

# MULTIPOLAR WORLD: LOOMING LARGE

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## Part One: Chinese more concerned with multipolar world

- 4740000 (almost 5 million) in Chinese
- 275000 (roughly 300 thousand) in English
- Approximately 18 times more
- French?
- Dutch?

## Part Two: a brief recall of remarks on multipolar world (I)

- **March 5, 1946: Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain"** speech heralds the start of the Cold War, rendering the geopolitical world bipolar overnight.
- **1969:** "Our deepest challenge," U.S. national security advisor **Henry Kissinger** writes, will be "to base order on political multipolarity even though overwhelming military strength will remain with the two superpowers."

## a brief recall of remarks on multipolar world (II)

- **January 8, 1978:** French President **Valéry Giscard d'Estaing** describes his differences with U.S. President **Jimmy Carter** as a "means to attain our grand objective, namely, the organization of a multipolar world which will not be limited by the decisions made by two superpowers alone."
- **1987:** In *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, Yale University historian **Paul Kennedy** predicts the balance of military power will shift over the coming 20 to 30 years, creating a truly multipolar world around 2009.

## a brief recall of remarks on multipolar world (III)

- **December 25, 1991:** The **Soviet Union** ceases to exist, eliminating the second Cold War "pole" and launching a debate about the new world order. "Global politics," **Samuel Huntington** argues later in *Foreign Affairs*, "is now passing through one or two uni-multipolar decades before it enters a truly multipolar 21st century."
- **April 23, 1997:** Fear of U.S. unipolarity inspires **China** and **Russia** to sign a "Joint Declaration on a Multipolar World and the Establishment of a New International Order" in Moscow.

## a brief recall of remarks on multipolar world (IV)

- **Spring 2003:** Calling for a "multipolar world" becomes a euphemism for opposing the Iraq war. British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** warns that French President **Jacques Chirac's** multipolar vision, and his prolific use of the term, is "dangerous and destabilizing."
- **November 20, 2008:** In its "Global Trends 2025" report, the U.S. **National Intelligence Council** declares the advent of a "global multipolar system" as one of the world's "relative certainties" within two decades.

## a brief recall of remarks on multipolar world (V)

- **2009:** “ We will lead by inducing greater cooperation among a greater number of actors and reducing competition, tilting the balance away from a multipolar world and toward a multipartner world,” Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** says in a July address.
- July 22, 2009: "We are trying to build a multipolar world," U.S. Vice President **Joseph Biden** declares in a speech in Ukraine.

