

World Order 2020 Scenarios Analysis from the Strategic Perspective*

[English Version]

Escenarios 2020 del Orden Mundial. Análisis desde la Prospectiva Estratégica

Cenários da Ordem Mundial 2020. Análise da perspectiva estratégica

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Abstract

Objective: the objective of this article is to show evidence of the forecast of the world order scenarios for the year 2020. **Methodology:** defined as a qualitative, analytical, non-experimental, transectional and field type study. An instrument was designed and applied to a sample of six International Relations experts. Said instrument is a questionnaire consisting of five entries for each of the analyzed variables. **Results:** a classification

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of the following variables: multipolarity, Asia Pacific leadership, unipolarity, threat to world security and neoprotectionism was achieved. These were classified according to the Swartch methodology in five scenarios of the global order for 2020. **Conclusions:** the conclusion shows that the same magnitude and speed of change emerging from globalization would allow, in the global arena, the emergence of new powers, new governance challenges, and a more widespread sense of insecurity, terrorism included.

Keywords: World order; Globalization; Prospective Scenarios; Political power.

Resumen

Objetivos: el objetivo de este artículo es mostrar evidencia de la prospectiva de los escenarios del orden mundial al año 2020. **Metodología:** se definió un estudio cualitativo de tipo analítico, no experimental, transeccional y de campo. Se diseñó un instrumento y se aplicó a una muestra de seis expertos en Relaciones Internacionales. Dicho cuestionario presenta cinco ítems para cada variable analizada. **Resultados:** se logró la clasificación de las variables multipolaridad, liderazgo Asia Pacífico, unipolaridad, amenaza a la seguridad mundial y neoproteccionismos; estas fueron catalogadas según la metodología de Swartch en cinco escenarios del orden global a 2020. **Conclusiones:** se concluye que la misma magnitud y velocidad de cambio resultantes de la globalización permitirán en la arena global el surgimiento de nuevos poderes, nuevos desafíos de gobernabilidad y una sensación más generalizada de inseguridad, que incluye el terrorismo.

Palabras-clave: Orden mundial; Globalización; Escenarios de Prospectiva; Poder político.

Resumo

Objetivos: o objetivo deste artigo é mostrar evidências dos cenários mundiais em perspectiva para o ano 2020. **Metodologia:** foi definido um estudo qualitativo do tipo analítico, não experimental, transeccional e de campo. Um instrumento foi projetado e aplicado a uma amostra de seis especialistas em Relações Internacionais. Este questionário apresenta cinco itens para cada variável analisada. **Resultados:** a classificação das variáveis multipolaridade, liderança na Ásia-Pacífico, unipolaridade, ameaça à segurança mundial e neoprotecionismo foi alcançada; estas foram catalogadas de acordo com a metodologia Swartch em cinco cenários da ordem global até 2020. **Conclusões:** conclui-se que a mesma magnitude e velocidade de mudança resultantes da globalização permitirão na arena global o surgimento de novos poderes, novos desafios de governança e um sentimento mais amplo de insegurança, que inclui o terrorismo.

Palavras-chave: Ordem mundial; Globalização; Cenários prospectivos; Poder político.

Introduction

The world transits into a rebalancing after post-Cold War, by way of alliances and actions that make the West lose its grip on power; that is to say, it faces a geopolitical counterrevolution. The geopolitical revolution of the eighteenth century is at the inception of a counterrevolution that reared its head since the end of the twentieth century and has marked the route for the twenty-first century: the resurgence of the old non-Western world being expressed as the restoration of fractured balance between large states, empires and even civilizations (Patiño, 2017).

In this regard, Ohmae (2005) states that the new global scenario needs a world vision in which openness, flexibility, interaction, new educational systems, and global trade gain increasing relevance, together with the emergence of regional State, as the leader of development. Precisely, in these new global contexts and trends, as Barbieri (1993) points out, the future is a necessity, as well as a choice, which allows the possible consequences of today's actions with the purpose of building a desired future, and finally, it is an attitude to conceive life, the world and individual, as well as social behaviors.

