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From Intellectual Capital to Hegemonic Power: Formulation the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT)

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Abstract
Shifted the power consider a natural and recurring phenomenon in international politics throughout the history, no any one great power or hegemonic state has maintained dominance indefinitely. The rise and decline of states are shaped by changes in economic, technological, military, political, institutional, and intellectual capabilities. This article proposes the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) to explain how intellectual capital, knowledge production, technological innovation, and intangible strategic assets contribute to the rise and decline of national power and to explain how states rise to great-power or hegemonic status and why they eventually decline. The (TIPT), argues that Intellectual Capital is a fundamental driver of sustainable national power because it enables states to transform knowledge, education, scientific research, innovation, artificial intelligence, skilled human resources, and effective governance into comprehensive national capabilities. The study adopts a mix method, theory-building research design based on secondary sources, qualitative content analysis, and comparative historical analysis. It engages with established approaches, including Power Transition Theory, and Hegemonic Stability Theory, while seeking to extend existing explanations by placing Intellectual Capital at the center of power transition. The study argues that military and economic capabilities, although essential, are insufficient to sustain long-term great-power status without strong intellectual foundations, education, research institutions, technological innovation, Intellectual Capital, effective governance, and strategic decision-making enable states to continuously renew their economic, military, political, and societal capabilities. The theory proposes that the process of power transition can be understood through the following sequence:

- Intellectual Capital
- Knowledge
- Innovation
- Capabilities
- Comprehensive National Power
- Great-Power Status

(TIPT) concludes that the long-term distribution of global power depends not only on material resources but also on the ability of states to produce and transform intellectual capital into sustainable national power. Ultra intelligible artificial will determination the future of public mass.

Keywords: Intellectual Capital, Power Transition Theory, Technological Innovation, National Power, Hegemonic Stability Theory

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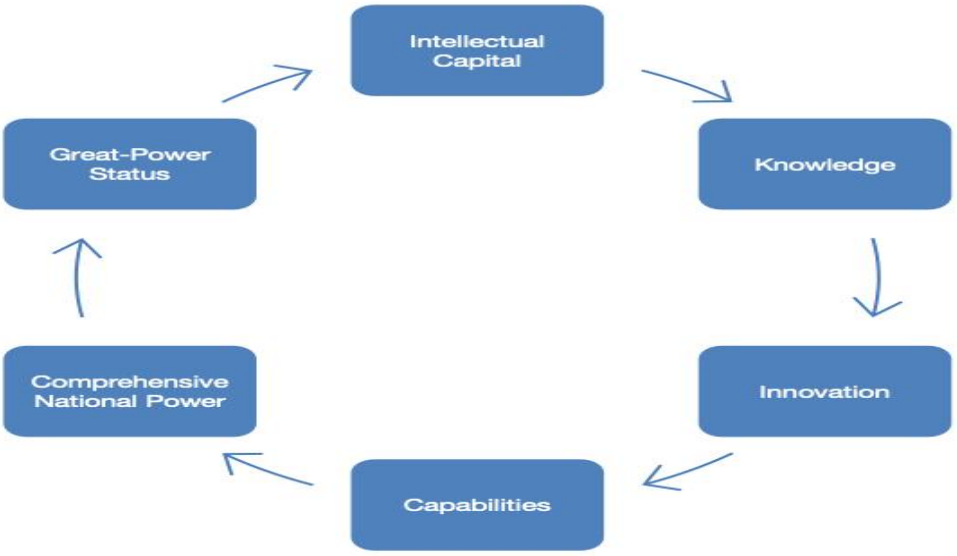

1. Introduction

The rise and fall of global powers are a broad phenomenon that encompasses the activities and historical experiences of states from the Middle Ages to the modern era of superpowers. The rise and fall of power refers to the process through which states gain, sustain, and eventually lose their position in the international system due to changes in economic strength, military capabilities, technology, leadership, institutions, strategic decision-making, national unity, and social cohesion. The historical rise and decline of hegemonic powers suggest that military, territorial, economic, and institutional dominance alone cannot guarantee the long-term preservation of international leadership. From the Achaemenid Persian and Roman Empires to the Tang and Abbasid civilizations, Mongol and Ottoman Empires, Spanish and Dutch powers, and eventually the British Empire, dominant states achieved influence through different combinations of military strength, trade, administration, resources, and technological advancement[1] (Pines, Biran, & Rüpke, 2021). However, when these powers failed to sustain the intellectual, scientific, technological, and human-capital foundations necessary to generate new capabilities, their relative advantages gradually weakened and other powers emerged. The hegemonic decline should be understood not only as the loss of military or economic superiority, but also as the erosion of a state's capacity to produce knowledge, cultivate talent, generate innovation, and convert intellectual capital into national capabilities. From this perspective, the transition of global power can be viewed as a recurring process in which intellectual development creates innovation, innovation produces capabilities, and capabilities shape the distribution of international power. Carl McGuire argues that national power is not limited to military strength. Economic assistance, technological development, economic progress, and relationships with other states can also increase a country's international influence[2] (McGuire, 1952). Thus, the concept of a "superpower" has changed considerably throughout modern international history. Traditional great-power domination was primarily associated with military force, territorial expansion, colonialism, exploitation, and economic strength Britain, for example, became the dominant global power during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries after establishing a vast colonial empire and exercising considerable influence across Africa, Asia, and the Americas[3] (Marshall, 1998). Its

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[2] McGuire, Carl. "Point Four and the national power of the United States." The American Journal of Economics and Sociology 11, no. 3 (1952): 343-356.
[3] Marshall, P. J. "Presidential Address: Britain and the World in the Eighteenth Century: I, Reshaping the Empire." *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 8 (1998): 1-18.

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power was supported by industrialization, naval supremacy, financial leadership, technological innovation, political stability, global trade, and colonial expansion. Britain's rise resulted from the interaction of industrialization, naval supremacy, colonial expansion, financial leadership, technological innovation, political stability, and global trade. These factors enabled Britain to dominate international politics and the world economy throughout much of the nineteenth century. However, its decline was not caused by a single event. Economic exhaustion, imperial contraction, military overstretch, the emergence of new great powers, and structural changes in the international system gradually reduced its relative position[4](Vasileiadis, 2025). Despite this decline, Britain remains an important global actor with significant diplomatic, economic, military, and financial influence. Britain's decline illustrates that great-power status depends not only on accumulated military and economic resources but also on a state's continuing capacity to generate and retain technological, intellectual, and productive capabilities. As competing states developed their own industrial, technological, financial, and intellectual capacities, Britain's relative advantage gradually diminished."

The United States emerged as the world's leading power during the twentieth century through economic growth, industrialization, military strength, technological innovation, political stability, democratic governance, strategic alliances, and global leadership. By the end of World War II, the United States had become one of the world's dominant superpowers and further consolidated its position following the end of the Cold War in 1991[5] (Brands, 2018). Its experience demonstrates how economic strength, technological advancement, military capabilities, institutional stability, and international alliances can combine to produce sustained global influence. US dominance was supported not only by military power but also by economic, technological, and institutional**.**

The rise and decline of global powers can also be observed in earlier historical cases. The Roman Empire, Spanish Empire, Ottoman Empire, and Soviet Union demonstrate that no dominant power remains permanently hegemonic. The Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, ending the Cold War and leaving the United States as the world's sole superpower at that time[6] (Zubok, 2025). These historical experiences indicate that the decline of great powers generally results from the interaction of multiple factors rather than a single cause. Major factors contributing to the decline of great powers include economic stagnation or financial crises, military overexpansion and costly wars, political instability and corruption, weak leadership, technological decline or stagnation, social divisions and internal conflict, demographic challenges, failure to adapt to changing international conditions, and increasing competition from rising powers. These internal weaknesses can reduce a state's ability to maintain its military, economic, political, and technological advantages. Several major scholars have contributed to the study of power transitions and the rise and fall of great powers. Thucydides examined power transition and conflict in ancient Greece[7] (Cartwright 2026) so the power transition between Athens and Sparta in ancient Greece. Athens was a rising power, while Sparta was the established dominant power. As Athens became stronger, Sparta perceived its growing influence as a threat, increasing fear, rivalry, and insecurity and contributing to the Peloponnesian War (43-404 BCE). This idea later became known as the Thucydides Trap. A. F. K. Organski developed Power Transition Theory[8](Organski, 1958) that the international system has a hierarchical structure, with a dominant power and other states positioned at different levels of power. Conflict becomes more likely when a rising and dissatisfied challenger approaches the dominant state's level of power, creating a period of power parity and instability. Paul Kennedy analyzed the economic and military foundations of great powers [9] (Kennedy, 2010) and Robert Gilpin examined hegemonic change and transformations in international order[10](Gilpin, 1981). Building on these intellectual traditions, power transition beyond military and economic capabilities to include intellectual capital, technology, human talent, AI, knowledge, information, and intangible strategic assets. States gain or lose relative power according to their ability to generate, attract, retain, and convert intellectual capital into

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[4] Vasileiadis, Panos. "Reconstructing neoclassical realism: a transitive approach." *International Relations* 39, no. 4 (2025): 657-681.

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[6] Zubok, V. (2025). *The world of the Cold War: 1945-1991*. Random House.

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[10] Gilpin, Robert. *War and change in world politics*. Vol. 98. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981.

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technological, economic, institutional, and strategic capabilities. Thus, the distribution of intellectual capital may increasingly determine national power and future global power transitions. Existing power-transition theories focus mainly on military, economic, and material capabilities.

Historical examples demonstrate that power is neither permanent nor static. Britain, the United States, and contemporary China illustrate different stages of great-power rise, while the Roman, Spanish, Ottoman, and Soviet experiences demonstrate processes of decline. The rise of a power depends on its ability to develop and sustain economic, military, technological, political, and institutional capabilities, while decline occurs when these foundations weaken relative to those of competing states. Therefore, the rise and fall of great powers is a continuous process shaped by changing domestic conditions, technological developments, international competition, and transformations in the distribution of global power. Great powers must continuously adapt their foreign policy to changing circumstances. A state may possess enormous resources but decline because its leaders make strategic mistakes, fight unnecessary wars, fail to recognize emerging competitors, or misallocate resources. This perspective can be connected to historical cases such as: the decline of the Ottoman Empire, British imperial decline, Soviet decline, Japanese stagnation, and potentially contemporary great-power competition.

