits into two countries, with the Houthis breaking way to form their own state. Amidst strong international condemnation, the Saudis establish a deal with Yemen to keep a sliver of land that gives them ocean access in exchange for staying out of Yemeni affairs. The UN is dispatched to Yemen to keep the peace
* Iraq collapses into a civil war between rebel groups and the ruling elites. Iran backs the current government, whilst Israel and Saudi Arabia back the rebel group coalition.
* In Libya, the GNA and LNA, faced by insurmountable pressure from the population and the UN, agree to a unitary government and fair, internationally-supervised elections. The country begins to democratise and develop slowly
* The Sudanese civil war continues, with the UN taking an increasingly active role in supporting rebels
* Iran begins to align itself away from China, Russia, and Turkey, and tries to normalise relations with the West and the UN. It aims to become a middle power in the MENA region, wielding influence with UN support
* The Gulf monarchies become more and more dependent on Chinese loans and security technology to secure their regime against protesters, who by now are also protesting Chinese neocolonialism
* The Chinese regime loses interest in Oman and ceases investment there. The regime is overthrown, though the country remains chaotic and undemocratic
* The Kurd minority in Turkey has been exerting large amounts of pressure on the Turkish government, especially in 2030S

M21

* The Gulf monarchies are forced to democratise a little due to mounting protests being no longer irrepressible, though they still remain constitutional monarchies
* Morocco and Algeria slowly democratise and develop. Oman does too, but at a considerably slower pace
* UN intervention in Sudan accelerates until finally they play a decisive role, working with the rebels to wholly overthrow the government. UN forces occupy the country and force the various rebel groups to form civilian governments and prevent military coups. They do so
* The UN also intervenes more and more in Iraq, carrying out the same process as in Sudan where they work with rebel groups to establish secular democracies
* Sudan and Iraq aren’t exactly stable regimes, but the UN presence prevents any active conflicts from reigniting and any political actors from seizing power. In this unstable transitional period, democratic institutions are formed
* In South Lebanon, Hezbollah is overthrown and an Islamic democracy is established
* The USA loses interest in the Middle East geopolitically due to the lack of oil and the restoration of Iran to Western alignment. China largely takes the dominant role in asserting influence here
* Turkey is suspicious of Chinese influence, not least because Erdogan became very close to China in 2020S and 2030S and encouraged neocolonialism. Generally, Turkey moves towards the West in this period, but- like Iran- doesn’t do so wholly, and continues to act as a middle power in the region
* Egypt is more aligned with China than the West, although it is still a democracy. They pursue similar foreign policy goals in the Middle East and seek to consolidate influence, although Egypt is still a democracy and eventually stops taking Chinese loans due to neocolonialism

L21

* This period sees the stabilisation and secularisation of the entire Middle East
* The Gulf monarchies become republics, and republican pan-Arabism surges. Arabia, the breakaway state of Saudi Arabia, remains a sovereign state, but the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain unite to form the United Arab Republics
* Countries in the Middle East democratise and develop at different rates. The most democratic and developed countries are Egypt and the wealthy former-monarchical Gulf states. South Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, and Sunni Iraq are the least

T22

* Kuwait joins the United Arab Republics
* South Azerbaijan becomes independent from Iran. Due to the large economic and sociocultural differences between South Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan, the states do not unite yet, but are closely allied and aligned

F22

* South Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan unite into a single country
* Iran’s Baloch minority joins the state of Balochistan

### Kurdistan

E21

* Kurdish nationalism remains violently suppressed in Turkey and Iran, although the suppression attracts mounting international condemnation and attention. The Kurdish will for Turkish independence, rather than merely increased autonomy, grows
* Turkey orchestrates a massive counter-insurgency campaign against the PKK. Human rights abuses rack up on both sides and more and more Kurds join the insurgency
* Democratic Kurdish institutions start to be increasingly harassed, pushing more Kurds towards violent rebellion. However, many Kurds- especially the younger generation- turn towards mass-protests instead of organised insurrection
* Most Kurds rally behind political parties rather than insurgencies, with the People’s Democratic Party (HDP) in Turkey being the main organ of non-PKK dissent
* A growing proportion of younger Kurds actually denounce the PKK for its human rights violations
* In any case, the vast reallocation of resources to counter-insurgency operations stifles out PKK movements, although foreign Kurdish organisations based in Iraq, Syria, and Iran back the insurgencies
* Turkey attempts to stamp these out by flagrantly violating the sovereignty of neighbouring Kurdish polities, launching airstrikes, assassinations, etc
* In the AANES, also known as Rojava, Kurds control self-governing regions and do not seek a state change from secular pluralism to creating Kurdistan. Turkey occupies its northern area in a large ‘buffer zone’, garnering more international condemnation
* The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Iraq declares independence during the Iraqi civil war occurring there. The independent Kurdistan is recognised by few countries, and Turkey occupies the north of the country to establish a ‘buffer zone’ and regularly attacks the country as a whole
* The independence movement nonetheless provides a massive impetus to Kurd nationalism in other countries, including in Turkey