Now, this article includes the design of five possible scenarios for the world order by 2020, through an interview with experts. With the acceleration of change, the rise in interdependencies and uncertainties, exists an increasingly imposing need to take into account a variety of scenarios and, in each case, the examination of a possible optimal strategy to be adopted.

It should be noted that this study is useful to the extent that it is an exercise in prospective criticism of the future scenarios of world order, whose perspective mitigates the uncertainty, risk and complexity, which characterizes the 21st century. The discipline of international relations requires the analysis of global processes and phenomena from their future evolution in the short, medium and long term (Batta, 2013, p. 44); thus, the technique of the scenarios of Schwartz (1997) becomes important, since it allows for a scientific projection of the world order scenarios. González (2015) adds that, “the -abovementioned- prospect viewed from a methodological resource standpoint, becomes an analysis tool for the determination of scenarios in the social sphere, particularly in international relations” (p. 87).

In this sense, Schwartz (1997) underlines the need to train contemporaries to focus on possible futures so that they are not caught unaware when suddenly the scene of operation is transformed, a change that will require the adoption of a distinct strategy different from the ones previously employed (Schwartz, 1997, p. 201).

According to Schwartz, the scenarios are a means of articulating and ordering the range of fundamental uncertainties, likely to affect the results of the ongoing plans. The quality of a scenario is not measured by the ability to make correct predictions, but by the way in which they will know how to stimulate intuition, help understanding and lead to effective action. The scenarios are stories that have as a theme the future and are, therefore, perfectly possible to happen or not, since they have a psychological impact that diagrams and equations do not have (Schwartz, 1997, p. 203).

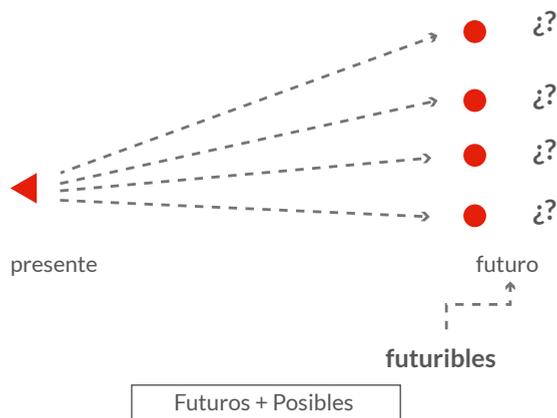
The structure of the article will be presented as follows: the theoretical framework section will be followed by the presentation of the used for this proposal, followed hereinafter by the presentation of the five scenarios based on the analysis of the information collected, and finally by the approach of the discussion and conclusions.

Theoretical Framework

Next, the variables: multipolarity, Asia Pacific leadership, unipolarity, threat to global security and neo-protectionism are defined based on the review of the main authors on the subject.

Approach to the Design of Prospective Scenarios

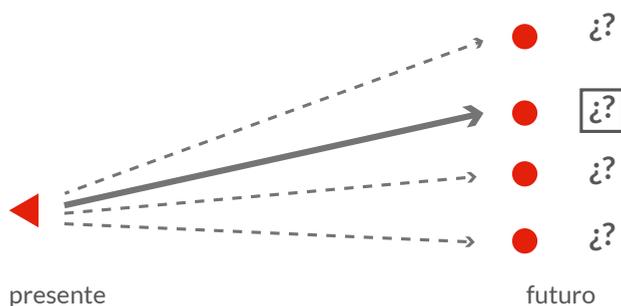
Figure 1. The Idea of the Future as a Multiple Reality



Source: Mojica (2010, p. 9)

At first, Bertrand de Jouvenel in his work *The Art of the Conjecture* demonstrates that there is not a single future but many possible ones that he calls "futuribles". It refers to the fact that if the future is multiple but not unique, the interest in predicting it loses its hold, therefore, the different possible futures have only the function of showing alternatives of what could happen. These alternatives are called "scenarios", which only fulfill the function of indicating possible situations that could occur years later.