1.1. Evolution of Global Superpower: From British Imperialism to US-China Competition

The concept of the superpower has evolved considerably throughout modern international history. Although identifying a single dominant power in any historical period is inherently complex, the distribution of global power has traditionally been assessed through military capabilities, economic resources, territorial influence, technological advancement, diplomatic relationships, and the ability to shape international institutions. In earlier periods, great-power status was strongly associated with territorial expansion, military strength, naval supremacy, colonial possessions, and control over resources. In the contemporary international system, however, power has become increasingly multidimensional, incorporating economic interdependence, technological capabilities, international institutions, global alliances, financial influence, nuclear deterrence, and soft power. The British Empire provides an important historical case for examining the relationship between imperial expansion and global power. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Britain developed extensive colonial possessions and commercial networks across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and other regions[11] (Lester, 2006). British naval supremacy, industrial capacity, financial strength, and colonial institutions enabled London to exercise substantial influence over international commerce and global politics. China demonstrates how military capabilities, trade, colonial administration, and economic interests could be combined to sustain imperial power. The Opium Wars, in particular, illustrate the coercive dimension of nineteenth-century imperial relations between Britain and China[12] (Klein, 2012). Nevertheless, British predominance gradually encountered structural challenges during the twentieth century. Existing studies emphasize Britain's colonies, resources, trade networks, finance, and military capabilities as foundations of its rise. Less attention is given to intellectual capital, human talent, knowledge, innovation, and intangible strategic assets as drivers of British power.

The rise of the United States, Germany, Japan, and Russia/Soviet Union, combined with the economic and human costs of the First and Second World Wars, weakened Britain's relative position. Britain remained a major imperial and military power after the First World War, but the international distribution of economic and military capabilities increasingly shifted toward other states. The Second World War accelerated this transformation and contributed to the emergence of a fundamentally different international order[13] (Reynolds, 1992). The post-1945 transformation also demonstrated that international leadership increasingly depended on the capacity to mobilize scientific knowledge, technological innovation, human capital, and institutional expertise. The emergence of the United States as the leading post-1945 power represented an important transformation in the nature of global leadership[14] (Walker & Walker, 2018).

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The United States possessed an exceptionally large economy, significant industrial capacity, advanced technological capabilities, substantial military power, nuclear weapons, and an extensive network of international partnerships. The establishment and development of institutions such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and NATO further strengthened Washington's ability to exercise influence through international institutions and alliances. Consequently, American power after 1945 cannot be understood exclusively through military superiority, it must also be examined through economic, diplomatic, institutional, technological, and ideological dimensions. The emergence of the United States as the dominant global power after 1945 was accompanied by the construction of an extensive institutional architecture, including the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions, NATO, and a range of regional economic and security arrangements[15](Lake, Martin, & Risse, 2019). Existing research explains this order primarily through material capabilities, institutional design, military alliances, economic power, and US hegemonic strategy. Nevertheless, an important theoretical gap remains insufficient integration of intellectual capital, human talent, knowledge production, technological innovation, artificial intelligence, and intangible strategic assets into explanations of how national power is generated and transferred.

The Cold War subsequently produced a bipolar international system dominated by the United States and the Soviet Union[16] (Cox, 1990). Although the two superpowers competed militarily, economically, ideologically, technologically, and diplomatically, their enormous nuclear arsenals created a condition of mutual vulnerability. Nuclear deterrence fundamentally changed traditional understandings of military power because direct confrontation carried the possibility of catastrophic consequences. Arms-control agreements and strategic negotiations therefore became important components of their competition. The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 transformed the international system once again. With the disappearance of its principal geopolitical competitor, the United States entered a period frequently characterized as a unipolar moment. American military, economic, technological, diplomatic, and institutional capabilities provided Washington with exceptional global influence. However, the durability of this unipolar position has increasingly become a subject of scholarly debate.

The beginning of the twenty-first century introduced new dimensions to the study of superpower status. The rapid development of information technology, globalization, international trade, financial networks, artificial intelligence, cyber capabilities, and global communications has made the measurement of national power increasingly complex. Possession of nuclear weapons or a large conventional military is no longer sufficient by itself to determine whether a state qualifies as a global superpower. Contemporary power is increasingly measured through a combination of economic size, technological innovation, military capability, diplomatic reach, alliance networks, international institutional influence, financial power, and soft power. Within this changing environment, China has emerged as the most significant long-term challenger to US predominance. China's extraordinary economic growth, expanding trade relationships, technological development, military modernization, diplomatic initiatives, and Belt and Road Initiative have increased its global influence. China's growing role in international trade and infrastructure financing has provided Beijing with mechanisms for translating economic capabilities into diplomatic and strategic influence. Consequently, contemporary U.S.–China competition extends well beyond conventional military competition and encompasses trade, technology, supply chains, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, finance, infrastructure, diplomacy, and international institutions[17] (Ali, Saeed, & Gulshan, 2026). China provides a significant contemporary case for examining the Intellectual Power Transition. China's rise increasingly reflects its efforts to develop intellectual capital, human talent, scientific research, artificial intelligence, advanced technology, semiconductors, digital infrastructure, and other intangible strategic assets. China's challenge to US global leadership is therefore not based solely on economic growth or military modernization; it also reflects competition over knowledge production, technological innovation, talent, data, and the capacity to convert intellectual resources into strategic power.

The contemporary debate therefore requires a broader conception of national power. Joseph Nye's concept of soft power emphasizes attraction and influence, while realist approaches emphasize material capabilities and the distribution

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of power within the international system[18] (Barnett & Duvall, 2005). More recent approaches to economic statecraft and geoeconomics demonstrate how states can employ trade, investment, financial instruments, technology, and economic interdependence to pursue strategic objectives. Accordingly, the central question is no longer simply which country possesses the largest military, but which state possesses the greatest capacity to convert military, economic, technological, diplomatic, institutional, and soft-power resources into sustained global influence. From this perspective, the United States continues to possess an exceptionally broad combination of capabilities. Its economic strength, military reach, technological ecosystem, global alliances, financial influence, diplomatic networks, and institutional position provide significant advantages. Nevertheless, China's rise has reduced the extent to which American power can be understood as completely uncontested. Contemporary international politics is therefore increasingly characterized by strategic competition rather than uncontested unipolarity. However, the rise and decline of great powers should not be understood solely in terms of their existing military or economic capabilities. Great powers do not decline only when they lose military or economic superiority, they begin to decline when they lose the Intellectual Capital required to produce future military, economic, technological, and strategic power. Education, scientific research, innovation, skilled human resources, and intellectual capacity provide the foundations through which states renew and expand their national capabilities. This perspective highlights the importance of human intellectual capital as a deeper and potentially fundamental source of long-term national power.

The BRI has frequently been compared with the US Marshall Plan because both employ economic resources and international connectivity to pursue broader strategic objectives; however, the two initiatives differ substantially in their historical contexts, institutional arrangements, financing structures, and geopolitical purposes[19] (Ferdinand, 2016). However, they differ significantly in their scope, historical context, and implementation. The Marshall Plan (1948–1952) primarily focused on rebuilding Western Europe after World War II and preventing the spread of communism during the early Cold War[20] (Rünbacher, 2012). The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has similarities to, rather than is a copy of, the Marshall Plan. Historians and International Relations scholars debate the comparison, and there are important differences.

In contrast, the BRI, launched in 2013, is a long-term global infrastructure and connectivity strategy that spans Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and parts of the Middle East. Rather than post-war reconstruction, the BRI emphasizes trade connectivity, transportation networks, energy infrastructure, digital cooperation, and economic integration[21] (Ferdinand, 2016). While the Marshall Plan and the BRI emerged in very different historical contexts, both demonstrate how major powers can use economic resources, infrastructure, and international cooperation to pursue broader strategic objectives and shape the international order. The strategic significance of the BRI will depend not only on the amount of physical infrastructure China finances or constructs, but increasingly on its ability to connect infrastructure with technology, knowledge, human capital, innovation, and digital networks.

From the perspective of In the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT).) both the Marshall Plan and the Belt and Road Initiative demonstrate that major powers can expand their international influence through economic statecraft rather than territorial conquest. While the Marshall Plan helped establish US leadership in the post-World War II international order, the BRI represents China's effort to strengthen its global influence through infrastructure, connectivity, technology, and long-term economic partnerships. it recognizes both the similarities and the important differences between the two initiatives. In the age of artificial intelligence and rapid technological change, quick and rational decision-making is a critical element of national power. Future crises and opportunities can emerge within seconds, leaving little time for lengthy deliberation. States that can analyze information rapidly, make evidence-based decisions, and respond effectively will gain a significant strategic advantage over slower competitors.

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1.2. Intellectual Capital and the Historical Transition of Hegemonic Power

The historical transition of international power from the United Kingdom to the United States provides an important basis for examining the relationship between intellectual capital and hegemonic power. Although the British–American transition did not culminate in a direct military war between the two states, the distribution of power gradually shifted as the United States developed superior economic, technological, industrial, institutional, and strategic capabilities. An important but comparatively underexplored dimension of this transformation was the movement and concentration of intellectual capital. The United States increasingly became a major destination for scientists, scholars, researchers, engineers, and other highly skilled individuals, particularly during the twentieth century[22] (Schuelke-Leech & Leech, 2018). The concentration of intellectual talent, research institutions, universities, scientific networks, and technological capabilities enabled the United States to transform knowledge into innovation and innovation into economic and strategic capabilities. From the perspective of the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT), this historical experience suggests that changes in the distribution of intellectual capital may constitute an important underlying mechanism of broader power transitions.

TIPT does not argue that intellectual capital alone caused the transfer of hegemony from Britain to the United States. Rather, it proposes that intellectual capital can function as an upstream source of national power, interacting with economic resources, institutions, technology, military capabilities, and state strategy. The movement of intellectual capital toward the United States strengthened its capacity to generate scientific knowledge, technological innovation, industrial productivity, and strategic capabilities. Consequently, intellectual accumulation helped create the foundations upon which broader forms of American power could expand. This relationship can be conceptualized as:

Intellectual Capital → Knowledge Production → Innovation → Technological Capability → Economic and Strategic Power → Hegemonic Influence.

Therefore, the British–American case provides a historical illustration of how the redistribution of intellectual resources can accompany and potentially accelerate a wider redistribution of international power.

This historical perspective has significant implications for understanding the contemporary US–China rivalry. The competition between the United States and China increasingly extends beyond conventional military and economic competition into artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum technology, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, scientific research, higher education, and the global competition for highly skilled talent. These arenas are fundamentally dependent upon the production, attraction, retention, and strategic utilization of intellectual capital. TIPT therefore suggests that the future distribution of international power may depend increasingly on which state can build the stronger intellectual ecosystem and more effectively convert human knowledge and expertise into technological, economic, and strategic capabilities. In this sense, the US–China rivalry can be interpreted not only as a struggle between two major powers over existing material capabilities, but also as a competition over the intellectual foundations of future power.

1.3. China's Rise and Intellectual Power Transition

China has actively sought to attract overseas researchers through initiatives such as the Thousand Talents Program, Young Thousand Talents Program, and Changjiang Scholars Program. Studies indicate that these programs attracted many high-performing researchers, particularly Chinese-origin scholars who had studied or worked in the United States and Europe. A major bibliometric study published by Oxford University found significant growth in researcher mobility from the United States and European Union to China between 2010 and 2017[23] (Cao, Baas, Wagner, & Jonkers, 2020)

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[22] Schuelke-Leech, B. A., & Leech, T. C. (2018). Innovation in the American Era of Industrial Preeminence: The Interaction of Policy, Finance, and Human Capital. *Journal of Policy History*, *30*(4), 727-753.

