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TOPIC: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests

Cosy with Russia to isolate China? What Trump's Ukraine plan means for global politics

Trump's Outreach to Russia: A Modern-Day Kissinger Strategy and India's Role

Historical Parallel: Kissinger's Rapprochement with China (1971-72)

- **Henry Kissinger's secret mission to China (1971)** led to **President Nixon's visit in 1972**, establishing formal US-China ties by 1979.
- The US aimed to **weaken the Soviet Union** by exploiting **Sino-Soviet divisions**.
- This was a **strategic move**, leveraging China **against Moscow** rather than an ideological shift.

Trump's Outreach to Putin and Its Implications

- Trump's **recent engagement with Putin** over the Ukraine war **mirrors Kissinger's Cold War strategy**.
- Unlike **Biden**, who called **Putin a "murderous dictator"**, Trump labeled **Ukrainian President Zelenskyy a dictator**.
- **US-Russia peace talks in Riyadh** excluded **Ukraine and Europe**, raising concerns about **American commitment to its allies**.

Europe's Growing Concerns

- **Transatlantic unity is weakening**, reminiscent of the **1938 appeasement of Nazi Germany**.
- **France's Macron** and other **European leaders** fear the **US will withdraw support from Ukraine**.
- **European defense industries** struggle to **match US arms production**, forcing **discussions on self-reliance**.

Trump's Real Goal: Isolating China?

- **Trump's engagement with Russia** seems aimed at **isolating China**, rather than a personal affinity for Putin.



- If Russia drifts away from China, Beijing's global ambitions could be curtailed.
- India could benefit, as it:
 - Sees China as an adversary (border and trade disputes).
 - Maintains strong defense and trade ties with Russia.

China-Russia Alliance: A Counterweight to the US

- China and Russia maintain "no-limits" economic and strategic ties, challenging US dominance.
- Both nations seek to reduce US dollar dependency and reshape the global order.
- China has supported Russia economically during heavy sanctions and aided its war efforts in Ukraine.

India's Role and Strategic Considerations

- India maintains strong historical ties with Russia, especially in defense and energy sectors.
- A weakened Russia would reduce India's leverage over China, making India more vulnerable in border disputes.
- India benefits from a multipolar world, where neither the US, China, nor Russia dominates completely.
- India balances relations with all three powers, engaging in:
 - The Quad (US, Japan, Australia, India) to counter China.
 - BRICS and SCO for diplomatic engagement with Russia and China.
 - Defense procurement from Russia while expanding ties with the US and Europe.

Potential Risks of Trump's Strategy

- Unlike Kissinger's success, Trump's approach may backfire, strengthening China instead of isolating it.
- China could expand its influence in Europe, particularly in post-war Ukraine's reconstruction.
- US withdrawal from global institutions (WHO, UNHRC) has created space for China to grow diplomatically.
- Trump's Palestine policy (displacing Gazans) could push West Asia closer to China, affecting India's interests.



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Conclusion

- Trump's strategy aims to isolate China by engaging Russia, but it risks alienating US allies and inadvertently strengthening Beijing.
- India must carefully navigate this shifting global order, ensuring its strategic autonomy and economic interests are protected.
- While India benefits from a weaker China-Russia alliance, a weakened Russia may also limit India's strategic options.
- India must continue balancing its ties with the US, Russia, and China to maintain its global standing and security interests.

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