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**Title of dissertation:**

*Geostrategic situation of the United States and China  
in the Western Pacific and in Eurasia  
in the context of the US Air-Sea Battle Concept*

## **SUMMARY**

The dissertation is describing the spectacular rise of China uninterrupted by the global financial meltdown 2008 that has been changing the balance of power in international relations, triggered the new US attitude towards the Asia/Pacific region (*pivot*) and laid foundations for US active balancing the continental powers located in Eurasia. That is bringing fundamental consequences for the international system and the position of the United States as a dominant sea power that this country has occupied after II World War.

Further the dissertation sheds some light on how the US capability to project power far from its shores into the littoral waters of the Western Pacific and into the geostrategic corridors in Eastern Europe is being contested by burgeoning *A2AD (anti-access/area denial)* military technologies developed by continental powers thus undermining the credibility of the dominant sea power to sustain vital communication lines with the allies in Eurasia and its littorals. The work is presenting in detail the *Air-Sea Battle Concept* that has been developed in the Pentagon since 2010 as an attempt to counter the above mentioned *A2AD* challenges.

A system of alternative international institutions remaining outside of Bretton Woods framework is in Beijing's plans supposed to create conditions for building a new infrastructure, trade and logistic corridors across vast land masses of Eurasia towards Europe thus evading the traditional sea trade lanes being controlled by the United States (and formerly by European colonial powers). In case of success the New Silk Road Initiative will alter the global economic order; more – it might change the foundations of the world system that have been so far structurally supporting the Western sea powers. China, contained in the Western Pacific by the dominant sea power of United States, wants to build the News Silk

Road Initiative in order to sustain further development and escape the middle income trap on the way to create the “moderate welfare society” as envisaged by China’s President Xi Jinping.

The dissertation is attempting to describe the China’s grand strategy aimed to fuel further rise and alter the world system so as to accommodate its interests, and on the other hand, it is depicting the possibilities that the United States leadership might explore on their part in order to craft the new American grand strategy aimed to maintain the dominant status in the international system.

The dissertation is based upon geopolitical and geostrategic intellectual concepts and is providing the in-depth analysis of the Asia/Pacific region from that perspective. It also analyses the importance of the balance of power game in Eurasia as critical to the stable world system, lack of which may bring about volatility, tensions and struggle of major powers for a new world system in 21<sup>st</sup> century.