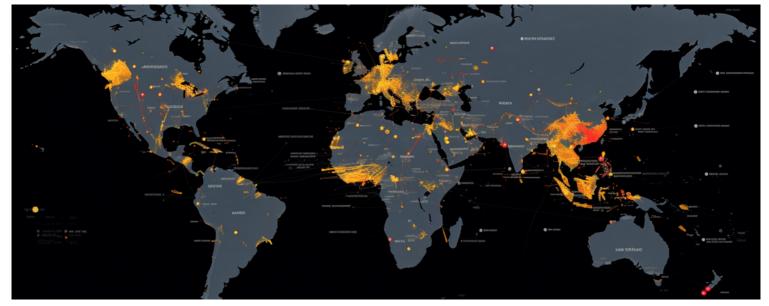
ATMOSPHERICS

11.17.23

GLOBAL CONFLICTS

CVE to GPC and GPC to?



Bottom Line Up Front:

- There is currently a deluge of global conflicts impacting U.S. interests, encompassing diverse
 challenges from gang violence in Mexico and political crises in Haiti and Venezuela, to
 geopolitical tensions in the South China Sea and Middle East. These conflicts illustrate the
 complex spectrum of international issues the U.S. must navigate, ranging from regional
 instability to global power disputes.
- The shift from Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) to Great Power Competition (GPC) exemplifies the challenges faced by traditional U.S. policy making in adapting to rapidly changing global conflicts. This transition underscores the need for a more agile and responsive foreign policy framework, capable of navigating the complexities of a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape, which includes the resurgence of longstanding tensions and the emergence of new conflict zones.
- Going forward it will be essential to structure policy making processes in a way which is both
 responsive and adaptive through iteration. This approach should involve phases of observing
 and reflecting on current needs and past policy impacts, generating broad policy options,
 exploring possibilities with modeling and analysis, and implementing decisions with channels for
 structured and unstructured feedback.

INFORMATION



A view of the information space related to the topic of the week, based on headline frequency.

The Council on Foreign Relations has identified 26 global conflicts of particular relevance and importance to the United States. These range from the criminal violence in Mexico, marked by gang and cartel warfare, to the political and humanitarian crises in Haiti and Venezuela. In the Middle East, conflicts like the instability in Afghanistan, the confrontation between the United States and Iran, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remain critical. The territorial disputes in the South China Sea and the ongoing crisis in North Korea represent significant geopolitical challenges. Additionally, the conflicts in Ukraine, Nagorno-Karabakh, and the Sahel region underscore the diverse nature of global conflicts that the United States must navigate.

Navigating global conflicts is a resource-intensive endeavor, making it imperative to assess the alignment of policies and actions to better utilize these resources. This assessment helps determine whether U.S. involvement in various conflicts is in sync with the strategies outlined in things like the National Security Strategy (NSS) and National Defense Strategy (NDS). For example, the U.S. engagement in areas like the South China Sea, which aligns with the NDS's focus on great power competition, represents a strategic use of resources in line with current policy priorities. However, in conflicts such as Afghanistan, despite initial alignment with the goals of countering violent extremism, there has been a noticeable misalignment in terms of long-term strategic objectives as outlined in the NSS. This misalignment, emerging from the complex and evolving nature of global conflicts, highlights the challenges in maintaining policy coherence and effective resource allocation, especially when transitioning from one security environment to another.

The United States has been undergoing a transition from Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) to Great Power Competition (GPC) for several years, a shift that highlights the difficulty traditional policy making faces in keeping pace with rapidly evolving conflicts. This transition underscores the need for a more flexible and dynamic approach in foreign policy and defense strategies. The changing nature of global conflicts, marked by the resurgence of old tensions and the emergence of new ones, demands a nuanced understanding and adaptable strategies. As the geopolitical landscape continues to evolve at a rapid pace, it becomes increasingly challenging for traditional policy frameworks to effectively address these shifts. This situation calls for an agile foreign policy that can not only anticipate but also quickly respond to the complexities and unpredictabilities of the global political arena.

