

Theory of Unipolar Politics

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States has enjoyed unparalleled military power. The international system therefore became unipolar. A quarter-century later, however, we still possess no theory of unipolarity. *Theory of Unipolar Politics* provides one. Dr. Nuno P. Monteiro answers three of the most important questions about the workings of a unipolar world: Is it durable? Is it peaceful? What is the best grand strategy a unipolar power such as the contemporary United States can implement? In our nuclear world, the power preponderance of the United States is potentially durable but likely to produce frequent conflict. Furthermore, to maintain its power preponderance, the United States must remain militarily engaged in the world and accommodate the economic growth of its major competitors, namely, China. This strategy, however, will lead Washington to wage war frequently. In sum, military power preponderance brings significant benefits, but is not an unalloyed good.

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*For my grandparents, Joaquina da Piedade
and Aurélio Cândido, in memoriam*

“Power always thinks it has a great soul.”

– John Adams

“One of the chief characteristics of life is life’s redundancy. The sole condition of our having anything, no matter what, is that we should have so much of it, that we are fortunate if we do not grow sick of the sight and sound of it altogether. Everything is smothered in the litter that is fated to accompany it. Without too much you cannot have enough, of anything.”

– William James

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