[23] Cao, Cong, Jeroen Baas, Caroline S. Wagner, and Koen Jonkers. "Returning scientists and the emergence of China's science system." *Science and Public Policy* 47, no. 2 (2020): 172-183.

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Year	From USA to China	From EU to China	Total
2010	2,700 researchers	1,100 researchers	3,800
2017	4,600 researchers	2,400 researchers	7,000

These figures represent annual movements identified through publication records. Importantly, the majority of researchers were Chinese nationals or Chinese-origin researchers returning to China after studying or working abroad, rather than American- or European-born scientists. A separate Nature Index analysis also reported substantial researcher mobility toward China in 2017, estimating that nearly 10,000 researchers moved from the United States and more than 5,000 from the European Union. These figures should likewise be interpreted in the context of international researcher mobility, with a substantial proportion representing Chinese researchers returning from overseas. From the perspective of Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT, this growing movement of researchers toward China is significant because it indicates the increasing concentration and repatriation of intellectual Capital within a rising power. Such mobility can strengthen China's research capacity, knowledge production, innovation ecosystem, and long-term technological competitiveness.

1.4. Well-Known Scientists Who Returned to China

Several internationally recognized scholars studied or worked in Western institutions before taking leading positions in China. Many of these scholars became influential figures in Chinese science and technology after returning from abroad. During the twentieth century, the United States benefited substantially from attracting leading scientists from around the world. Since the 2000s, China has increasingly strengthened its scientific capacity by attracting overseas-trained researchers, particularly Chinese-origin scientists educated or employed in the United States and Europe[24] (Ru, Tang, Yeung, & Zhou, 2026). The available evidence therefore suggests a partial shift and repatriation of intellectual capital, rather than a mass movement of Western-born scientists to China. The dominant pattern has been the return of Chinese scholars who previously studied or developed professional careers abroad. Nevertheless, the ability to attract, develop, and retain such talent remains significant for China's scientific and technological development. China's rise as a technological and scientific power has been accompanied by the return of highly accomplished Chinese researchers who developed expertise and professional networks in leading Western institutions. Cases such as Shi Yigong, Rao Yi, Song-Chun Zhu, Yan Ning, Yitang Zhang, and the earlier example of Qian Xuesen illustrate how internationally acquired knowledge, research experience, and intellectual networks can be transferred back into China's universities and research institutions[25] (Cao, Baas, Wagner, & Jonkers, 2020). These cases provide an important illustration of TIPT's proposition that the movement and effective utilization of intellectual capital can contribute to the development of national scientific and technological capabilities. From the perspective of Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT), this case demonstrates that intellectual capital not merely military expenditure is an important source of national power. States that invest consistently in research, innovation, engineering, artificial intelligence, and highly skilled Intellectual Capital are better positioned to develop advanced capabilities and influence international security and strategic competition. Therefore, the rise of Chinese defense technology can be interpreted as an illustration of how sustained investment in intellectual resources can strengthen technological capabilities, international credibility, and geopolitical influence. In the twenty-first century, competition among great powers is increasingly shaped by knowledge, innovation, and intellectual leadership alongside traditional measures of military and economic strength. China’s growing capacity to attract, return, and retain internationally trained scientists represents an important dimension of the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). Nobel laureate Omar M. Yaghi[26] (Nobel Prize Outreach, 2025), formerly affiliated with the University of California, Berkeley, accepted a full-time appointment at Tsinghua University in 2026 to help establish an AI-enabled materials research institute. Similarly, Nobel laureate Hartmut Michel, formerly associated with the Max Planck Institute in Germany, joined Jilin University

[24] Ru, S., Tang, H., Yeung, B., & Zhou, X. (2026). Brain Circulation and Knowledge Creation: Evidence from Elite Chinese Scientists.
[25] Cao, C., Baas, J., Wagner, C. S., & Jonkers, K. (2020). Returning scientists and the emergence of China’s science system. *Science and Public Policy*, *47*(2), 172-183.
[26] Kitagawa, S., Robson, R., & Yaghi, O. M. (2025). Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025. *Reuters. com*.

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as a full-time professor in 2026[27] (Jilin University, 2026), where he works on structural biology, drug development, and translational medicine. These cases illustrate China's efforts to attract internationally recognized scientific talent and strengthen its research capacity.

This broader trend is also reflected in the return migration of Chinese-origin scientists. A 2022 study by Yu Xie and colleagues, based on the institutional affiliations of more than 2.3 million scientific papers, identified a steady increase in the return migration of Chinese-origin scientists from the United States to China[28](Xie et al., 2022). Their survey of approximately 1,300 Chinese-origin scientists employed at USuniversities also examined how concerns surrounding the U.S.–China research environment influenced some scientists' decisions regarding international mobility. Such evidence demonstrates that the movement of highly trained researchers can have important implications for the distribution of global intellectual capital.

Song-Chun Zhu provides another significant example relevant to TIPT. Born in China, Zhu earned his PhD from Harvard University and subsequently became a tenured professor at UCLA, where he developed an internationally recognized career in artificial intelligence and computer vision. In 2020, he returned to China and later became director of the Beijing Institute for General Artificial Intelligence (BIGAI)[29] (AACL-IJCNLP, 2020). His career illustrates how internationally acquired expertise can contribute to China's research and innovation ecosystem, particularly in the strategically important field of artificial intelligence. Another example is Charles Lieber, formerly of Harvard University, who later established a research presence in Shenzhen focusing on brain-computer interfaces and neurotechnology. Because his case involves significant legal controversy related to his previous UScareer, it should be treated cautiously and distinguished from the broader evidence of international scientific mobility[30] (Santoso & Rahmawati, 2025).

From the perspective of TIPT, these cases illustrate a broader phenomenon of intellectual-capital migration and talent attraction, rather than a mass migration of Nobel laureates. The movement of Nobel laureates and other internationally recognized researchers from leading institutions in the United States and Europe to Chinese universities, together with the return migration of Chinese-origin scientists, illustrates China's efforts to accumulate high-level intellectual capital. Such movements are strategically significant because human talent contributes to knowledge production, research capacity, technological innovation, artificial intelligence development, and the creation of intangible strategic assets.

According to TIPT, the twenty-first century is witnessing a transformation in the foundations of national power. States increasingly compete not only through military capabilities and economic strength but also through their ability to attract, develop, retain, and effectively utilize scientists, researchers, engineers, and innovators. A country's ability to attract global intellectual talent can reflect the strength of its research institutions, technological capabilities, scientific infrastructure, funding environment, and innovation ecosystem. When distinguished international scholars choose to conduct research in China because of its laboratories, research funding, scientific infrastructure, and collaborative opportunities, such movements can be interpreted as potential indicators of intellectual power attraction. From the perspective of TIPT, this phenomenon highlights several interconnected propositions. First, investment in education and research can create long-term strategic advantages. Second, global talent migration can serve as an indicator of changing national intellectual capabilities. Third, universities and research institutions have become strategic assets in contemporary geopolitical competition. Fourth, countries that successfully attract and retain leading intellectual talent can strengthen their innovation ecosystems and expand their scientific, technological, economic, and strategic influence. Therefore, the movement of prominent scholars to leading Chinese universities, if it represents a broader and sustained pattern rather than isolated cases, may provide empirical evidence for the TIPT argument that intellectual capital has become an increasingly important source of national power. Under TIPT, the ability of a state to attract, develop, retain, and convert global intellectual capital into knowledge, innovation, technology, and strategic capabilities can contribute significantly to its long-term position in the international system.

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[27] Jilin University. (2026, May 8). *Nobel laureate biochemist Hartmut Michel joins Jilin University in China*. Jilin University.

[28] Xie, Y., Lin, X., Li, J., He, Q., & Huang, J. (2022). *Caught in the crossfire: Fears of Chinese-American scientists*. Asian American Scholar Forum. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2209.10642

[29] AACL-IJCNLP. (2020). *Keynote speakers: Song-Chun Zhu*. AACL-IJCNLP.

[30] Santoso[1], B., & Rahmawati, S. United States v. Charles M. Lieber: Assessing Allegations of Scientific Misconduct.

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1.5. Historical Evidence

Many European scientists and intellectuals moved to the United States, particularly during and after the Second World War. Albert Einstein and numerous other European scientists contributed to American universities, research institutions, and scientific programs[31] (Bruce, 2022). This influx of intellectual talent strengthened American higher education, scientific research, nuclear technology, and innovation capacity. The accumulation of global intellectual talent became an important foundation of American scientific and technological leadership and contributed to the country's emergence as a global superpower.

The Soviet Union, by contrast, did not decline solely because of economic problems or its military involvement in Afghanistan. Although economic stagnation and the Afghan War weakened the Soviet system, its intellectual capital remained largely within the Soviet sphere and did not shift massively toward rival states. As a result, the USSR continued to compete with the United States as a major global power until its political collapse in 1991. This comparison suggests that the migration of scientists, researchers, and other highly skilled individuals can influence the distribution of knowledge, innovation, and strategic capacity between competing states.

A rising power therefore requires not only economic and military capabilities but also the ability to develop, attract, and retain Intellectual Capital. China's transformation into a global power demonstrates the importance of investment in education, scientific research, technological development, and talent retention. China has implemented policies aimed at retaining skilled professionals and attracting global talent, thereby strengthening its intellectual resources and reducing the potential loss of Intellectual Capital. These efforts have contributed to its innovation, competitiveness, and long-term strategic influence. In the context of US-China geostrategic competition, I propose that an advanced stage of great-power competition involves competition over Intellectual Capital. This concept, which I call the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). argues that a state's long-term dominance depends significantly on its ability to attract, develop, retain, and effectively utilize highly skilled individuals. Power transition may accelerate when scientists, engineers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and other intellectuals increasingly migrate toward a rising power. Such a transfer of Intellectual Capital can strengthen the challenger while gradually reducing the intellectual and innovative capacity of the established power, making talent migration a potential indicator of future shifts in global power. At this stage, competition extends beyond economic, military, and technological capabilities to the struggle for one of the most valuable resources of the modern knowledge economy talented people. The ability to cultivate and retain intellectual capital may therefore become a critical determinant of whether states rise, maintain their position, or experience long-term decline. At this stage, states compete to attract, educate, retain, and empower the world's most talented individuals. Scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, innovators, and researchers become strategic assets whose movement can reshape the future balance of international power. According to the theory, power transition begins when intellectual capital increasingly flows toward a rising power and away from the established dominant power.

1.6. European Scientific Migration and the Rise of US Intellectual Power

Before and during the Second World War, thousands of Europe's leading scientists and scholars fled Nazi Germany and occupied Europe. More than 2,500–3,000 scientists and scholars are estimated to have emigrated from Germany alone between 1933 and 1945. Many settled in the United States, while others moved to the United Kingdom, Canada,[32] (Viola et al., 2023). The Nazi-era intellectual exodus demonstrates that international power can be affected by the geographical redistribution of human capital. When highly skilled scientists and scholars move from one country to another, they transfer knowledge, expertise, research networks, and innovative capacity. The receiving state can therefore experience an increase in its intellectual and technological capabilities, while the sending state may suffer a corresponding loss of human capital. Among them were prominent figures such as Albert Einstein, John von Neumann, Enrico Fermi, Edward Teller, and Hans Bethe. Their contributions became important to the Manhattan Project, nuclear physics, modern computing, economics, and American university research.