M21

* The Turkish occupation of northern Syria and Iraq draws international sanctions from the Gx, although the SCO are unconcerned with it. Turkey aligns more with China than the Gx
* Domestically, however, the pressure exerted by the Kurds is vast. Although the insurgency continues, the main Kurdish challenge to Turkish rule is from civil disobedience campaigns and mass-protests in the south-east
* In an attempt to regain control, Turkey outlaws several Kurdish parties, but these are merely forced underground

S21

* The UN brokers a peace between Turkey and the PKK, which are formally disbanded. An independent Kurd state is established in south-east Turkey
* Many people in the new state, dubbed ‘North Kurdistan’, wish to absorb the

## East Africa

W21

* The massive reserves of important minerals- most importantly in the public eye, cobalt, but other minerals like tantalum as well- make East Africa a new arena of geopolitics, assuming the role that the Middle East had before
* The necessity of these minerals in batteries and electronics, coupled with the global replacement of fossil fuels with electricity, makes them extremely important
* The two poles of the world system, the USA and China, increasingly involve themselves and exert influence, leading to East Africa becoming divided between poles
* The borders of Africa change greatly in this time as separatist conflicts rage. The humanitarian catastrophes engendered spur the UN to become exponentially more interventionist
* In 2020, the UN landed 3,000 troops in the DRC to stop violent rebel groups. Militray actions by the UN continue and increase in scope. By the end of W21, the UN becomes a political actor in the region
* China and Russia exercise their veto power to prevent the UN directly attacking regimes that they back, but the UN’s peacekeeping missions expand in military interventionism and militarily aid actors which respect international law (which tend to be more democratic) whilst also helping to settle ethnic conflicts, redraw African borders, and establish democracies
* Often, China and Russia’s vetoes prevent the UN from directly involving themselves in wars to overthrow autocratic regimes. Just as in Yugoslavia, NATO involves themselves without UN approval
* This leads to various proxy wars occurring between NATO and China/their allies

F21

* There is a general Scramble for Africa, focussing on East Africa due to its cobalt and tantalum reserves
* The region does develop under this overall, especially the least developed countries in the region, who badly need investment for infrastructure, justice, and policing
* But this comes at the cost of decreased autonomy and, eventually in the most extreme cases, the establishment of satellite states. Even in the least extreme cases, countries are still somewhat beholden to their benefactor state
* Generally, the West opts for a Marshall Plan development of Africa, with the SCA opting for a neocolonialist approach, propping up autocratic regimes
* However, the SCA does still cause regional development by centralising countries and by influxes of money, and the West still supports unethical insurgencies, often of a terroristic character, against these regimes

2020s

* Chinese neocolonialism in the region accelerates, especially in the DRC. Various countries’ debt-to-GDP ratio rises, and the poorest nations can’t pay it off
* China offers debt-to-equity swaps in the most extreme cases, essentially seizing control of bases in exchange for writing off debt
* Ethiopia, although invested in by China, starts to see considerable violence as a result of ethnic federalism as well as discontent. Attempts to promote unity are not successful
* South Sudan collapses into a multifaceted civil war between ethnic groups. Ethnic cleansing and other war crimes makes it a humanitarian emergency, and UN peacekeeping forces get involved
* No embargoes or sanctions are introduced as the Security Council is divided; this is because IGAD are divided as all the local African nations have ties to different ethnic groups in the region and wish to support them
* A new civil war breaks out in Chad as a result of the de facto coup there, with China selling arms to the regime there. The regime faces several dozen rebel groups, many of whom form coalitions but many also fight each other

