
II

Major Trends

A changing power constellation, a growing international commitment to common values, an increasingly global economy, and a world beyond borders will shape the new global agenda. All of these related forces will pose significant challenges to traditional notions of sovereignty; managing interdependence will increasingly characterize foreign policy in the 1990s.

The Changing Power Constellation

Global political and economic power is shifting rapidly and becoming more diffuse. The ramifications of a world freed from superpower rivalry include:

- International power and influence will be determined as much by economic strength as by military capability, with the growing importance of the Triad and concomitant possibility of inter-regional economic rivalry;
- Unparalleled opportunities for multilateral collaboration in the field of international security, permitting the international community to address wider security and development concerns;
- Destabilization, both internal and regional, resulting from intense ethnic, cultural or regional pressures; and
- Potential for new forms of North-South cooperation, but danger of the marginalization of the poorest parts of the world.

The image of a monolithic third world has been shattered by sharply diverging rates of economic growth, economic alignments along regional lines, the emergence of mutual North-South interests on specific issues (e.g., the Cairns Group on agriculture, the smooth functioning of oil markets).