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[31] Bruce, R. V. (2022). *The launching of modern American science, 1846-1876*. Plunkett Lake Press.

[32] Viola, Lorella, Machteld Venken, and Jaap Verheul. "Migration studies and the digital: datafication, implications and methodological approaches." *Frontiers in Human Dynamics* 5 (2023): 1337817.

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1.7. Operation Paperclip (1945-1955)

Following the Second World War, the US government deliberately recruited German scientists, engineers, and technical specialists. Approximately 765 scientists, engineers, and technicians were officially brought to the United States through Project Overcast, Project Paperclip, and related programs between 1945 and 1955[33]. (US National Archives and Records Administration, 2007). Some historians use a broader definition and estimate that more than 1,600 German specialists eventually entered the United States through Paperclip-related recruitment programs[34] (Gimbel, 1990). This systematic acquisition of foreign scientific and technical expertise illustrates how states can convert internationally mobile human capital into technological, military, and strategic capabilities. The United States did not acquire power merely by possessing more resources; it also strengthened its postwar technological capabilities by attracting and utilizing internationally mobile intellectual capital.

1.8. Wider Postwar Intellectual Migration

Beyond Germany, the United States attracted scientists and highly skilled professionals from Austria, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Britain, France, Soviet-controlled Eastern Europe, and other regions. In subsequent decades, this pattern expanded to include significant numbers of researchers and professionals from countries such as India, China, South Korea, and Taiwan. By the 1950s and 1960s[35] (Wang, 2010). the growing concentration of highly educated scientists, engineers, physicians, and researchers had strengthened American universities, research institutions, and technological industries. This accumulation of global intellectual talent contributed significantly to the emergence of the United States as a leading center of scientific research and innovation. From a TIPT perspective, the ability to attract and utilize internationally mobile human capital represents an important mechanism through which states accumulate intellectual power and convert it into technological and strategic capabilities.

1.9. Intellectual Capital as a Driver of National Power: Relevance to the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT)

The United States did not become the world's leading power after the Second World War solely because of military victory or economic resources. It also became a major destination for global intellectual capital. The migration of thousands of leading scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and innovators accelerated American advances in nuclear technology, aerospace, computing, medicine, and higher education[36] (Agarwal et al., 2023). From the perspective of the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) this movement of Intellectual Capital represents an important example of intellectual power contributing to a broader transition in national power. The concentration of highly skilled individuals strengthened USscientific and technological capabilities and, in turn, contributed to its economic, military, and geopolitical influence during the second half of the twentieth century. This historical case therefore provides important support for the proposed theory by illustrating a relationship between the concentration of elite Intellectual Capital and long-term changes in technological, economic, military, and geopolitical power. This is partly because many are Chinese nationals returning after studying or working abroad, while others are foreign researchers recruited by Chinese universities and research institutions. However, available academic evidence provides estimates that can help assess the scale and significance of this intellectual migration.

The Theory of Intellectual Power Transition introduces intellectual capital as an independent variable for explaining long-term shifts in international power. It argues that future global leadership depends less on the possession of territory or natural resources and more on a state's capacity to generate, attract, develop, and retain human intelligence. In the knowledge economy of the twenty-first century, nations that become preferred destinations for

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[33] U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, Interagency Working Group. (2007). *Implementation of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act: Final report to Congress*.

[34] Gimbel, John. "Project Paperclip: German Scientists, American Policy, and the Cold War." *Diplomatic History* 14, no. 3 (1990): 343-366.

[35] Wang, Zuoyue. "Transnational science during the Cold War: the case of Chinese/American scientists." *Isis* 101, no. 2 (2010): 367-377.

[36] Agarwal, R., Ganguli, I., Gaulé, P., & Smith, G. (2023). Why US immigration matters for the global advancement of science. *Research Policy*, *52*(1), 104659.

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global talent gain significant strategic advantages. Military capability, economic wealth, and technological assets remain essential components of national power, but these capabilities are increasingly dependent on intellectual capital. States that attract and retain highly skilled individuals are better positioned to advance scientific discovery, technological innovation, economic development, military modernization, and global influence. Conversely, states that experience sustained losses of intellectual capital may gradually weaken their capacity for innovation and strategic competition. Therefore, the migration and concentration of intellectual talent constitute important potential indicators of future power transitions in the international system. Silicon Valley provides a prominent example of intellectual power in practice. Its global leadership has been built not only on American innovation but also on its ability to attract talented immigrants from around the world. Scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, and researchers from countries such as India, China, Taiwan, South Korea, and many others have contributed to the development of major technology companies, including Apple, Google, NVIDIA, Tesla, and OpenAI. This concentration of intellectual capital has strengthened US technological capabilities and contributed to its broader economic and geopolitical influence.

Accordingly, to the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) that strategic competition among states is increasingly shaped by their ability to attract, develop, retain, and effectively utilize intellectual talent. The state that successfully converts intellectual capital into knowledge, innovation, technological capabilities, economic productivity, and military advancement is more likely to strengthen its position in the international system. Thus, intellectual capital should be understood not merely as a supporting component of national power but as a fundamental source through which other forms of power are created and sustained.

2. Conceptual Framework

British Imperial Power
Colonies + Naval Power + Trade + Industrial Capacity
↓
US-Soviet Bipolarity
nuclear weapons + Ideology + Military Alliances + Economic Systems
↓
Post-1991 USUnipolarity
Military + Economy + Technology + Institutions + Alliances
↓
21st-Century Competition
Military + Economy + Technology + AI + Trade + Finance + Alliances + Institutions + Soft Power

From the perspective of the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT), the historical evolution of global power demonstrates that the foundations of great-power status have progressively shifted from control over territory and material resources toward increasingly knowledge-intensive forms of capability. British imperial power was built primarily on colonies, naval supremacy, trade, and industrial capacity; U.S.–Soviet bipolarity subsequently rested on nuclear weapons, ideological competition, military alliances, and competing economic systems; and post-1991 USunipolarity combined military and economic superiority with technological leadership, international institutions, and global alliances. In the twenty-first century, however, power has become even more multidimensional, encompassing artificial intelligence, advanced technology, finance, trade, institutional influence, soft power, and human capital. TIPT argues that these capabilities do not emerge independently: people produce knowledge, knowledge generates innovation, innovation creates technological and strategic capabilities, and these capabilities generate national power. Consequently, the transition from British imperial dominance to contemporary U.S.–China competition can be understood not only as a redistribution of material power but also as a transition in the concentration, production, attraction, and utilization of intellectual capital. States that successfully attract, educate, retain, and mobilize highly skilled scientists, engineers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and other knowledge producers are better positioned to convert intellectual capital into technological innovation, economic productivity, military capabilities, and geopolitical influence. From this perspective, the contemporary competition between the United States and China represents an important stage of intellectual power transition in which control over AI, semiconductors, biotechnology, advanced research, universities, scientific networks, and skilled human capital increasingly determines the distribution of twenty-first-century power.

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2.1. Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT): A Perspective on the India–Pakistan Military Confrontation

The recent military escalation between India and Pakistan, Operation Sindhoor -India and Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos Pakistan[37] (Rauf, 2026) provides an interesting case for examining the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). Rather than focusing solely on the quantity or technological sophistication of military hardware, this perspective emphasizes the role of intellectual capability in shaping strategic outcomes. India possesses advanced military platforms, including French-made Rafale fighter aircraft, which are generally regarded as technologically sophisticated. However, military effectiveness depends not only on advanced weapons but also on strategic planning, intelligence, command and control, operational doctrine, pilot training, organizational learning, and decision-making. From the perspective of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT, strategic outcomes are influenced by the effective application of knowledge, innovation, and intellectual capability rather than by material superiority alone. If a state with comparatively fewer or less advanced military resources achieves its operational objectives through superior planning, coordination, training, and leadership, this demonstrates the importance of intellectual power in modern warfare. The debate surrounding the India–Pakistan confrontation has also contributed to discussions about military modernization and long-term strategic planning, including initiatives such as Defence Vision 2045[38] (Srivastava, 2026). Such initiatives reflect the recognition that future security depends not only on acquiring advanced military equipment but also on strengthening research, technological innovation, indigenous defence production, and Intellectual Capital. This case illustrates a central proposition of Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). In the twenty-first century, intellectual capabilities including strategic thinking, technological innovation, organizational learning, and skilled Intellectual Capital can be as important as, and in some circumstances more important than, numerical military strength or expensive defense platforms. Modern warfare increasingly requires states to integrate advanced technology with effective decision-making, knowledge, and human expertise.

Accordingly, Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). The India–Pakistan case can be examined as an illustration of the broader argument that future shifts in the balance of power will depend not only on military assets but also on the ability of states to generate, develop, attract, retain, and effectively utilize intellectual capital. From the perspective of the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT), India's Defense Industrial Sector Vision 2047 provides an important contemporary example of how intellectual capital can be transformed into strategic power. The KPMG–CII 2025 report identifies research and development, innovation, talent and skill development, advanced technologies, strategic partnerships, and infrastructure as key capabilities for India's future defense sector. Importantly, the roadmap sets a long-term objective of achieving global leadership in critical niche defense technologies by 2045 through industry–academia–government collaboration and investment in next-generation R&D. From a TIPT perspective, this illustrates the process through which:

Intellectual Capital → Knowledge and R&D → Innovation → Advanced Technology → Defense Capability → National Strategic Power.

2.2. Hazrat Umar (RA) and Intellectual Power in the Rise of Islamic Civilization

The Prophet ﷺ made the supplication,

"O Allah, strengthen Islam with the one who is more beloved to You of these two men: Abu Jahl or Umar ibn al-Khattab[39] (Al-Tirmidhi, Hadith 3681). Hazrat Umar ibn al-Khattab (RA) did not attend a formal university, as such institutions did not exist in Arabia at that time. Nevertheless, historical accounts describe him as highly literate, intellectually capable, and an influential leader who later became an important patron of education and organized learning in the early Islamic civilization[40] (Ayyad, 2022). His emphasis on literacy, qualified teachers, administration,

[37] Rauf, S. (2026). Connectivity, conflict and diplomacy: Pakistan's middle power journey. *International Journal of Policy Studies, 6*(1), 72–96.

[38] Srivastava, Akarsh. "Understanding Indigenisation in India's Defence Manufacturing Ecosystem." *Available at SSRN 7063418* (2026).

[39] Al-Tirmidhi, M. I. (n.d.). *Jamiʿ al-Tirmidhi* (Hadith 3681).

[40] Ayyad, Essam. "How were young Muslim minds shaped? A critical study of the kuttāb in Medieval Islam." *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 32, no. 1 (2022): 141-185.

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and organized learning contributed to the development of Islamic educational institutions and intellectual traditions.