Figure 2. Choosing a Future Among Several "possible futures"



Source: Mojica (2010, p. 10)

Now, the most important thing in the future as a multiple reality is, therefore, to be able to compare the different futures, examine the implications of each one, if it happened and, finally, choose the most convenient one. In the design of future scenarios converges all the information that has been collected so far, particularly, the ideas from global trends, and best practices. The design of the future is certainly achieved through the writing of scenarios. Moreover, among the most advisable tools is the scenario cross of Schwartz (1997), which is very simple because it reduces the alternatives of scenarios to just four (Mojica, 2010, p. 41; Lechuga et al., 2018, p. 133). From the Schwartz scenarios, a betting scenario, three alternative scenarios and a catastrophic scenario are designed, as can be seen below.

Multipolar World Order.

According to Trejos (1997), the likely scenario will be that of an almost absolute interdependence of countries. Trejos points out that economic globalization is consolidated and national borders will be merely border markings of inter-penetrated countries (p. 89). He adds that economic integration has woven ties between nations that made them interdependent; and as such, the formation of commercial blocks has facilitated multilateral agreements that become hegemonic in the world economic conduction.

At the same time, the traditional decision centers located in the west are being replaced at international importance by new decision centers in emerging countries, on which the world economy depends. Thus, the Pacific Ocean will be the center of global strategic gravity (Pérez, 2012; Schiavon et al, 2014; Zeraoui et al., 2014; Pearson and Rochester, 2000).

Similarly, Pérez (2012) asserts that Western powers have enriched themselves by developing the outsourcing of their economies and betting on fields such as technology, innovation, research, and so forth. On the other hand, the traditional primary and secondary sectors dedicated to extraction and manufacturing, have moved to countries in Southeast Asia, the Middle East or Latin America. This has led new economies to develop as producers of raw materials and thus having specialized in manufacturing and production.

Now, the delocalization processes and direct international investments that have taken place in other areas of the planet from the traditional powers have allowed the rise of new countries labeled as emerging and aimed at leading the economy in the not too distant future. In this respect, Manrique (2016) points out that developing countries must urgently start the new path towards growth models that improve their productivity and competitiveness, leaving aside dependence on commodities, so that there is back to its slowdown.

Economic, Political and Social Power of Asia Pacific.

Everything seems to indicate that the 21st century will be dominated by Asian economies. The North Atlantic area will lose relative power in favor of Asia-Pacific. In this sense, it's evident how China is becoming a strategic trading partner of countries like Germany. The rise of Asia is destined to continue in the coming decades.

For its part, in the Mapping the Global Future (National Intelligence Council, 2004), the post-Davos world scenario is presented, illustrating how strong

economic growth, led by China and India, can reshape the globalization process giving it a less western picture, transforming the political playing field, but maintaining social inequalities. It would not be possible in this context to establish an Asian Monetary Fund and, less likely, an Asian Trade Organization.

According to a recent prospective study by the Asian Development Bank, BAsD (2011), the share of Asia in the global gross product will be from 26% in 2010 up to 51% in 2050, making the 21st century as the "Asian century". In this regard, Bustelo (2011) reckons that

Asia-Pacific, with the exception of Japan in some fields, has stood out in recent decades for its high economic growth, its growing influence in international trade, the increase in its consumption of energy and other raw materials, its growing foreign investments and abroad and its boosting financial potential, measured by the increase in its foreign exchange reserves (p. 11).

In step, the Asian Development Bank, ADB (2011) argues that Asia is in the midst of a historical transformation. If it continues its recent trajectory, in 2050 its per capita income could increase six times in terms of Purchasing-Power Parity (PPP) until reaching the levels of Europe. This would make some 3,000 million additional Asians rich thanks to the current standards. Almost doubling its share of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 52% in 2050, Asia would regain its dominant economic position of about 300 years ago, before the industrial revolution, and China will maintain the ability to remain competitive even in a scenario of low oil prices (Manrique, 2016).