2030s

* China expands economic and military ties in the region, establishing new military and naval bases in the region both diplomatically and de facto by debt-to-equity swaps
* Several East African nations are invited into the SCO, and China accelerates its political involvement in the region by selling arms to various autocratic regimes there
* It also sends its own ‘security’ forces to protect its businessmen and companies in these unstable countries. Though this is far from an occupation, it pressures the regimes to continue giving lucrative deals to China
* Countries in East Africa become increasingly wary of Chinese neocoloanialism here, and this causes a divergence between states. The more autocratic states are run by elites which prioritise the Chinese allowing them to stay in power through arms sales and trade above actual development of their country
* The more democratic and pluralistic states manage to pressure the elites to be a little more wary. Chinese investments still continue and trade still continues, but it is stopped from going too far
* The Gx becomes aware of the Chinese consolidation of power in the region, and many countries begin their own investments in the region and ramping up their own trade
* The USA joins Rwanda in supporting insurgents in the Kivu region of the DRC, seeking to establish control over the resource-rich area. This draws international condemnation
* Ethiopia erupts into a multifaceted and brutal ethnic war, mirroring the fall of Yugoslavia. The UN attempts to broker peace and militarily intervenes to stop genocides occurring and after the wars subside establishes peacekeeping occupying forces
* The civil war in the Central African Republic completely ends, with all rebellions being put down. The country is devastated

2040s

* Chinese neocolonialism reaches a point where certain countries become definitely aligned with China, being part of the SCO and essentially Chinese client states
* The countries most aligned with China are autocracies who rely on Chinese arms sales, aid, and trade to maintain control of their own regimes, e.g. Chad
* There are also more democratic countries who are sympathetic to China due to trade and investments. Although by this time Kenya rejects Chinese investments due to neocolonialism, many countries like Tanzania still accept them
* The USA acts more aggressively here, supporting rebel groups that act against Chinese-aligned regimes even if they commit large human rights violations
* These are the same kinds of actions taken in the Cold War, but things have changed. The USA cannot dominate other countries in the way that it used to due to a relative decline in hegemony, and in general aggressive acts attract more scrutiny and condemnation in M21 than M20
* The EU, typically a staunch US ally, criticises their actions, emboldened by increased integration making them into a stronger force
* The USA, partly spurred by domestic changes which allow the populace to have a much greater influence on foreign policy, reluctantly changes tack
* The US utilises a Marshall Plan strategy, using massive grants of aid to East African countries to genuinely spur development there. The USA drives the IMF and World Bank to encourage Keynesian and protectionist policies in East Africa rather than neoliberal austerity
* The aim is to establish strong, stable, loyal US allies in the region. Aid is conditional on allowing US multinationals and companies to operate more freely in the region and suppressing domestic pro-Chinese sentiment
* Indeed, the CIA intervenes in many countries’ political systems to prevent authoritarian, Maoist, communist, or any other pro-China countries coming to power
* Much like the original Marshall Plan, the reason for the massive aid packages is expediency, not altruism, although state propaganda eagerly markets it as such. The fact that it occurs around the 100 year anniversary of the original Marshall Plan is capitalised on
* Just like in the 1940s, the regional anti-democratic power- this time China instead of Russia- prevents the countries that it has definitive control over from taking power. It develops these countries by centralising them and using their own forces to establish law and order, building infrastructure and (extractive) institutions
* The majority of East African countries accept the US aid and consequently become closer to the USA
* In response, China increases investments and interventions in the area, starting to militarily back the regimes that it supports and stabilises
* Although the UN is also involved in South Sudan and Ethiopia, China starts selling arms to forces that it supports, thus prolonging the conflicts and causing proxy wars between the UN and China/Russia there. South Sudan is generally stable by this point due to the heavy UN intervention beforehand, there’s just a Chinese-backed holdout, but Ethiopia remains unstable