According to the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT), the rise and development of civilizations are strongly influenced by the quality, concentration, and effective mobilization of Intellectual Capital. The early history of Islam provides an illustrative example of this proposition. Before the conversion of Hazrat Umar (RA), the Muslim community in Makkah faced severe persecution and significant political and social vulnerability. His conversion brought exceptional leadership, administrative ability, strategic thinking, and political courage to the emerging Muslim community. His support strengthened the community's institutional capacity and contributed to its ability to practice Islam more openly and, later, develop effective systems of governance. From the perspective of Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT, the example of Hazrat Umar (RA) illustrates how capable leadership and the effective utilization of Intellectual Capital can contribute to the institutional development and expansion of a civilization. At the same time, within Islamic belief, the success and spread of Islam ultimately occurred through the will of Allah and the divine message revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. The historical contribution of intellectually capable and strategically gifted individuals such as Hazrat Umar (RA) can therefore be understood as an important human dimension through which the early Muslim community developed its political, administrative, educational, and social institutions. The accumulation and effective utilization of exceptional Intellectual Capital including scholars, innovators, strategists, administrators, and visionary leaders can significantly enhance a state's capacity for institutional development, strategic competitiveness, and long-term civilizational influence. This formulation is appropriate for an academic audience because it does not suggest that Islam became a major civilization solely because of Hazrat Umar (RA) Instead, it recognizes his intellectual and strategic leadership as one of the important historical factors that strengthened the early Islamic state, while acknowledging the central role of divine revelation in Islamic theology. So this demonstrates that intellectual power does not necessarily depend on modern educational infrastructure; it can emerge when political leadership recognizes knowledge and human capability as strategic resources and develops institutions for their transmission and utilization.

2.3. Estonia's Digital Power: A Small-State Case of Intellectual Power Transition

Estonia provides a compelling small-state case for examining the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). Despite its relatively small population, territory, and limited conventional military capabilities, Estonia has developed significant strengths in cybersecurity, digital governance, technological innovation, and e-government. The Estonian experience demonstrates that national power is not determined solely by population size, territorial scale, military strength, or economic capacity[41] (Carmichael, 2025). Rather, states can generate disproportionate strategic influence by investing in human capital and effectively transforming knowledge, expertise, and innovation into technological and cyber capabilities. In this sense, Estonia illustrates a central proposition of TIPT intellectual capital can be converted into tangible national capabilities, allowing even small states to acquire forms of power that exceed what their traditional material resources might suggest**.** The Estonian experience therefore demonstrates that national power cannot be understood solely in terms of population size, territorial scale, military capabilities, or economic resources. Rather, the effective development and utilization of technological knowledge, digital infrastructure, institutional capacity, and skilled human capital can enable a small state to develop capabilities and international influence disproportionate to its material size.

2.4. Key Theoretical Distinction for the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT)

For the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT), the central distinction is between intellectual power and other forms of national power. Intellectual power is conceptualized as the generative foundation that enables a state to develop, sustain, and renew its other forms of power**.**

The proposed causal sequence is:

Intellectual Capital → Knowledge → Innovation → Technology → Economic & Military Capabilities → Comprehensive National Power → Global Influence

[41] Carmichael, Logan. "Lessons from small and highly-digitalised Estonia: Decision-making in the aftermath of cybersecurity crises." *Internet Policy Review* 14, no. 3 (2025): 1-30.

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Under this framework, scientists, engineers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and strategic thinkers generate knowledge; knowledge produces innovation; innovation contributes to technological advancement; and technology strengthens economic, military, and institutional capabilities. These capabilities, in turn, enhance comprehensive national power and international influence. A nation's long-term rise or decline is therefore determined not primarily by its existing military or economic resources, but by its ability to create, attract, develop, retain, and effectively utilize Intellectual Capital. Intellectual power can generate technological innovation, economic productivity, military capabilities, institutional resilience, and strategic adaptability, making it a fundamental driver of power transition in the international system. This hierarchy represents a central contribution of Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT and distinguishes it from classical Power Transition Theory, Realism, and Neorealism by identifying Intellectual Capital and intellectual capability as primary drivers underlying the development and transformation of national power Rather than treating intellectual capacity as merely one component of state power, Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT places it at the foundation of the process through which other forms of power are generated and renewed. There are no single exact number of scientists who migrated to the United States, as European intellectual migration occurred through several different channels before, during, and after the Second World War. However, historians provide various estimates based on different periods and definitions of scientific migration.

2.5. Foundations of Superpower Status under Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT)

For the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT), superpower status should be understood as the product of interconnected sources of national capability rather than military or economic strength alone. These foundations can be organized into the following dimensions:

- Strong Intellectual and Cognitive Capital – Highly educated citizens, scientists, researchers, innovators, critical thinkers, engineers, and skilled professionals capable of producing knowledge and generating innovation.
- Strong Governance – Effective institutions, strategic leadership, administrative capacity, and effective policy implementation
- Strong Society – Social cohesion, national identity, social trust, and collective resilience.
- Strong Security – Military capabilities, intelligence capacity, cybersecurity, strategic preparedness, and internal stability.
- Strong Economy – Sustainable economic growth, industrial capacity, international trade, financial resilience, and productive investment.
- Strong Technological Capacity – Leadership in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, biotechnology, semiconductors, aerospace, robotics, and other emerging technologies.
- Strong Intangible Strategic Assets – Intellectual property, patents, data, algorithms, software, research institutions, innovation ecosystems, global standards, digital infrastructure, and strategic knowledge networks.

Under Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT), these dimensions are interconnected, but intellectual and cognitive capital occupies a foundational position because it enables states to create knowledge, develop technology, improve institutions, strengthen economic productivity, modernize security capabilities, and adapt to changing international conditions. The proposed causal relationship can therefore be expressed as**:**

Intellectual Capital → Knowledge → Innovation → Technology → Economic, Military & Institutional Capabilities → Comprehensive National Power → Global Influence

This framework places intellectual Capital at the center of the long-term rise, maintenance, and decline of great powers**.**

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3. Future Global Leadership and the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT)

A nation's rise to superpower status depends on the interaction of a strong society, ethical and legal institutions, effective governance, comprehensive security, a resilient economy, intellectual and cognitive capital, technological leadership, and intangible strategic assets. In the era of artificial intelligence, intellectual capital has become an increasingly important force for transforming knowledge into technology, technology into economic and military capabilities, and innovation into long-term global influence. According to the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). when intellectual and intangible assets increasingly shift from one state to another, the distribution of global power may also shift. In the future, competition among nations is likely to extend beyond traditional military rivalry toward competition in knowledge, research, innovation, and technology. Rather than relying primarily on territorial conquest, states may increasingly compete by strengthening eight interconnected pillars of national power: society, ethical and legal institutions, governance, security, economy, intellectual and cognitive capital, technology, and intangible strategic assets. Countries that perform strongly across these dimensions are more likely to attract global talent, investment, research partnerships, businesses, and international collaboration. Their influence can therefore expand through knowledge, innovation, and technological leadership rather than territorial expansion. Under this perspective, universities, research institutions, technology companies, and innovation ecosystems are becoming increasingly important arenas of strategic competition. States seek influence by producing scientific discoveries, advanced technologies, innovative ideas, and solutions to global challenges. As international interdependence increases, cooperation in science, education, technology, and economic development may become increasingly important alongside traditional forms of geopolitical competition. According to Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT)future global leadership will increasingly favor states that can create, attract, develop, retain, and effectively utilize intellectual capital. The movement of scientists, researchers, innovators, AI specialists, engineers, and entrepreneurs may therefore become an important indicator of changes in the distribution of global power. Rather than territorial conquest alone, the ability to accumulate and convert intellectual capital into technological, economic, military, and institutional capabilities may increasingly influence the rise and decline of great powers. As states become more interconnected through science, technology, education, and innovation, the strategic importance of some religious and ideological differences may gradually decline relative to competition over knowledge, talent, technological leadership, and shared economic development. This should be understood as a theoretical proposition rather than a prediction that religious or ideological differences will disappear. The central argument of Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) is that the ability to generate, attract, and utilize intellectual capital will become an increasingly important foundation of national power and long-term international influence Future conflicts are likely to increasingly involve intellectual power, data, scientific knowledge, and advanced artificial intelligence. In this emerging environment, states with the capacity to generate, control, protect, and effectively utilize data and knowledge may gain significant strategic advantages.
Three important dimensions can be identified:

3.1. Intellectual Power as a Future Domain of Strategic Competition

Future warfare may increasingly extend beyond traditional military capabilities toward competition over intellectual capital, knowledge, data, research, and innovation. States that possess advanced scientific communities, skilled researchers, large and high-quality datasets, and strong innovation ecosystems may have greater capacity to develop advanced military and technological capabilities.

3.2. Scientists, Researchers, and Scholars as Strategic Assets

Scientists, engineers, cybersecurity specialists, researchers, and scholars are becoming increasingly important to national security. Their expertise contributes to cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, biotechnology, advanced weapons systems, information security, and strategic decision-making. Consequently, the protection and retention of intellectual talent may become an important component of national security.

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3.3. Ultra-Intangible Artificial Intelligence (UIAI)

"Ultra-Intangible Artificial Intelligence (UIAI) may represent a possible next frontier of technological evolution. While it is not currently a universally standardized scientific category, the concept offers a novel framework for examining increasingly autonomous, knowledge-driven, and non-material AI capabilities and their potential effects on technology, society, and global power**."**

3.4. Intellectual Capital, Genetic Technology, and the Ethics of Reproductive Decision-Making

In the future, the accumulation of intellectual capital in genetics, biotechnology, medicine, and artificial intelligence may significantly enhance prenatal genetic diagnosis. Such advances may raise profound ethical questions about whether parents should be permitted to consider termination of pregnancy when a fetus is diagnosed with a severe genetic disorder, serious congenital condition, or profound disability likely to significantly affect the child's health and quality of life. This raises a broader question of whether increasing intellectual capital and technological capability will not only enhance human well-being but also transform fundamental ethical decisions concerning reproduction, disability, and the value of human life.

3.5. The Future of National Power: From Ideological Competition to Intellectual and Technological Competition

In the future, religion may become a less dominant factor in interstate competition, while intellectual capital, scientific knowledge, technological innovation, and human expertise may emerge as increasingly important sources of national power. Competition among nations may therefore shift from primarily ideological and material dimensions toward competition over knowledge, talent, data, innovation, artificial intelligence, and the capacity to generate and apply new knowledge. If the global distribution of power shifts toward China and other non-Western centers, the international system may experience a gradual transformation in the role of religion and civilization. Islam, Judaism, and Christianity, despite their significant theological differences, share historical roots, ethical traditions, and several common concepts. This shared heritage could provide a basis for greater interfaith dialogue and cooperation. At the same time, however, the future international order is unlikely to be determined by religion alone; intellectual capital, scientific knowledge, technological innovation, and economic capabilities may increasingly become the principal sources of global power

3.6. Research Problem Issue or Gap That the Study Addresses

Intellectual Capital as a Fundamental Driver of National Power Transition. The rise and decline of great powers have been extensively examined in International Relations and historical scholarship. Existing theories explain changes in the international distribution of power through different variables, including military capabilities, economic strength, political institutions, technological development, hegemonic leadership, and systemic competition. Realism and neorealism emphasize material capabilities and the distribution of power; liberal theories highlight institutions, cooperation, and economic interdependence; hegemonic stability theory focuses on the role of dominant powers in maintaining international order; while power transition theory examines competition between dominant and rising states. Other approaches similarly emphasize economic, technological, geopolitical, and institutional factors in explaining the rise and decline of nations. Despite this extensive literature, an important dimension remains insufficiently theorized: human intellectual capital as a fundamental source and mechanism of national power transition. This study argues that the rise and decline of nations cannot be adequately understood through military and economic indicators alone. Human intellectual capital including scholars, scientists, researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, educators, engineers, and strategic thinkers is a critical foundation upon which military, economic, technological, diplomatic, and institutional capabilities are constructed.