Unipolarity: American Hegemony

The current arrangement of the world is based on the dominance of the United States, the main political, economic, cultural and military power. Hence, global decisions are determined and influenced by the US and its main partners: Europe and Japan (Pérez, 2012). Mapping the Global Future of the National Intelligence Council (2004), the Pax americana scenario is presented, and it hypothesizes that the predominance of the United States survives radical changes in the global political view, and allows us to give a way to a new global and inclusive order to cope with the energy demands and the depletion of US unipolarity (National Intelligence Council, 2004). To this respect, the United States will continue to be the most powerful actor in economic, technological and military matters.

Threat to Global Security

Political Islam remains a powerful force, hence, global movements fueled by identity policies of religious radicalism are projected to be strengthened, becoming a threat to global norms and values. According to what was announced in *Mapping the Global Future* (National Intelligence Council, 2004) in its “Fear Cycle” scenario, there is a growing concern about international terrorism and internal conflicts until extreme security measures are taken to prevent fatal attacks and even produce an Orwellian world with new focus of world power.

Similarly, Davis (2015) prospects it as “Mad Max,” a world characterized by international and national conflicts, where governments exercise strong security controls in both business and society. Financing levels for social and development challenges will be limited. All this fueled by factors such as the strengthening of more diversified terrorist networks that create an anti-Western alliance.

Global Economic Recession and Rise of Neo-protectionist Policies.

The G20 Summit in the Chinese town of Hangzhou was at the heart of its discussions on the revival of world trade, as the global economy would be threatened by the risk of a return to recession scenarios aggravated by the rise of neo-protectionists measures in First World countries, especially after Donald Trump took office in the US. UU. (Gorraiz, 2016).

Thus, China would be immersed in an economic crisis due to its limited international financial integration, its isolation and control of the internal state apparatus and inefficient allocation of economic resources. On the other hand, the global contraction in commodities would be affecting Latin American exports and the depreciation of their currencies, due to the appreciation of the dollar that turns into an increase in production costs, inflation rates and external debt, as well as loss of competitiveness.

As Lagarde states (cited by Gorraiz, 2016), director of the IMF “the strength of the dollar together with the weakness of product prices creates risks for the balance sheets and financing of debtor countries in dollars” (p. 2) This could be causing increased social instability, poverty rates and a decline in democratic freedoms. The stagnation in the world economy can occur if some developing countries go into crisis after the collapse of commodities, causing a domino effect that can lead to the bankruptcy of many companies.

Manrique (2016) adds that the economic slowdown forecasts indicate an almost flat global economic activity and the imbalance between supply and demand will continue, so a long cycle with low oil prices is expected (p.1).

On the other hand, the US withdrew of the Transpacific Partnership (TPP) and the current renegotiation between the US, Canada and Mexico of NAFTA, together with the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Treaty, which, despite seeking the elimination of tariff barriers, provides for administrative barriers such as food and phytosanitary standards. This leads us to think about the end of transnational trade agreements (TTIP, NAFTA and TTP), and the implementation by first world economies of protectionist measures against emerging countries, whose paradigm would be the establishment of anti-dumping measures against Chinese steel with tariffs ranging from 20% European to 500% US which will mean the return to economic neo-protectionism.

Methodology

The research from which this article originates was conducted from a qualitative approach, with a qualitative analytical methodology and a non-experimental, transectional and field design. The multipolarity, leadership of Asian countries, unipolarity, threat to world security, and neo-protectionism variables were analyzed through experts in international relations in the city of Monterrey, Mexico.

In this case, the research approach is qualitative, defined by Hernández, Batista and Fernández (2014) as the one that "uses the collection and analysis of the data to refine the research questions or reveal new questions in the process of interpretation" (p. 7). Taylor and Bogdán (1986) add that qualitative research "is one that generates descriptive data: people's own words, spoken or written, and observable behavior" (p. 11).

