

Change of course

symposium



# Impact of geopolitical trends on the maritime industry *(abridged version)*

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The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS)

Symposium S.G. "William Froude",

May 16, 2024

# Four (selected) systemic trends that impact global maritime trade

Geopolitics is back

Blocs and coalitions

Weaponisation of everything

Decarbonisation

# Trend 1. Geopolitics is back; geolocation once again matters

FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS

THE RETURN OF GEOPOLITICS  
Walter Russell Mead

ESSAY May/June 2014 Issue

China Iran ▾

## The Return of Geopolitics

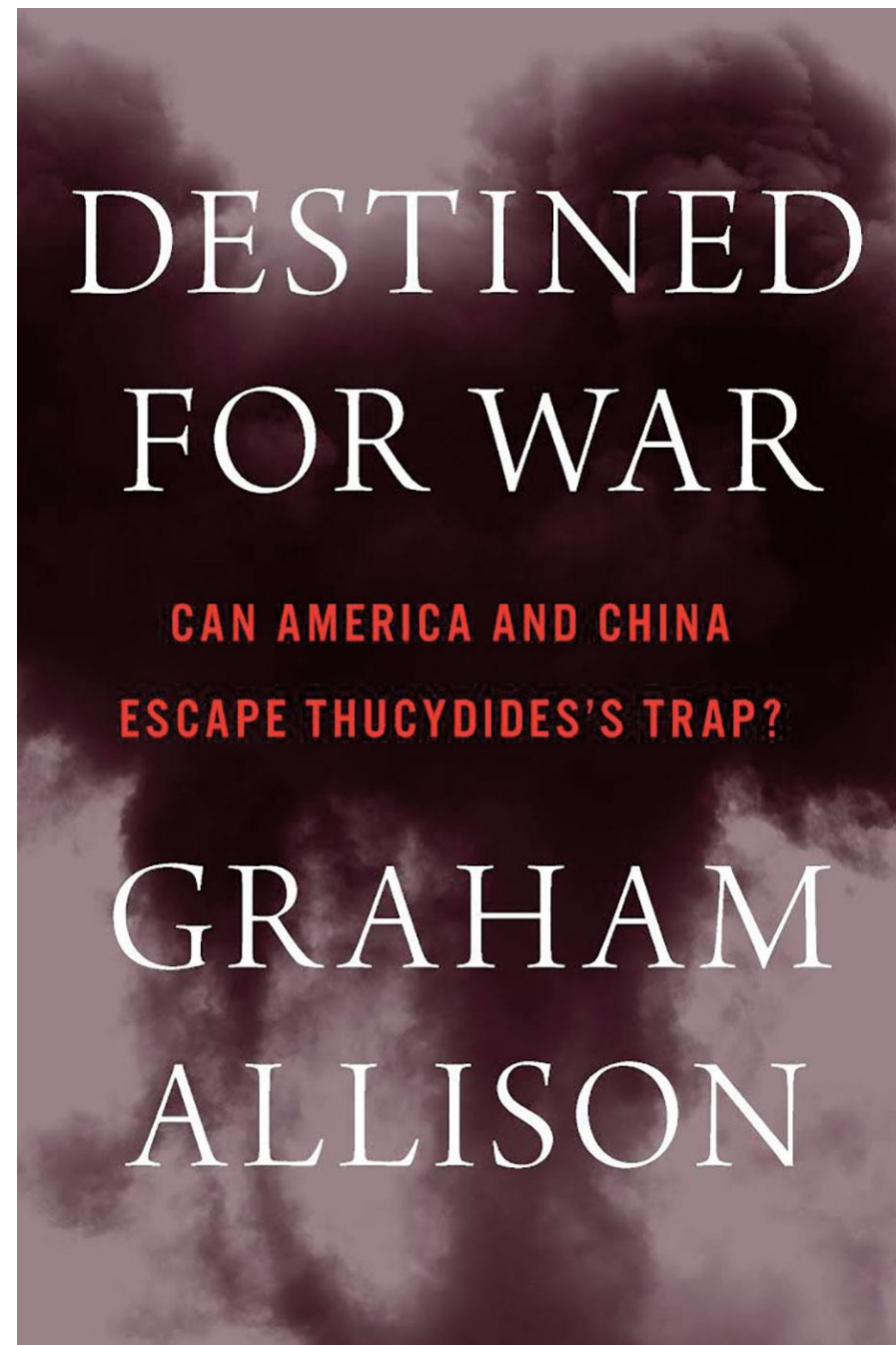
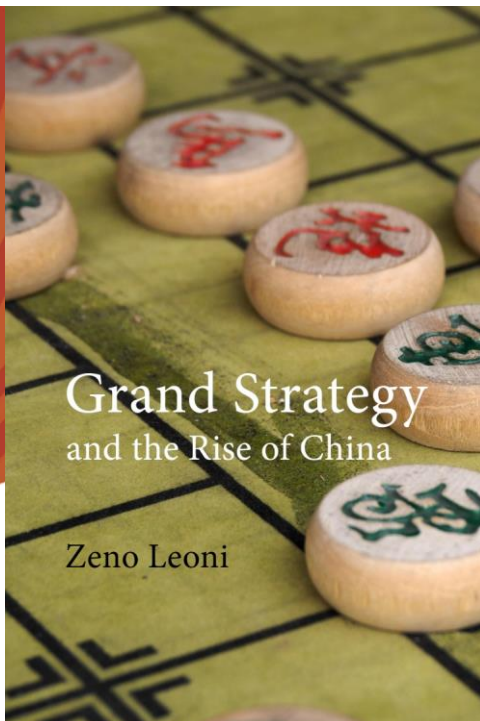
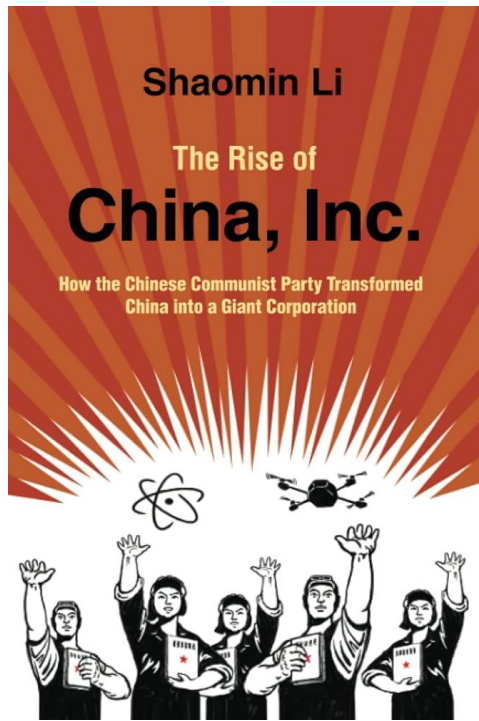
The Revenge of the Revisionist Powers