## Part Three: “ One superpower with multiple powers” →multipolar world

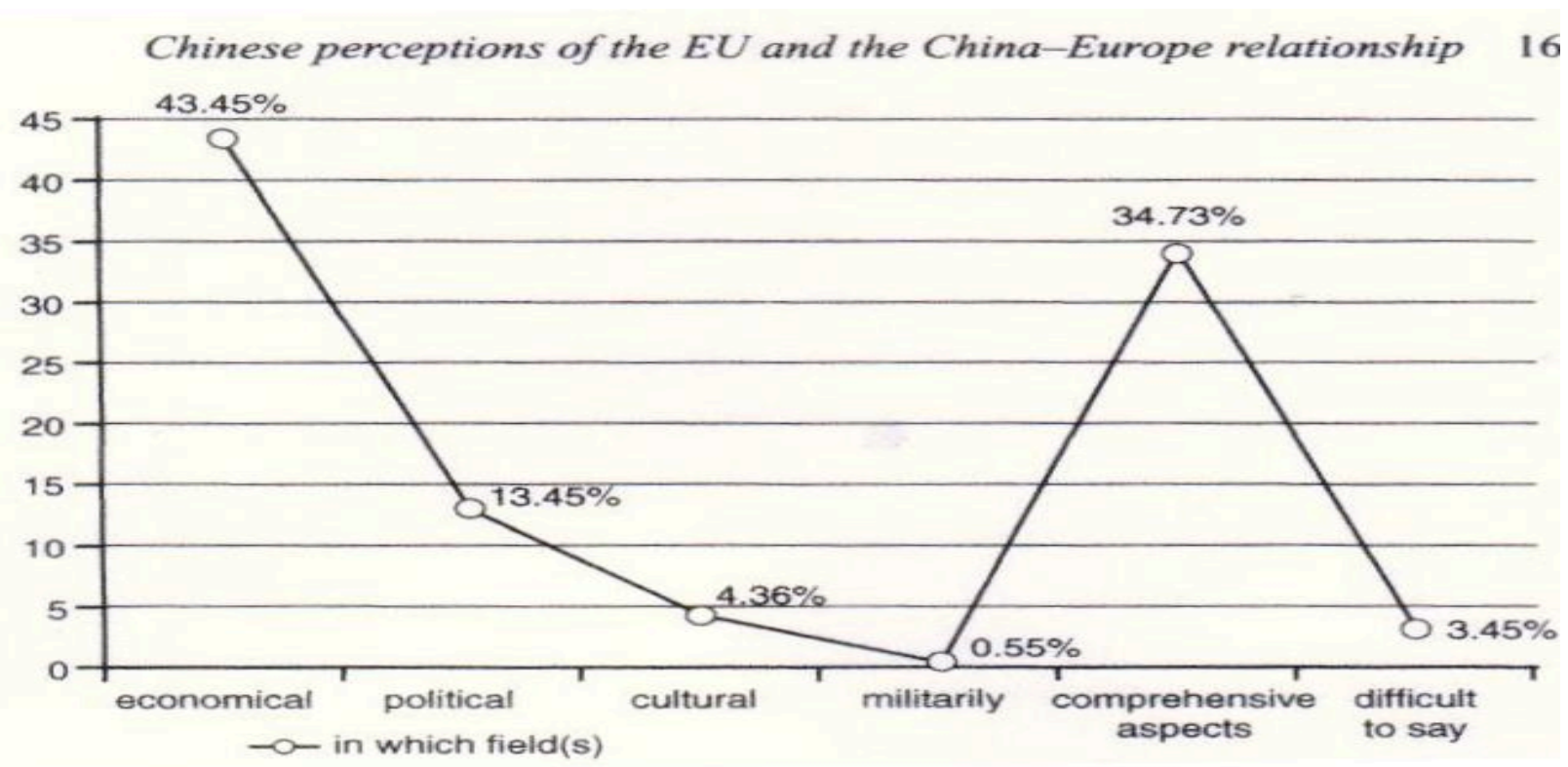
- One superpower: USA
- Multiple powers: China, EU, UK, France, Germany, Russia, India, Brazil, and SA
- After Cold War, many Chinese believed “one superpower with multiple powers”, eventually lead to a multipolar world. the international order based on several great powers.
- If cutting global system into layers, the world is already multipolar politically.



## Part Four: students perceptions on EU's role

- Most university students in China believe that EU is powerful enough to play an important role in the world.
- Is EU already one “POLE”? 52%, yes.
- In which field(s) the EU is most powerful? (answers see the following figure)
- What is the EU's advantage in international affairs, 66%, “European integration”.
- Which is the better model to follow when dealing with international affairs: 43%, EU; 26%, US.

## students perceptions on EU's role (II)



## Part Five: US students expect a multipolar world

- March 2010, senior students at the Naval War College presented their Final Exercise briefs. In assessing how the world of 2030 will take shape, many drew on the National Intelligence Council's report, "Global Trends 2025: A World Transformed," particularly its assessment -- as a "relative certainty" -- that **"a global multipolar system is emerging with the rise of China, India, and others."**

## Part Six: we need great ideas

- Reasonable men are incapable of predicting the future
- Rome was not planned, and neither did it just happen
- But bad times lead to great ideas
- asymmetrical multipolar world
- US listens more
- EU does more
- Cultivate an environment for harmonious international society
- Get ready for a multipolar world. Get ready for the next big thing unexpected.

## Part Seven: endnotes

1. Part One: the results were googled out by putting in the keyword “multipolar world “ respectively in Chinese and in English on May 5, 2001.
2. This “brief recall” comes mainly from the article “New Order: How “the multipolar world” came to be” in *Foreign Policy*, November/December 2009. Also available at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/10/19/new\\_order](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/10/19/new_order) (accessed on May 6, 2010).
3. Part Four: see David Shambaugh, Eberhard Sandschneider and Zhou Hong, eds, *China-Europe Relations: Perceptions, Policies and Prospects* (London and New York: Routledge, 2007), 158-168.
4. Nikolas Gvosdev, “The Realist Prism: Shaping the Multipolar World”, *World Politics Review*, May 5, 2010. Available at <http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/5222/the-realist-prism-shaping-the-multipolar-world> (accessed on May 6, 2010).