In this sense, authors such as Mendoza (2006) highlights the importance of qualitative research inasmuch as it helps determining and refining the research questions that will guide to the instruments used to obtain the information. As well as Rodríguez and Gorjón (2014) highlight that this type of study offers a deep sense of knowledge about people's attitudes, behavior, perceptions and preferences.

Thus, the established scope is the analytical or interpretative one that seeks to find internal relationship patterns in an event to reach a deeper knowledge of it, than mere description. To do this, it uses the analysis matrices, which

provide the criteria that lead to the identification of such relationship patterns. Analytical research attempts to unravel what is beyond the obvious (Hurtado, 2010, p. 133).

For this purpose, Hernández, Fernández and Baptista (2014) asserts that interpretive research tries to make sense of phenomena based on the meanings that people grant them (p. 9). In addition, it allows a non-experimental design to be achieved “which is carried out without the deliberate manipulation of variables and in which only the phenomena are observed in their natural environment and then analyzed” (Hernández et al., 2014, p. 149). It is also transversal type, because it will not be monitored in time and will be conducted in a certain period (Hernández et al., 2014, p. 154).

Participants

For this research, eight experts in international relations of Monterrey were selected. The type of sampling is “non-probabilistic”, that is, the sample was selected according to the provision of attention to the interview booklet in the field. The selection of experts is based on the following criteria: Availability and accessibility to answer the interview, technical knowledge of the global order phenomenon, geographical location in Nuevo León and Master degree as minimal academic training.

It should be noted that the use of n number of experts is valid to the extent that a qualitative sample seeks meanings (Martínez-Salgado, 2012), which in Sandelowski and Barroso (2003) terms is ideographic generalization. The most generally shared criterion in qualitative methodology is saturation, which has what Carlsen and Glenton (2011) have called a dominant role, although difficult to operationalize. The proposal consists of stopping the sample units of collection in the field work when the new selected units do not provide new relevant information with respect to the previous ones (García-Hernández and Manzano-Caudillo, 2010).

On the other hand, Creswell and Miller (2000) add that in qualitative research the results are accurate from the point of view of the researcher, the participant or the readers of a research report; in terms of Strauss and Corbin (1990) in the grounded theory, supplementary validity is given by relating data to categories and contrasting data with literature. Therefore, the internal validity is given by the authors and the external validity for the quality of the expert.

Table 1. Experts to Whom the Interview Was Applied

Name	Position	Institution
Prof. Flavio Rafael González Ayala	Researcher in Asian and African Studies	Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí
Prof. Joel Angel Bravo Anduaga	Geopolitics Researcher	Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education - Querétaro Campus
Prof. Karen Jeraldín Ramos Lizárraga	Tourism Academy Coordinator School of Political Sciences and International Relations	Professor at the Autonomous University of Nuevo León.
Prof. Antonio Galván	Export Sales Manager	Trophe
Prof. Carmelo Santillán Ramos	CEO	CSR Consulting
Prof. Sandy Martínez Lara	International Relations Researcher	Professor at the Autonomous University of Nuevo León.
Prof. Priscilla Vera Zamora	Researcher in Foreign Policy	Professor at the Autonomous University of Nuevo León.
Prof. Alejandro Castillo Maldonado	CEO	Camu Worldwide Hong Kong Ltd.

Source: Author's 2018

Table 2. Research Data Sheet

Universe	International Relations Experts in Monterrey (Mexico)
Field	Regional, Monterrey (Mexico)
Data collection method	Semi-structured interview, delivered in person
Sampling unit	International Relations Experts in Monterrey (Mexico)
Sample size	9
Fieldwork	October 2018

Number of interviews conducted;	9
Valid answers	9

Source: Author's 2018

Instruments

An instrument was designed in accordance with the five variables (multipolarity, Asia Pacific leadership, unipolarity, threat to global security, neo-protectionism), which was applied to eight experts in international relations in Monterrey. This instrument includes five items with open responses and was it was designed based on the dimensions evaluated in the research. Thus, the technique used, the interview, was aimed at establishing direct contact with people who considered themselves to be a reliable source of information for this study, although it can be supported by a flexible questionnaire, its purpose is to obtain spontaneous and open information (Bernal, 2010 , p. 177).