A state may possess substantial natural resources, territory, military capabilities, or financial wealth, but its long-term power depends significantly on its ability to attract, develop, retain, and effectively mobilize talented people. Intellectual capital enables states to generate knowledge, develop innovation, strengthen institutions, improve productivity, advance technology, and enhance strategic decision-making. Historical patterns provide important evidence for this proposition. During periods of British global predominance, Britain benefited from a strong

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concentration of scientific, intellectual, technological, commercial, and institutional capabilities. The movement of intellectual and scientific talent across countries also contributed to changing centers of knowledge and innovation. Following the Second World War, the United States became an increasingly important destination for scientists, academics, researchers, engineers, and other highly skilled individuals from Europe, Asia, and other regions. The concentration of intellectual capital within American universities, research institutions, technology sectors, and government organizations subsequently contributed to US scientific, technological, economic, and strategic capabilities. These historical patterns suggest that the movement and concentration of Intellectual Capital can provide an important, yet insufficiently developed, explanation of changes in national power. Intellectual migration is not merely a social or economic phenomenon; it can also have significant geopolitical consequences. When highly skilled individuals move toward a particular country, they can transfer knowledge, strengthen research institutions, generate technological innovation, develop industries, contribute to military and strategic capabilities, and increase national competitiveness. Conversely, the persistent loss of intellectual capital can weaken a state's capacity for innovation, adaptation, and long-term development. Accordingly, this study proposes that intellectual Capital should be treated as a fundamental variable in explaining the rise, maintenance, and decline of national power. This proposition provides the conceptual foundation for the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT), which seeks to complement existing theories by placing human intellectual capacity at the center of long-term power transitions in the international system. The study therefore seeks to develop a new conceptual approach termed the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). The theory proposes that intellectual capacity functions as an upstream source of several other dimensions of national power. Its central causal sequence is:

Intellectual Capacity → Innovation → Economic & Technological Power → Military & Diplomatic Capacity → International Influence → Power Transition

The theory also recognizes a reverse process in which the persistent loss of Intellectual Capital can contribute to national decline**:**

Brain Drain → Loss of Intellectual Capacity → Reduced Innovation → Economic & Technological Weakness → Declining National Capability → Relative Power Decline

The central proposition of Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) is,

"A nation cannot remain powerful if it cannot develop, attract, retain, and effectively utilize Intellectual Capital. The concentration of intellectual power is a fundamental driver of national rise, while the persistent loss of Intellectual Capital can become a structural source of national decline."

Under this framework, Intellectual Capital is positioned upstream of several interconnected dimensions of national power:

Intellectual Capital
↓
Knowledge & Intellectual Capacity
↓
Science & Technology
↓
Innovation
↓
Economic Productivity
↓
Military Capability
↓
Diplomatic & Institutional Influence
↓
Global Power

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The central theoretical gap addressed by this study is the insufficient theorization of Intellectual Capital and intellectual power as independent drivers of national rise and decline within International Relations. In particular, existing IR approaches have given comparatively limited attention to how the attraction, concentration, mobility, retention, and loss of highly skilled Intellectual Capital can generate long-term changes in national capabilities and contribute to power transitions in the international system. Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). seeks to address this gap by placing intellectual capital at the center of the process through which states develop, sustain, and lose national power.

4. Research Questions

- Does human intellectual capital influence the rise, sustainability, and decline of great powers in the international system?
- How does Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) complement existing theories of International Relations, particularly Realism, Neorealism, Liberalism, Constructivism, and Power Transition Theory?

4.1 Central Theoretical Question

- Can the rise and decline of great powers be explained not only by changes in military and economic capabilities, but also by shifts in the capacity of states to create, attract, retain, and effectively utilize Intellectual Capital?

4.2 Objectives of the Theory

The primary objective of this research is to examine intellectual capital as a fundamental source of national power and to investigate how the development, attraction, retention, migration, and effective utilization of intellectual Capital contribute to the rise, consolidation, and sustainability of great powers and superpowers Specifically, the study seeks to:

- Identify the political, economic, technological, institutional, military, diplomatic, and human-capital factors that enable a state to emerge as a great power or superpower.
- Examine how Intellectual Capital contributes to innovation, technological advancement, economic productivity, military capabilities, institutional effectiveness, and international influence.
- Analyze how the attraction, concentration, migration, retention, and loss of intellectual capital influence changes in national power.
- Develop and evaluate the proposed Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). as a framework for explaining the rise, consolidation, and decline of national power.
- Determine whether a state's ability to attract, develop, retain, and effectively utilize Intellectual Capital is a fundamental determinant of its capacity to achieve, maintain, or lose great-power and superpower status. Ultimately, the theory seeks to establish whether Intellectual Capital functions as an upstream and fundamental driver of long-term power transitions in the international system.

5. Literature Review

The decline of states and great powers has been studied in international relations, political economy, history, sociology, and security studies. The literature generally identifies military overstretch, economic weakness, institutional deterioration, technological stagnation, demographic pressures, political instability, poor leadership, and failure to adapt to changes in the international system as major explanations. One of the most influential explanations is provided by

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Paul Kennedy in *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500 to 2000*[42] *(Kennedy, 2010)*. Kennedy argues that the long-term rise and decline of great powers is strongly connected to the relationship between their economic productive capacity and military commitments. A state may become powerful through economic growth, but excessive military expenditure and commitments can eventually undermine its economic foundation. Kennedy therefore emphasizes the problem of "imperial overstretch." When the costs of maintaining military and geopolitical commitments become greater than the economic resources available to sustain them, a great power may gradually lose relative power

Thucydides (c. 460–400 BCE) was an ancient Greek historian who wrote *History of the Peloponnesian War*[43] *(Thucydides, 2019) examining* the conflict between Athens and Sparta, analysis is considered one of the foundations of Realism in International Relations. Following the Persian Wars, Athens became increasingly powerful, and its growing military, economic, and naval strength challenged the existing balance of power. So, the Thucydides explained power transition through the rise of Athens, Spartan fear, military power, and alliances. His analysis does not address modern sources of power such as intellectual capital, AI, technology, knowledge, and intangible assets. Robert Gilpin, in *War and Change in World Politics*[44], (Gilpin, 1981) explains international change through the unequal growth of states. States experience different rates of economic, technological, and demographic development. As a rising state becomes more powerful, the distribution of power in the international system changes. This creates pressure on the existing dominant state. If the established hegemon cannot adapt to the changing distribution of power, its position can decline. This perspective is particularly useful for studying Britain's decline, the Soviet collapse, and contemporary US-China competition. A.F.K. Organski, in *World Politics* developed Power Transition Theory [45](Organski, A. F. K. 1958). The theory argues that international systems are hierarchical, with a dominant state at the top. However, other states can grow faster and eventually challenge the dominant power. The important variables include, population, industrialization, economic productivity, political organization, military capability. The theory therefore suggests that relative power matters more than absolute power. A state can remain powerful while declining in relative terms because other states are growing faster. A different explanation comes from Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson in Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty[46] (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012). They argue that political and economic institutions are fundamental to national success. Inclusive institutions encourage innovation, investment, participation, and economic growth, whereas extractive institutions concentrate power and wealth and can eventually undermine national development. This approach is important because it shifts the explanation for decline from purely international factors to domestic political institutions. Joseph Tainter, in *The Collapse of Complex Societies*[47] (Tainter, 1988) provides another explanation. His argument is that societies become increasingly complex as they attempt to solve political, economic, military, and social problems. However, additional complexity eventually produces diminishing returns. In other words, a state can reach a point were maintaining its increasingly complicated political and administrative system costs more than the benefits it produces. This is particularly useful for examining the Roman Empire and other historical civilizations.

Charles Tilly connects the development of states to war, taxation, coercion, and administrative capacity. His famous work *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990–1992* (1990) demonstrates how European states developed their institutional capacity through competition and warfare.[48] (Tilly, 1992) From this perspective, decline can occur when a state loses the ability to collect resources, maintain effective institutions organize military power, administer territory, respond to external competition.

Barry Buzan provides an important security perspective in *People, States and Fear*. He argues that state security cannot be understood exclusively through military power. Security also has political, economic, societal, and

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[42] Kennedy, Paul. *The rise and fall of the great powers: Economic change and military conflict from 1500 to 2000*. Vintage, 2010.
[43] Thucydides, T. H. U. C. Y. D. I. D. E. S. (2019). *The history of the Peloponnesian War*. BoD–Books on Demand.
[44] Gilpin, R. (1981). *War and change in world politics* (Vol. 98). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
[45] Organski, A. F. K. "Population and World Politics." (1958): 404-408.
[46] Daron, Acemoglu, and James A. Robinson. "Why nations fail: The origins of power, prosperity, and poverty." *New York: Crown Business* (2012).
[47] Tainter, J. A. (1988). *The collapse of complex societies*. Cambridge University Press.
[48] Tilly, Charles. *Coercion, capital, and European states, AD 990-1992*. Vol. 19. Oxford: Blackwell, 1992.

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environmental dimensions[49] (Buzan, 1991). This means that a state may possess a strong military but still become vulnerable if it suffers from:

Economic Weakness + Political Instability + Societal Fragmentation + Environmental Problems + Military Insecurity.

