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ACROSS TYPE, TIME AND SPACE

*American Grand Strategy in
Comparative Perspective*

Peter Dombrowski
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*Rutgers, Newark and Le Centre de recherches
internationales, Sciences Po (Paris)*



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Abstract: The field of grand strategy is exceptionally American-centric – theoretically, methodologically and empirically. Indeed, many scholars treat the United States as a unique case, and thus incomparable. This Element addresses the shortcomings of this approach by developing a novel framework for the purpose of systematic comparison, both within and among different countries. Using the United States as a benchmark, three dimensions are considered in which grand strategy can be compared: first, attributes of the major types commonly discussed in the literature; second, similarities and differences in the implementation of grand strategies over time, using US strategic relations with contemporary Russia as an example; and finally, across space, properties of the grand strategies that are interactively employed by other major powers in relation to the United States in the Indo-Pacific. The Element can be used by scholars and students alike to expand analysis beyond the confines that currently dominate the field.

Keywords: American grand strategy, China, comparative grand strategy, deep engagement, diplomacy, economic strategy, European security, foreign policy, India, Indo-Pacific, isolationism, Liberal order, military strategy, NATO, primacy, sponsorship, restraint, Russia

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