TECHNOLOGY

Al Generated Image

"As technology continues to redraw the map of global interactions, our responsibility grows to guide these powerful tools with a vision of unity, where progress means peace and our most profound advancement is the ability to choose cooperation over conflict, using our technological prowess to bridge divides and nurture understanding



The **global conflict** landscape is being reshaped by rapid technological advancements, altering the dynamics of warfare and international relations. **Autonomous weapons** and **cyber warfare** have emerged as pivotal elements in modern conflicts, transforming communication and surveillance. **Space-based assets** further enhance these capabilities, centralizing their role in conflict.

Simultaneously, **social media** platforms have evolved into arenas for digital propaganda and misinformation, influencing the psychological aspect of warfare. These platforms balance citizen empowerment and transparency with the exposure of vulnerabilities, as evidenced by the surge in **cyber threats** to critical infrastructures. **Artificial Intelligence** (AI) introduces a new layer to conflict with its predictive analytics and strategic decision-making capabilities. However, integrating AI into military strategies raises complex ethical issues regarding autonomy and accountability.

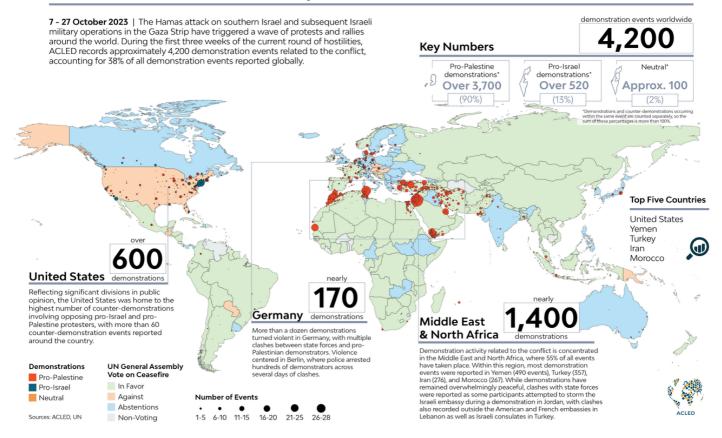
Biotechnological advancements present new biological threats, merging health security with national defense considerations, especially in the context of global pandemics. **Climate change** adds complexity to security, with environmental degradation and resource scarcity triggering conflicts over essential resources and influencing migration and regional stability.

This technological evolution in warfare necessitates updated international laws and norms, highlighting the need for **global cooperation** and robust frameworks in cybersecurity, space governance, and Al. Defense strategies must adapt, blending traditional military approaches with technological innovation and aligning with ethical and humanitarian principles.

As technology increasingly intersects with global conflict, it offers both challenges and opportunities. The future of conflict resolution hinges on balancing technological advancements with ethical oversight and international collaboration, aiming to harness these advancements for mitigating conflict and enhancing global stability.

SENTIMENT

Global Demonstrations in Response to the Israel-Palestine Conflict



The awareness and understanding of global conflicts among Americans can vary widely. Factors such as education, access to information, personal interests, and exposure to diverse perspectives play a significant role in shaping individual knowledge on these matters. Here are some general observations on sentiment and how it is shaped:

Mainstream Media: Americans get information about global conflicts from mainstream media sources such as television, newspapers, and online news outlets. However, the depth and accuracy of coverage vary, and not all conflicts receive equal attention.

Social Media: The rise of social media platforms has provided people with a more immediate and diverse range of information. However, this also means individuals encounter misinformation or biased perspectives.

Education: The level of education impacts one's understanding of global conflicts. Those with higher levels of education may have a better grasp of historical, political, and economic contexts.

Personal Interest: People who actively follow international news, engage in discussions, or pursue additional information outside mainstream sources are likely to have a more informed perspective on global conflicts.

Geopolitical Significance: Americans may be more aware of conflicts that directly involve the United States or have significant geopolitical implications. Conflicts in regions with less direct impact on U.S. interests may receive less attention.

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