5.1 The Important Research Gap

Most existing theories examine one or several dimensions of national rise and decline. However, state decline is rarely caused by a single factor; rather, it may result from the interaction of economic deterioration, institutional weakness, military overstretch, technological stagnation, demographic change, political instability, and failure to adapt to changing distributions of global power. A possible research model conceptualizes the role of Intellectual Capital in national power as follows:

Human Intellectual Capital → Innovation → Economic Power → Military & Technological Power → National Power → Global Influence

Conversely, decline may follow a reverse process:

Intellectual Capital Loss → Declining Innovation → Economic Weakness → Institutional Problems → Military & Strategic Overstretch → Relative Power Decline → Loss of Great-Power Status

This model highlights the research gap by placing human intellectual capital at the beginning of both the rise and decline processes. It proposes that the development, concentration, and effective utilization of intellectual capital can strengthen national capabilities, while persistent losses of Intellectual Capital may weaken innovation and contribute to long-term relative power decline. Analyze the current academic literature relevant to the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) Identify key trends, major debates, controversies, theoretical developments, and research gaps. Because TIPT is an emerging theoretical framework, include closely related literature on power transition theory, human capital, intellectual capital, knowledge economies, innovation, technological capability, talent mobility, and great-power rise and decline

6. Theoretical Framework

This study is guided by the proposed Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). The theory is based on the central proposition that Intellectual Capital and intellectual capacity constitute fundamental foundations of national power. Military strength, economic development, technological innovation, scientific advancement, institutional capacity, and diplomatic influence ultimately depend on human knowledge, skills, creativity, wisdom, and intellectual capabilities. The theory is philosophically inspired by the Qur'anic principle: “Indeed, we created humankind in the best form” (Qur'an, Surah At-Tin 95:4)[50]. In this study, this principle provides a philosophical foundation for recognizing the human capacity to acquire knowledge, reason, create, innovate, and transform societies.

6.1. Core Propositions of Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT).

The theory proposes that:

- No state can achieve sustained national development or great-power status without developing, attracting, retaining, and effectively utilizing its human and intellectual capital.
- Intellectual Capital generate knowledge; knowledge produces innovation; innovation strengthens economic

[49] Buzan, Barry, and Paul Magnette. "People, states and fear: An agenda for international security studies in the post-cold war era." (1991).

[50] Albimawi, Hendra, and Moh Nurhakim. "Human Nature in the View of the Qur'an and Ibn Arabi." *International Journal of Health, Economics, and Social Sciences (IJHESS)* 5, no. 3 (2023): 270-277.

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and technological capabilities; and these capabilities contribute to military, diplomatic, institutional, and strategic power. The accumulation and effective integration of these capabilities can contribute to great-power or superpower status**.**

6.2. Conceptual Model

The proposed upward pathway is:

Intellectual Capital → Education & Knowledge → Intellectual Capacity → Scientific Discovery → Innovation & Technology → Economic Development → Institutional Capacity → Military & Strategic Capability → Diplomatic & Global Influence → National Power → Great-Power/Superpower Status

The theory also incorporates a reverse pathway through which the loss of human and intellectual capital can contribute to national decline:

Brain Drain / Loss of Talent → Declining Intellectual Capacity → Reduced Innovation → Technological & Economic Weakness → Institutional Decline → Reduced National Power → Relative Power Decline

6.3. Intellectual Capital as the Foundational and Generative Source of National Power: A Core Proposition of TIPT

Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) goes beyond conventional measurements of national power. A country may possess territory, natural resources, a large population, military forces, or financial resources, but these assets cannot automatically be transformed into sustained national power without people capable of organizing, managing, innovating, and effectively utilizing them. For example: Scientists produce scientific discoveries. Engineers transform knowledge into technologies. Economists and entrepreneurs generate economic value. Scholars and researchers produce knowledge and develop theories. Strategists formulate national-security policies. Administrators develop and strengthen institutions. Educated citizens contribute to innovation, productivity, and social development. Therefore, intellectual capital should not be viewed merely as one additional component of national power. Under Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT), it functions as an enabling and generative foundation through which other forms of power can be developed and renewed.

6.4. Contribution to Existing International Relations Theory

Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) does not necessarily seek to replace Realism, Liberalism, Neorealism, Hegemonic Stability Theory, or Power Transition Theory. Rather, it proposes an additional causal mechanism that existing approaches have not sufficiently integrated: the role of human and intellectual capital in generating and transforming national power.

Existing Approach	Main Emphasis	Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). Contribution
Realism	Power, survival, and national interest	Intellectual capacity as an underlying source of national power
Neorealism	Distribution of material capabilities	Human and intellectual capital as mechanisms for producing capabilities
Liberalism	Institutions, cooperation, and interdependence	Knowledge and intellectual capital as foundations supporting effective institutions and cooperation
Hegemonic Stability Theory	Dominant state's capabilities and international order	Intellectual foundations of sustained hegemonic capabilities
Power Transition Theory	Competition between rising and declining powers	Intellectual-capital processes contributing to national rise and decline
Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT).	Intellectual capital, innovation, and power transition	Human and intellectual capital as fundamental mechanisms through which national capabilities and power are generated and transformed

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6.5. Key Theoretical Claim

States do not become powerful merely because they possess resources. They become powerful when they possess the intellectual capacity to transform resources into knowledge, innovation, institutions, economic productivity, technological capabilities, and strategic power. The central logic of Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) can therefore be summarized as:

People create knowledge → Knowledge creates innovation → Innovation creates capabilities → Capabilities create power.

Thus, the theory places intellectual capital at the foundation of the process through which states develop, sustain, and eventually lose national power. It provides a framework for examining how the creation, attraction, concentration, retention, mobility, and loss of Intellectual Capital may contribute to long-term transitions in the international distribution of power.

7. Methodology

This study adopts a mixed-methods research design, combining quantitative analysis of secondary data with qualitative historical and comparative analysis. The purpose is to examine whether changes in human and intellectual capital are associated with the rise, consolidation, and decline of national power across different historical periods. The study employs a theory-building approach. Rather than assuming that existing theories fully explain power transitions, it integrates empirical evidence from historical cases and contemporary data to develop, refine, and assess the proposed Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). The research relies primarily on secondary data from reliable international, historical, and academic sources, Global Innovation Index, Scopus and Web of Science and Historical demographic and migration databases Academic literature and books. The study will collect indicators across four principal dimensions.

The quantitative component will employ descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, comparative indicators, and, where appropriate, regression or panel-data techniques to examine the relationship between human and intellectual capital and national power. The qualitative component will use historical comparative analysis and process tracing to investigate the mechanisms through which Intellectual Capital may contribute to national power. Particular attention will be given to whether similar patterns can be observed across different historical cases and periods. The proposed causal mechanism can be represented as:

Intellectual Capital → Knowledge → Innovation → Capability → National Power

The study will examine whether this mechanism is evident across selected historical and contemporary cases.

7.1. Theory Development and Evaluation

The final stage will integrate the quantitative and qualitative findings to develop, refine, and assess the proposed Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). The theory proposes that, States that successfully develop, attract, retain, and effectively utilize Intellectual Capital are more capable of generating knowledge, innovation, technological and economic capabilities, and sustained national power. Conversely, the persistent loss or ineffective utilization of Intellectual Capital may contribute to relative national decline**.** Accordingly, the study does not simply seek to "create a theory from secondary data." A more academically appropriate formulation is:

"The study employs empirical evidence from secondary quantitative and qualitative data to develop, refine, and assess the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). through an iterative process of theory building and empirical evaluation." This approach enables the study to connect Intellectual Capital, intellectual capacity, innovation, national capabilities, and power transition within a systematic theoretical framework**.**

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7.2. Case Selection and Comparative Analysis

The study will employ purposive comparative case selection, selecting cases that represent significant historical changes in the international distribution of power and provide variation in patterns of national rise and decline.

The proposed cases include:

- **British Empire** - rise to global predominance and subsequent relative decline
- **United States** - emergence and consolidation as the leading global power after 1945
- **Soviet Union** - rise as a superpower and subsequent collapse
- **China** - contemporary rise and increasing strategic competition with the United States

The comparative analysis will examine whether changes in Intellectual Capital, intellectual migration, knowledge production, innovation, and technological capacity correspond with changes in national power. Particular attention will be given to whether the development, attraction, retention, concentration, or loss of intellectual capital preceded or accompanied major shifts in economic, technological, military, and geopolitical capabilities.

This comparison will help assess whether the proposed Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). provides a consistent explanation of national rise, power consolidation, and relative decline across different historical and geopolitical contexts.

8. Results/Findings

Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) proposes that the quality, concentration, mobility, retention, and effective utilization of human and intellectual capital constitute fundamental mechanisms through which states develop economic, military, political, societal, technological, and environmental capabilities. These capabilities, in turn, influence a state's rise, sustainability, and relative decline within the international system.

The study is expected to demonstrate that Intellectual Capital and intellectual power are fundamental foundations of sustainable national power. National strength is not determined by military capabilities or economic resources alone; rather, these capabilities depend substantially on the knowledge, skills, creativity, innovation, and intellectual capacity of a state's population.

The proposed relationship can therefore be expressed as:

Intellectual Capital → Intellectual Power → Knowledge & Innovation → National Capabilities → Sustainable National Power

The findings will further assess whether states that successfully develop, attract, retain, and effectively utilize Intellectual Capital are more capable of generating innovation, strengthening national capabilities, and sustaining their position in the international system, while persistent loss or ineffective utilization of intellectual capital may contribute to relative national decline.

8.1. Major Outcomes of Intellectual Capital–Intellectual Power

◆ **Strong Military Capability**

Skilled scientists, engineers, researchers, strategists, and technological experts contribute to defense innovation, advanced weapons systems, cyber capabilities, space technology, intelligence, and strategic planning.

◆ **Political Stability and Effective Governance**

Educated and capable Intellectual Capital strengthens institutions, policy formulation, public administration, leadership, accountability, and effective problem-solving, thereby contributing to political stability and good governance.

◆ **Strong Economic Power**

Intellectual Capital drives productivity, entrepreneurship, technological development, innovation, research and development, high-value industries, and economic competitiveness.

◆ **Civilized and Resilient Society**

Education, knowledge, critical thinking, professional skills, social responsibility, and civic capacity contribute to social development, tolerance, institutional trust, resilience, and human well-being.

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◆ **Environmental Capacity**

Scientists, researchers, engineers, policymakers, and educated communities contribute to addressing climate change, environmental degradation, resource management, renewable energy development, and sustainable development.

8.2. Integrated Model

Intellectual Capital
↓
Intellectual Power
↓
Knowledge, Wisdom & Innovation
↓
├── **Military Capability**
├── **Political Stability & Governance**
├── **Economic Power**
├── **Societal Development**
└── **Environmental Capacity**
↓
Sustainable National Power
↓
Rise, Consolidation, or Decline of Great-Power Status

8.3. Expected Theoretical Contribution

The research is expected to demonstrate that intellectual power functions as an underlying and enabling factor connecting multiple dimensions of national power. A state may possess abundant natural resources, territory, population, or military assets; however, without sufficient human and intellectual capacity, it may struggle to transform these resources into sustainable national power. Accordingly, the central proposition of Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) is that Intellectual Capital generates intellectual power produces knowledge and innovation, and knowledge and innovation strengthen the economic, military, political, societal, technological, and environmental capabilities that collectively shape sustainable national power.

8.4. Discussion: From Buzan's Five Security Sectors to a Human–Intellectual Dimension

Barry Buzan made an important contribution to International Relations by broadening the traditional understanding of security beyond military threats[51] (Buzan, 1991). His sectoral approach identifies five major security sectors**:**

Military + Political + Economic + Societal + Environmental Security

This framework demonstrates that the security and strength of a state cannot be understood exclusively through military capabilities. Political stability, economic resilience, societal cohesion, and environmental conditions also influence the security of states and societies. However, from the perspective of this study, an important question remains: Who develops, manages, and transforms the capabilities required to secure these five sectors?
This study proposes that the answer lies in human and intellectual capital.