*By Walter Russell Mead*

So far, the year 2014 has been a tumultuous one, as geopolitical rivalries have stormed back to center stage. Whether it is Russian forces seizing Crimea, China making aggressive claims in its coastal waters, Japan responding with an increasingly assertive strategy of its own, or Iran trying to use its alliances with Syria and Hezbollah to dominate the Middle East, old-fashioned power plays are back in international relations.

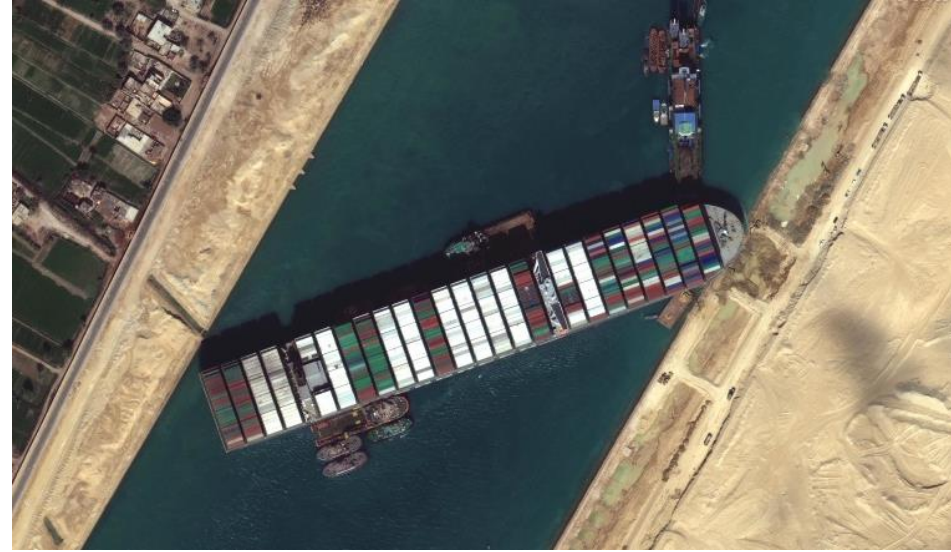
### Key message

Great power competition has brought geopolitics back with a vengeance. Nations want to keep their friends close and enemies at bay; often literally so. Geopolitics and geo-economics have become fully intertwined as political and national interest considerations tend to pervade international business relations as well





# Flow security



# Blocs and coalitions



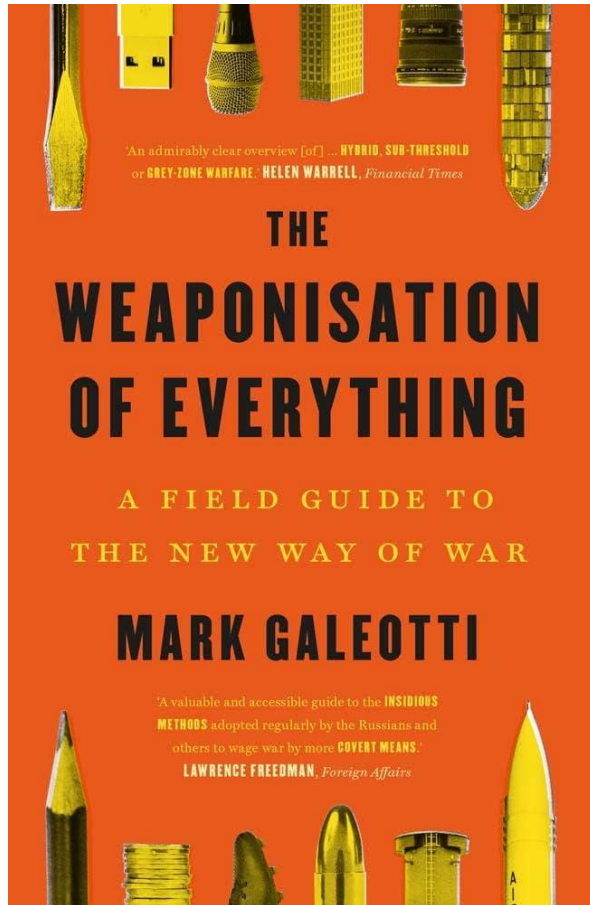
## Key message

The world is fragmenting into blocs of more or less like-minded countries and shifting coalitions of the willing and able centred on particular issues. For better or worse, it is these blocs and coalitions that are shaping the new world order