M21

* East Africa definitively becomes the world’s new geopolitical arena as the world’s two poles get involved in conflicts here, seeking to consolidate influence and secure resources
* There are various proxy wars fought between the UN and the Chinese pole, which is also backed by some other countries in the SCO
* The most major war is the Third Congo War- like the previous Congo Wars, it is sparked by domestic unrest and involves large-scale ethnic cleansing and foreign involvement
* Essentially, the government regime, allied with various militias, opposes a coalition of militias and rebel groups mostly aligned with different countries
* The USA ostensibly intervenes for humanitarian reasons but it is ultimately political. Just as in Yugoslavia, China and Russia veto UN participation so NATO itself intervenes, which greatly increases tensions and leads to a de facto split of the country into a NATO-backed rebel group and the China-backed government
* Some people call the conflict World War III due to the massive number of casualties and foreign involvement. It is the largest proxy war fought between the USA and China, though conflicts in South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia are other examples
* The nations in East Africa align definitively with one pole in this period, as the great pressure exerted by the USA and China essentially prevents non-alignment
* The wealthier and more democratic countries in the region reject Chinese neocolonialism and align with the Gx under the USA’s new Marshall Plan (officially the East African Recovery Program)
* The SCO in contrast typically backs autocracies, propping up the regimes there against rebels in exchange for resource rights. They also make incursions into Somalia, ostensibly countering piracy there but in reality seizing power
* Somaliland protests its loss of sovereignty and the Gx powers recognise it as a country and makes it part of the Recovery Program. This begins a long-lasting, low-level conflict between Somaliland and Chinese forces in the region, which back local clans
* Puntland starts agitating for secession during this time
* South Sudan and Ethiopia stabilise into various different ethnic nation-states, some of which are backed by China and do not democratise, others become eligible for the Recovery Program
* The Gx seek a powerful Gx-aligned state in East Africa and thus encourage the formation of the East African Federation with the Gx-backed states in the area; the East African Community have already been becoming more closer during F21 so this is achievable
* Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda unite. Burundi, parts of South Sudan, and Somaliland is still part of the East African Community but is far less developed so is not incorporated at this time
* The DRC, under Chinese influence, withdraws from the East African Community

L21

* There is a general surge of pan-Africanism in the region. Although Chinese and Gx investments have caused legitimate development in the region and an increase in HDI, they have come at the cost of autonomy
* In the Gx-aligned countries, this manifests in the form of protests against foreign multinationals having resource rights and intervention in politics
* In the China-backed countries, this manifests in the form of protests for democratisation and the removal of Chinese security forces and businesses (state and private)
* In East Africa, as with every geopolitical arena in the world, the USA and China seek to influence the domestic affairs of countries aligned with the opposing side, and they both exacerbate pan-Africanist angers on the opposing side to destabilise them
* In the autocracies propped up by China, there is by now serious unrest against the regimes, similar to Latin America in L20, but China- and the regimes- violently suppress these, leading to international condemnation. Many compare it to Operation Condor
* The democratic countries also face widespread discontent but due to the reduced scale of the loss of autonomy, these are not severe
* Eventually, the Gx powers back off and cease interventions and regulations in domestic affairs
* Ultimately, these countries have already benefitted the USA by aligning with them and allowing considerable resource extraction over the century, and the USA therefore doesn’t have much to lose by capitulating to East African demands to salvage relations
* Although the USA still maintains military bases in the region and is allied with the East African Federation, military presence substantially reduces
* Burundi and Somaliland join the EAF. Various South Sudanese and Ethiopian breakaway states apply but aren’t developed enough for the unification to be feasible
* Puntland gains independence from Somalia
* China, in contrast, relies on their propped up regimes for almost all their influence there because all their security, political, and economic ties are with these regimes, and allowing them to be overthrown

T22

* China gradually pulls out of the region, withdrawing support for the regimes it used to prop up
* This is due to reasons within China, East Africa, and internationally
* Within these regimes, protests have become more and more widespread, and their suppression is requiring more and more bloodshed
* This has drawn a huge degree of international attention on both these regimes and China, especially as by this time there are few autocracies in the world and international tolerance towards autocracies has greatly decreased
* China has now democratised, and Chinese citizens are increasingly protesting against the involvement there, similarly to the Vietnam War in M20
* Puntland is permitted to join the East African Federation

E22

* China ceases to back regimes there militarily as a result of internal and external pressures
* A series of revolutions erupts in these countries (similar to Latin America and Eastern Europe at the end of the Cold War) replacing these regimes with democracies. There is a reunification of both polities made from the DRC, which by now have diverged considerably in wealth
* The Gx launches another recovery program to help the two halves of the DRC unite, contributing huge amounts in economic aid to smooth over reunification
* Much like Latin America and Eastern Europe at the end of the first Cold War, these democracies are imperfect as the countries involved lack the structural conditions and institutions necessary for one
* The difference is that in E22 the international community is far more committed to spreading democracy worldwide
* When a coup occurs in the region, the UN immediately intervenes and restores civilian government, sending a message to countries in the region that deviations from democracy will not be tolerated
* The countries here therefore remain democracies, although like Latam in E21 these are imperfect democracies