[51] Buzan, B. (1991). *People, states and fear: An agenda for international security studies in the post-Cold War era* (2nd ed.). Lynne Rienner Publishers.

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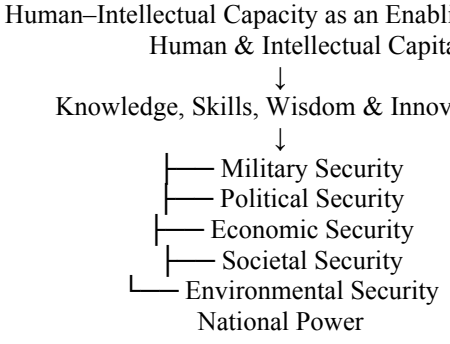
8.5. Proposed Human–Intellectual Dimension

Buzan's five security sectors can therefore be conceptually extended through a human–intellectual dimension:

- Military Security
- Political Security
- Economic Security
- Societal Security
- Environmental Security
- Human–Intellectual Capacity

Rather than treating human–intellectual capacity simply as another independent sector alongside the five existing sectors, this study argues that it functions as a cross-cutting and enabling foundation operating across all five sectors**.**



8.6. Connection with Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT).

This argument provides a conceptual bridge between Buzan's sectoral security framework and the proposed Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT).

Intellectual Capital → Intellectual Power → Knowledge → Innovation → Sectoral Capabilities → National Power → Power Transition

The central theoretical claim is that intellectual capital constitutes an enabling foundation through which states generate, maintain, and transform capabilities across the military, political, economic, societal, and environmental sectors. Buzan's framework explains the sectors in which security operates, whereas Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) seeks to explain the human and intellectual foundation through which states develop the capabilities necessary to secure those sectors and accumulate national power. Therefore, this study proposes human–intellectual capacity as a cross-cutting sixth dimension of national security and, more fundamentally, as an enabling foundation of national power. This proposition forms an important component of Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). and extends the analysis of national security from the question of what sectors require security to the deeper question of who creates the knowledge, institutions, technologies, and capabilities necessary to provide that security.

9. Recommendations

9.1. Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT)

The Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) argues that the rise, maintenance, and decline of great powers increasingly depend on their ability to generate, accumulate, protect, and convert intellectual capital into social, institutional, economic, technological, security, and strategic capabilities.

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The nine foundations can be structured as follows:

- **Strong Intellectual and Cognitive Capital**
  A highly educated population, scientists, researchers, innovators, critical thinkers, professionals, and knowledge-producing institutions capable of generating, absorbing, and applying new knowledge.
- **Strong Society and Social Capital**
  Social cohesion, national identity, public trust, civic participation, social resilience, and the capacity of citizens and institutions to cooperate toward common national objectives.
- **Strong Ethical and Legal Capital**
  Rule of law, justice, accountability, transparency, ethical governance, protection of rights, and institutions capable of maintaining legitimacy and public confidence.
- **Strong Governance and Institutional Capacity**
  Effective institutions, strategic leadership, evidence-based policymaking, administrative competence, long-term planning, and the ability to transform knowledge into effective public policy.
- **Strong Security and Strategic Capability**
  Military capability, intelligence, cybersecurity, strategic planning, internal stability, technological defense capabilities, and the ability to respond rapidly to emerging security threats.
- **Strong Economic and Productive Capacity**
  Sustainable economic growth, industrialization, financial resilience, trade competitiveness, infrastructure, skilled labor, and the ability to transform knowledge and innovation into economic value.
- **Strong Technological Capability**
  Leadership or competitiveness in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, biotechnology, semiconductors, aerospace, robotics, advanced manufacturing, energy technologies, and other emerging technologies.
- **Strong Intangible Strategic Assets**
  Intellectual property, patents, data, algorithms, software, research institutions, innovation ecosystems, digital infrastructure, technical standards, scientific networks, brands, and strategic knowledge systems.

9.2. The central mechanism of TIPT

The most important contribution of your theory could be the relationship among these nine foundations, rather than simply treating them as nine independent sources of power:

Intellectual & Cognitive Capital
↓
Knowledge Creation
↓
Innovation & Technology
↓
Economic + Security + Institutional Capabilities
↓
Strategic Assets & Information Power
↓
National Power
↓
Regional/Global Power
↓
Power Transition

9.3. Integrated Statement

A nation's rise to superpower status depends on the interaction of strong society, ethical and legal institutions, effective governance, comprehensive security, a resilient economy, intellectual and cognitive capital, technological

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leadership, and intangible strategic assets. In the era of artificial intelligence, intellectual capital has become the central force that transforms knowledge into technology, technology into economic and military power, and innovation into long-term global influence. According to the (TIPT) when these intellectual and intangible assets increasingly shift from one state to another, the balance of global power also shifts. In the future, competition among nations will increasingly shift from traditional warfare to competition in knowledge, research, innovation, and technology. Rather than conquering territory through military force, states will compete by strengthening the national power: society, ethical and legal institutions, governance, security, economy, intellectual and cognitive capital, technology, and intangible strategic assets. Countries that excel in these pillars will naturally attract global talent, investment, research partnerships, businesses, and international collaboration. Their influence will expand through innovation and knowledge instead of territorial conquest. Under this vision, borders will become less significant as barriers to cooperation. Universities, research institutions, technology companies, and innovation ecosystems will become the primary arenas of strategic competition. Nations will seek influence by producing ideas, scientific discoveries, advanced technologies, and solutions to global challenges rather than through armed conflict. Religious differences and ideological divisions will become less central to international competition when states prioritize human development, scientific progress, and shared prosperity.

According to the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). future global leadership will belong to the states that create, attract, and retain the world's best intellectual capital. Russia may eventually undergo political and economic reforms that encourage more stable and cooperative relations with the United States. If Russia's long-term strategic priorities shift toward economic modernization, technological development, and institutional reform, the intensity of U.S.–Russia rivalry could decline, creating opportunities for pragmatic cooperation in areas of mutual interest. By contrast, strategic competition between the United States and China is likely to remain more persistent because it is rooted in competition for leadership in advanced technologies, artificial intelligence, semiconductor industries, digital infrastructure, data governance, and other intangible strategic assets. As China expands its intellectual, technological, and innovation capabilities, it increasingly challenges the United States in the sectors that are expected to define global power in the twenty-first century. From the perspective of Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT), future great-power competition will be driven less by territorial conquest and more by the ability to create, attract, and retain intellectual capital, develop breakthrough technologies, and control intangible strategic assets. States that lead in research, innovation, artificial intelligence, and Intellectual Capital will possess the greatest influence in the emerging international order.

10. Conclusion

International relations are a constantly changing environment in which states continuously pursue their national interests, protect their sovereignty, enhance their security, and seek greater influence and a positive image within the international community. Although states may compete for power, peace remains a fundamental condition for their survival and development. The international system therefore cannot be understood as static. Power continuously shifts among states, and the history of international relations demonstrates that the rise and decline of great powers is a recurring phenomenon. States that once dominated the international system have declined or disappeared, while new powers have emerged. This demonstrates that hegemony is never permanent. International Relations scholars have developed numerous theories to explain how and why states behave in the international system and pursue power. Realism emphasizes power, survival, national interest, and competition under anarchy. Neorealism explains how the structure of the international system and the distribution of capabilities influence state behavior. Liberalism emphasizes institutions, cooperation, economic interdependence, and the possibility of peaceful relations. Constructivism focuses on identities, norms, ideas, and social interaction in shaping international behavior. Power Transition Theory explains how changes in the distribution of capabilities can generate competition between dominant and rising states. Offensive Realism argues that great powers seek to maximize their relative power, while Defensive Realism suggests that states primarily seek sufficient power to ensure their survival and security. Other approaches, including the English School, Critical Theory, Feminist International Relations, and Dependency Theory, provide additional explanations of international order, inequality, identity, and power. However, this study argues that these perspectives can be complemented by giving greater theoretical attention to the intellectual foundations of national power. I therefore propose the Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). Its central proposition is that human intellectual capital is a fundamental source through which other forms of national power are generated, developed, and sustained. The theory

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can be summarized as: Intellectual Capital → Knowledge → Innovation → Capability → National Power. A state may possess territory, natural resources, population, military forces, and economic wealth, but these resources cannot automatically produce sustained power. They require educated citizens, researchers, scientists, strategists, policymakers, innovators, teachers, engineers, and capable leadership to transform resources into effective national capabilities. Intellectual Capital therefore functions as a foundational element connecting different dimensions of power. From this perspective, strong intellectual capacity can contribute to Economic power through technological innovation, productivity, entrepreneurship, and knowledge-based industries; Military power through scientific research, defense innovation, strategic planning, and advanced technologies; Institutional power through knowledge-based governance, professional administration, and effective policymaking; Societal strength through education, human development, critical thinking, and social capacity; and International influence through diplomacy, ideas, technology, research, and innovation. Thus, intellectual power does not replace military, economic, political, societal, or technological power; rather, it helps create, strengthen, and sustain these forms of power. The historical rise of major powers provides important evidence for examining this proposition. Great powers have generally invested in education, knowledge production, scientific research, universities, technological innovation, and strategic thinking. Their intellectual communities have contributed to economic development, military modernization, institutional capacity, and international influence. Conversely, the decline of powerful states may begin when they lose their capacity to generate new knowledge, attract and retain talented people, innovate, and adapt to changing technological and strategic environments. China provides an important contemporary case for examining this argument. Its transformation from a developing country into a major global power has involved substantial investment in higher education, scientific research, technological development, innovation, and Intellectual Capital. China has also increasingly sought to attract international researchers and students while expanding its research institutions and technological capabilities. These developments illustrate how intellectual capacity can contribute to economic, military, technological, and geopolitical power. The Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT), therefore, suggests that competition among states is not limited to territory, military forces, markets, or natural resources. It is increasingly a competition over people, knowledge, ideas, research, technology, and innovation. In the twenty-first century, states that can educate, attract, retain, and effectively utilize Intellectual Capital may possess significant advantages over states that rely primarily on traditional sources of power. Consequently, Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT). seeks to provide a bridge between established theories of International Relations and the growing importance of knowledge and innovation in global politics. It argues that the rise and decline of states should be examined not only through changes in military and economic capabilities but also through the quality, movement, concentration, retention, and utilization of intellectual Capital. The central proposition of Theory of Intellectual Power Transition (TIPT) is "States rise to great-power status when they successfully transform Intellectual Capital into knowledge, innovation, national capabilities, and sustainable power; states begin to decline when they lose their ability to generate, attract, retain, and effectively utilize the Intellectual Capital required to renew their power." In this sense, the history of international relations can be interpreted not merely as a history of the rise and fall of states, but also as a history of the rise and decline of knowledge-producing societies. Power shifts because the capacity to create the future shifts. The future of international power may therefore belong not simply to the state with the largest army or economy, but to the state capable of developing and sustaining the greatest concentration of knowledge, innovation, wisdom, and Intellectual Capita

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