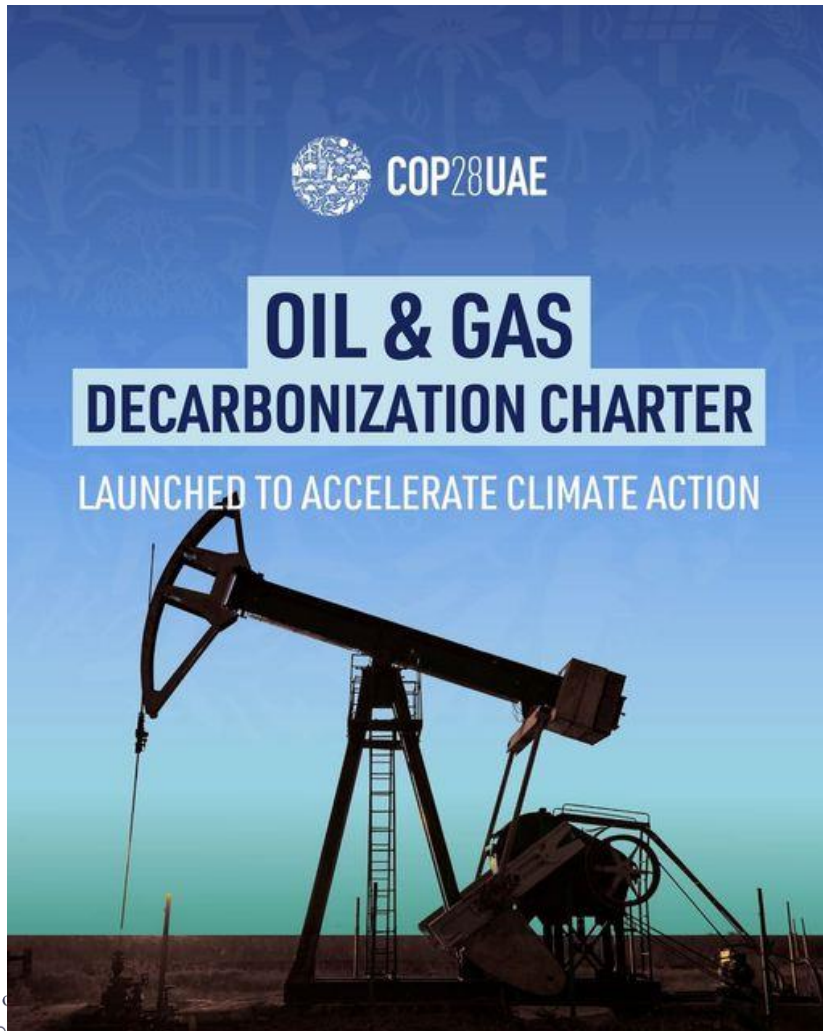
# Weaponisation of everything



## Key message

All goods and services in the global economy may be – and increasingly are – used for advancing national interests and (geo)political gains