Table 3. Structure of the Interview Script

Analysis Categories	Number of questions	Authors
Multipolarity	1	Trejos (1997), Pérez (2012), Manrique (2016)
Asia Pacific Leadership	1	National Intelligence Council (2004), BAsD (2011), Bustelo (2011), Manrique (2016)
Unipolarity	1	Pérez (2012), National Intelligence Council (2004)
Threat to global security	1	National Intelligence Council (2004), Davis (2015)
Neo-protectionisms	1	Gorraiz (2016), Manrique (2016)

Source: Author's, 2018

Procedure

Initially an interview script was applied to a selection of experts in international relations; from there, the information was collected through the Nvivo software, which allowed the illustration of the frequency of the responses of the experts in cloud graphics for each of the five scenarios proposed by the Schwartz methodology (1997). Then, the conclusions and recommendations were elaborated in the light of the research objective (Bascón et al., 2016, p. 39; Lettuce, 2018, p. 196).

Results

The variables multipolarity, Asia Pacific leadership, unipolarity, threat to world security and neo-protectionism were classified according to the Swartch methodology in scenarios, as the subtitles below.

Multipolarity: Bet Stage

As part of the data review, we proceeded to identify the most frequent words using the Nvivo 11 program on a multipolar scenario and being countries the word that they associated with more periodicity in the interviews, in addition to words as world, emerging, multipolar and economic. (Figure 3). It highlights that the current configuration of the world is based on the predominance of the United States and its partners Europe and Japan and, that the emergence of new power centers would be an opportunity for the participation of more countries in decision-making by including new points of view at the international dialogue tables.

This change in the world order, based on a rebalancing of the economy towards emerging countries, will allow greater plurality in decision making in global affairs. The rapid growth of emerging countries will lead them to demand greater quotas of power in international institutions. The problems of indebtedness and unemployment in developed countries could give rise to protectionist pressures, which could create conflicts. The emerging countries are willing to take the world leadership away from the United States and Europe and by 2020 the efforts of such countries will continue to strengthen, as is the case of the BRICS, of which China and India are emerging as powers by 2050.

Figure 3. Multipolar Scenario



Source: Author's elaboration through Nvivo

According to experts there are revisionist powers in the world arena that question the status quo in political, economic and military matters of the same establishment, such as China, Russia and Iran, which exert influence in their respective geographical areas (Rodríguez, 2017). The objective of emerging countries and the Third World is to diversify the centers of political and economic power to have a voice in global decisions. International decisions are expected to be conditioned not only by world-wide but also regional powers (Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria). This multipolar scenario will allow the participation of more countries in the world-wide agenda and the establishment of new directions by including more views in the international dialogue.

Asia Pacific Leadership Alternative Scenario 1

Figure 4. Asia Pacific Leadership Scenario



Source: Author's elaboration through Nvivo.

The perception of the experts showed the following words: China, India, business, countries and leadership. The world-wide order tends towards the leadership of China, and that continent have the possible leading countries in the world, according to Funabashi, Oksenberg and Weiss (1994) there it is India, South Korea and obviously Japan. China is an emergent power, whose main foundation of not altering the international order with too much impetus, but using economic instruments to reach estatus of world-wide power. In order to avoid criticism of their hegemonic ambitions, Chinese officials name this strategy as "peaceful development."