## West Africa

## Sub-Congo Africa

E21

* South Africa averts state collapse and civil war, but remains unstable and chaotic
* The ANC is forced to form a coalition government with the EFF party. Some minor political reforms against corruption pass, but nothing substantial. Similarly, some minor economic reforms pass, liquidating Eskom and South African Airways but tackling no fundamental issues
* Civil protests and political killings increase as the country stabilises a little but continues to stagnate
* It continues to take more Chinese loans although starts to decline loans to the least profitable companies. People become concerned over China’s debt trap diplomacy and the close alignment to China of the ANC
* Botswana pursues economic diversification, helped by large World Bank loans and increasing Chinese assistance. The country remains in deep economic crisis although for now not a failed state
* Angola sees some increased prosperity, but this increased wealth goes almost entirely to the ruling elite and the country remains highly repressive. The promised transition to democratic rule simply does not occur. China increases investment in the region, taking a particular interest due to its abundance of resources
* Zimbabwe faces economic and political crisis, with inflation and government human rights abuses accelerating. Though economic collapse is just barely staved off, Zimbabwe becomes a highly repressive regime, backed by the military
* China prioritises other countries for neocolonialist policies due to Zimbabwe’s relative lack of abundant resources and stability. The Zimbabwean government also lashes out against their control over the economy and seeks other international backers

M21

* South Africa sees a period of major reforms, both political and economic. The ANC loses its political hegemony and the Democratic Alliance enters a period of dominance, enacting widespread liberalisation
* The country’s stability and economy begin to grow, and it starts to distance itself more from China economically, gradually moving towards the West although it remains part of the BRICS forum
* Botswana sees considerable constitutional reforms aimed at strengthening oversight institutions and clamping down on corruption/nepotism. This accompanies economic reforms aimed at reducing inequality, unemployment, and poverty
* Angola faces severe instability as hydrocarbons’ value on the world market drops. The country enters a civil war between the ruling MPLA party and UNITA, the main opposition
* The war is a humanitarian nightmare. The UN intervenes via a peacekeeping mission, supporting UNITA’s accession to power and the establishment of a real multi-party democracy. China supports the MPLA; the civil war is seen as a proxy war between the USA and China
* UNITA eventually gains power, and enacts almost no substantial changes, although because they expel Chinese businesses and accept US businesses, the USA does little in protest. Angola remains an authoritarian regime ruled by a corrupt elite
* Zimbabwe becomes fairly internationally isolated with little foreign investment. Aid is limited due to severe sanctions on the government. The country falls into deep economic and political strife
* The military launches a series of coups to appoint new leaders to try and help the country, stimulated by massive protests and unrest. None of these new leaders do much to increase prosperity
* Insurgencies and rebel groups form against the ruling ZANU-PF party, plunging the country into strife. Ethnic tensions also flare, with many rebel groups of different ethnicities turning on each other

L21

* The political and economic reforms in Botswana pay off and it becomes a prosperous African nation
* Angola remains corrupt and largely stagnant. Popular pressure rises for reform, although for now only very minor economic reforms occur
* The situation in Zimbabwe is bad enough that the UN involves itself in peacekeeping missions, backing the rebel groups, who establish an uneasy coalition

E22

* Angola enters a period of great civil disturbances and eventually revolution. The severe civil unrest endangers foreign (mostly US) businesses and investments in the area, and therefore a UN peacekeeping mission is deployed for humanitarian and political reasons
* This time a multi-party democracy is gradually established in Angola, although this is still fairly flawed and unstable
* Zimbabwe collapses into another civil war as different factions of government turn on each other

M22

* The situation in Zimbabwe stabilises, with the UN intervening in the war to try and enforce democratic institutions. Zimbabwe becomes split between Matabeleland and Machobana

## Pacific Island Countries

### Regional Trends

F21

* The small nations of Oceania fail to meaningfully increase self-reliability and self-dependence, and foreign actors like China, the USA, and Australia become increasingly involved in the region
* Many of the nations continue to be dominated by elites who rely on the islands’ natural wealth- and foreign companies exploiting it- to become wealthy whilst leaving their countries underdeveloped
* There is some economic competition between China and the USA for influence here, as both poles commit large aid grants and investments, spurring (albeit limited) development
* Neither pole puts boots on the ground and the only proxy conflict takes place in the Solomon Islands
* The USA is the ultimately dominant power but most PICs significantly engage with Chinese investments and loans and the elites favour China and allow increasing Sinicization of the country
* Ultimately, however, the PICs lack sufficient demographic or geopolitical significance to become a major arena in the Second Cold War and is one of the regions of the world most untouched by it, although it is still important here
* A greater threat to the region is climate change, whose pernicious effects peak in this time period
* The huge economic disruption caused by climate change to the countries in the region cause continued civil unrest and calls for serious change
* These eventually become successful democratisation movements in the mid-21st century, forcing many elites to enact considerable political and economic reforms
* This only occurs after a prolonged period of suppressed rioting, however, often occurring with the direct or indirect intervention of foreign powers