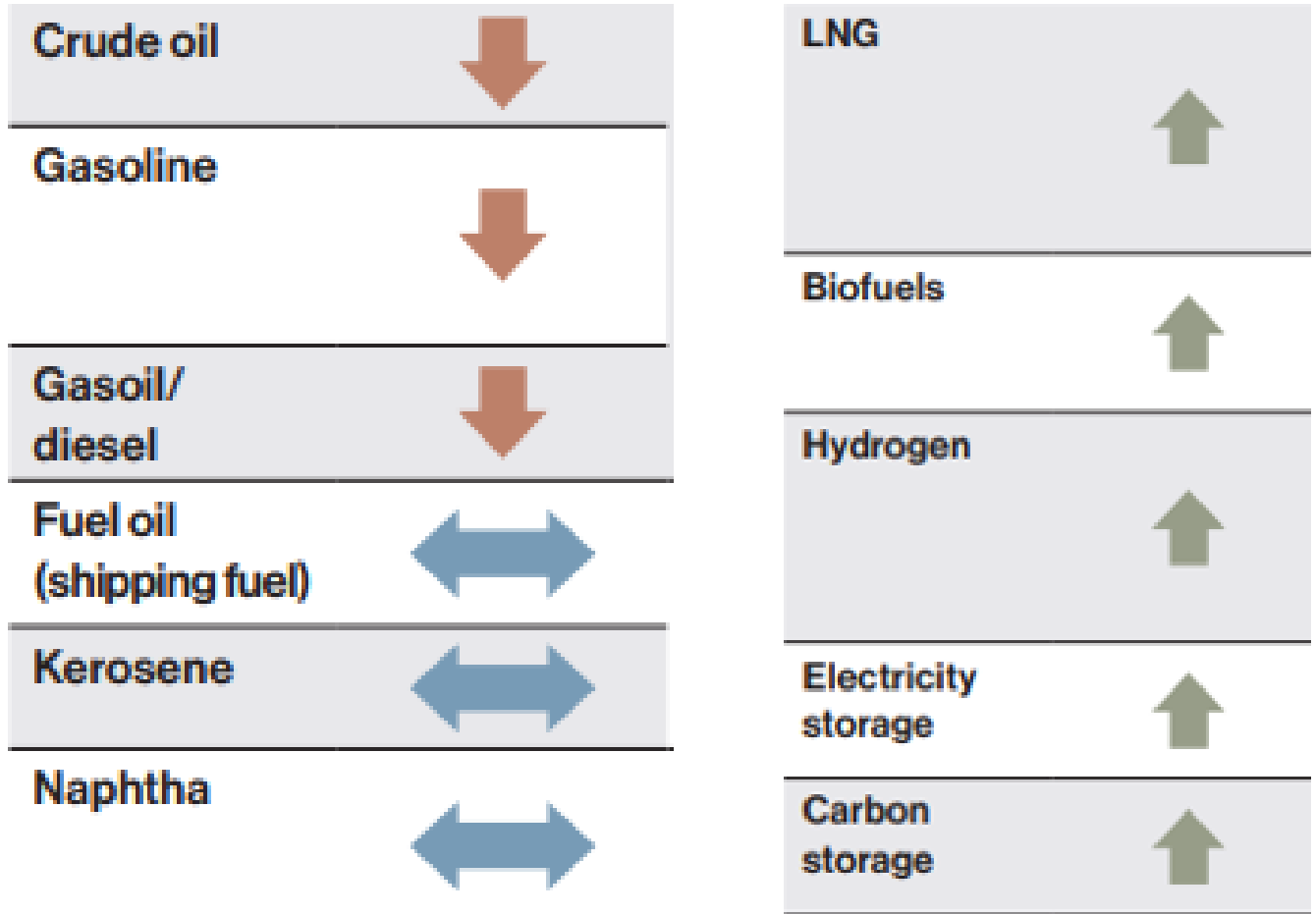
# Decarbonization



## Key message

Over the longer term, the world will move away from the use of oil & gas in order to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and to achieve net-zero operations by 2050

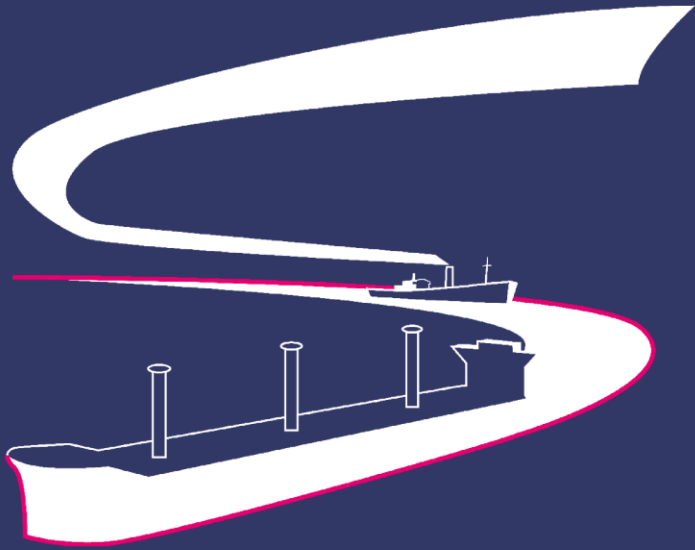
# European outlook to 2030: Balancing Fossil and Renewables



# Impact on global maritime industry

- Great power competition means geopolitics is back with a vengeance
  - Uncertainty and risks affect the cost of deep-sea transport
  - Security of offshore infrastructure at stake
- Blocs and coalitions shape the international area
  - Regionalisation of global trade
- All resources and goods can be used for geopolitical gains
  - Geopolitical interests pervade international business logic and thereby influence global (sea) trade
- In the longer term, decarbonization will drastically alter the energy mix
  - Energy transition through off-shore wind and possibly green H2
  - New forms and patterns of bulk energy transport





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