Others have alleged that "the reaction of China before the predominance of the United States implies a consolidation of agreements, competition and resistance of low intensity" (Paul, 2011). This is explained, because in spite of being a Chinese emergent power "it is still substantially weaker than the United States" (Paul, 2011). However, China seems to seek a tough balance with South Asia. In an effort to balance the power of India, it has broadened its old strategic relationship with Pakistan. This type of response to the rise of China is also explained by the fact that the country has adopted two of the main elements of liberal peace, namely: economic interdependence and international institutions, but it has rejected the third one; democracy. The deficit of democracy in China

creates great uncertainty for its Asian neighbors and for the United States, because their intentions are not easy to unravel (Figure 4).

Unipolarity Alternative Scenario 2

Figure 5. Unipolar Scenario



Source: Author's elaboration through Nvivo.

The perception of the experts exhibited the following words: United States, economy, trade, China and disputes. In this sense, the experts express that hegemony has been lost over the years; when the cold war ended and the USSR dissolved, the US seemed to be the hegemon, but the same freedom of resources with which capitalism preached, a doctrine supported by the United States. led to the fact that the world could not develop in a unipolar environment, but to an opening up to emerging options and different economies towards multipolarity. So, US will keep on preserving its supremacy and institutionalize unipolarity as a paradigm of international relations aimed at positioning it as a superpower that will not admit questioning. There is no place where this is more clearly expressed than in the Middle East, where political and geopolitical balances were strongly shaken by the war of occupation and its recent effects (Figure 5).

Threat to Global Security Alternative Scenario 3

Figure 6. Security Threat Scenario



Source: Author's elaboration through Nvivo.

The perception of the experts showed the following words: conflicts, security, world order, Europe and war. When referring to the threat to security, they point out that Europe lacks a military power of the first order. Its new common defense and security policy is merely aimed at supporting the UN and NATO in the rescue and stabilization of failed states.

Europe is also experiencing difficult moments in immigration issues, as it faces an unprecedented surge in the recent history of immigrants who literally flee the horror of wars in their countries of origin (Syria, Afghanistan, North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa). For all these reasons, Europe will be forced to form a free trade area with the Mediterranean countries to ease the pressures on its borders. For all these considerations, it seems that Europe's role in the struggle for a new international order will basically have to be limited to accompanying the US, providing markets, technology, cultural traditions and other varieties of soft power (Figure 6).

Conclusions

In the first the place, global and regional geopolitical stability and global market integration becomes important. It is worth asking if there is a global crisis, it is unknown who governs the world with a sense of insecurity and global crisis. (Silva and Martins, 2013).

It is observed, from Trump's administration, that the United States has not exercised the global power of fifteen years ago. There are alternative responses such as China, Russia or others with scope such as the European Union, India, Japan, and Korea. In this sense, there is a more diffuse power, which makes control become shared among countries, conflicts proliferate, alternative economic models for trade wars such as commodities, steel, oil (Rosas, 2008).

Among the challenges of the West, it is the lack of a way to impose policies unilaterally. In this sense, it is observed how Germany rethinks, if it should be a geopolitical power. China has made a bet through the Silk Road to conquer the Eurasian world, since the United States cannot do it because it is part of the American continent (Gandasegui and Preciado, 2017).

Latin America has experienced an income from the extra-regional powers such as China, Russia, India, Turkey, Iran, which some years ago did not happen.

Finally, the dynamics of the ICT, the economic transformations, the war, the fourth industrial revolution, the emergence of new powers, the new challenges to governance and in a more widespread sense of insecurity that includes terrorism which are the result of the globalization process (Murillo, 2015), will be definitive features of the world until 2020.

Thus, as we map the future, the prospects for increasing global prosperity and the limited likelihood of a major power conflict provide a favorable general environment for addressing what would otherwise be daunting challenges (Berridge, 2010).

This research serves as a previous step for more consistent studies to be developed in the future, which include an empirical research aimed at deepening the knowledge of the possible scenarios of the world order by 2020. It should be recognized that this research has all the limitations of an essentially theoretical and qualitative work. Therefore, it is considered appropriate to continue this study by proposing as future lines of work the development of an empirical research on the possible scenarios of the world order in 2020 with an emphasis on international economics that can provide quantitative and statistically relevant data.

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