S21

* Oceania’s small nations democratise and they slowly move from stagnation to development, reducing their reliance on natural resource exports and toning down foreign investment and intervention
* Most of the PICs still rely on foreign aid, trade, and investment to survive, however, which allows the USA, Australia, and to a lesser extent Japan (who has increased involved itself in the region from M21 onwards) to maintain influence

F22

* The PICs develop to the point where they become less dependent on larger countries in the region to sustain themselves, and they start to wean themselves off of aid programs and become more closely aligned with each other, starting to actually realise long-held narratives of self-reliance

### Federated States of Micronesia

* E21: A referendum in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) for Chuukese independence is continually postponed
* However, the FSM regardless rejects Chuukese independence on the grounds that it is illegal. The USA, which is militarily allied with the FSM, supports the federal position that the secession is legal, fearing Chinese influence
* China accelerates investments in Chuuk, as well as the FSM in general, and strengthens economic and diplomatic ties. China is interested in Chuuk due to its strategic location and the extremely deep Chuuk Lagoon
* The increased tension in the Indo-Pacific region leads to the US navy ramping up its presence in Chuuk as it is strategically located
* M21: Chuukese sentiment for independence is not strong enough to lead to mass-protests, especially as the USA ramps up its social programs (healthcare, college subsidies, etc)
* China and the USA essentially compete to establish economic ties with Chuuk, with the USA eventually becoming predominant. It pressures Chuuk into remaining in the FSM and toning down Chinese investment, and gives more aid to the FSM in order to maintain cohesion
* T22: With China pursuing a less aggressive foreign policy and the Second Cold War starting to lose tension, the USA relaxes its pressure on the country and Chuuk as there is no longer the strategic concern of China excessively expanding influence
* W22: The FSM remains a united stage, as the immense benefits provided by the USA, accelerated during the Second Cold War, take the sting out of any secessionist movements
* Nonetheless, the FSM becomes more decentralised to the point where it essentially exists as a confederation at best and a state that exists only *de jure*, designed merely to receive benefits from the USA, at worst

### French Colonial Territories

* The French overseas collectivities in Oceania, New Caledonia & French Polynesia, never vote for full independence and sovereignty, but become essentially self-governing
* The Marquesas Islands eventually form an independent polity from French Polynesia, although remain in the French Republic

### Papua New Guinea & Kiribati

* 2020S: Bougainville becomes an independent state from Papua New Guinea
* F21: Banaba, an island of Kiribati, continues to have its resources drained by the government and the island remains underdeveloped. Unrest and awareness of the issue increases
* S21: The United Nations pressures Kiribati into holding a referendum on Banaban independence. They overwhelmingly vote yes and Banaba becomes an independent country

### Solomon Islands

* E21: The USA pledges more aid to the pro-Taiwan Malaita province, and supports pro-independence parties financially
* The Solomon Islands in general becomes more pro-China and elites become firmly aligned with Beijing. The conflict over ties with China cuts across deeper ethno-political fault lines, but the USA capitalises on this issue to encourage Malaita to break away, seeking an ally in the region
* Early independence referenda do not succeed. China and the USA increase ties with the Solomon Islands, leading to stronger economic ties. Demonstrations in the Solomon Islands against the China-backed elite are put down in part by Chinese sales of arms, massively inflaming sentiment
* M21: Malaita votes to become independent. Though the China issue galvanises this, ultimately it is due to the country’s elites extracting the islands’ wealth for their own gain and leaving the country underdeveloped
* The Solomon Islands rejects the secession and responds with force, leading to severe civil unrest and rioting. The Malaita for Democracy party appeals to Australia for help, invoking the Australia-Solomon Islands Bilateral Security Treaty, leading to their direct intervention
* The USA, Taiwan, and New Zealand fund Malaitan independence parties and organisations, and China backs the federal government. None of these countries put boots on the ground
* Eventually, Malaita de facto secedes, but there is no formal recognition of this by the Solomon Islands. It starts to develop more, and the USA recognises it as a non-NATO ally
* L21: Malaita economically diverges from the Solomon Islands and becomes more prosperous. This provides a new impetus to protesters in the Solomon Islands rallying against the corrupt elite control of the country, and a revolution occurs there
* The Solomon Islands formally recognises the existence of Malaita