

will affect almost every aspect of the continent's affairs. The relative stability of the past 20 years is likely to continue since the United States and the Soviet Union both seem convinced of the need to avoid nuclear war, whether by miscalculation or by escalation. The super-power competition in the development and deployment of offensive and defensive strategic weapons systems and nuclear warheads will continue but, if the bilateral U.S.A.—U.S.S.R. talks on strategic arms limitations were to succeed, the pace of the arms race would slacken, with proportionate reductions in risks and tensions. Some of these potential benefits may be lost or misplaced through the proliferation of nuclear and conventional armaments, or through failure to find the political and economic accommodation needed to allay perceived threats to vital security interests on both sides.

In any event, the Soviet Union will continue to be preoccupied by its relations with China and the Soviet interest in accommodations with other countries may reflect the degree to which the Chinese threat is considered to be credible to the Soviet Union. Any fighting between these two powers will probably be confined to frontier clashes of limited duration and scale, though the strategic nuclear threat posed by China will require a regular assessment of the strategic balance as regards China, the Soviet Union and the United States. Security in Asia may largely depend on the future attitudes and actions of China, whose place in the world power picture is not likely to be fully clarified until China emerges from its isolation, at least partly self-imposed. Its triangular relationship with India and Pakistan, together with their unresolved disputes, provides a source of potential instability. However, United States disengagement from the conflict in Vietnam, plus serious efforts at reconciliation, could bring about better relations between China and the United States. The eventual participation of China in world affairs—in disarmament talks and at the United Nations, for example—will reflect more accurately the world power balance and, at the same time, produce new problems.

There are likely to be significant adjustments in global relationships attributable to the emergence of new great powers, notably Japan and Germany. The success of the European communities—the European Economic Community (EEC), the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM)—has given the countries of Western Europe increased stability and prosperity and enhanced their international influence.

Because it is in the vital interests of the super-powers to contain sources of conflict there, Europe is likely to remain for some time an area of relative peace and stability. In other geographical areas the general