### 1AC – Definitions

#### If you want some definitions for clarity, I have provided them here

#### Democracy is a system of government decided by its people.

Robert H. Dahl, Sterling Professor Emeritus of Political Science, No date, “Democracy”, Britannica Online, https://www.britannica.com/topic/democracy (accessed 7/11/21)

Democracy is a system of government in which laws, policies, leadership, and major undertakings of a state or other polity are directly or indirectly decided by the “people,” a group historically constituted by only a minority of the population (e.g., all free adult males in ancient Athens or all sufficiently propertied adult males in 19th-century Britain) but generally understood since the mid-20th century to include all (or nearly all) adult citizens.

#### “Free press” includes talking, writing, and printing in addition to using the Internet.

Geoffrey R. Stone, Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School, AND Eugene Volokh, Professor of Law, No date, “Freedom of Speech and the Press”, Interactive Constituion, https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/interpretation/amendment-i/interps/266 (accessed 7/11/21)

The Supreme Court has interpreted “speech” and “press” broadly as covering not only talking, writing, and printing, but also broadcasting, using the Internet, and other forms of expression. The freedom of speech also applies to symbolic expression, such as displaying flags, burning flags, wearing armbands, burning crosses, and the like.

#### Prioritize is to consider as of greater importance than other matters

The Free Dictionary, No date, “Prioritize”, https://www.thefreedictionary.com/prioritize (accessed 7/11/21)

. 2. To treat or consider as of greater importance than other matters: economic policies that prioritize job creation.

#### Objectivity in reporting is removing one’s own biases from their stories

Tony Rogers, M.S. in Journalism from Columbia University and has worked for the Associated Press and the New York Daily News, 12-4-2019, “Objectivity and Fairness in Journalism,” https://www.thoughtco.com/objectivity-and-fairness-2073726 (accessed 7-12-21)

Objectivity means that when covering hard news, reporters don’t convey their own feelings, biases or prejudices in their stories. They do this by writing stories using neutral language and by avoiding characterizing people or institutions either positively or negatively.

#### “Advocacy” is the support of an idea

Cambridge Dictionary Online, No date, “Advocacy”, https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/advocacy (accessed 7-12-21)

public support for an idea, plan, or way of doing something: She is renowned for her advocacy of human rights. a nonprofit advocacy group

### 1AC – Framing

#### I value morality.

#### The value criterion is maximizing expected wellbeing –

#### Intuitively people know they prefer pleasure and happiness over painful experiences. Ethical systems should be based in people’s ontology

#### All choices inevitably cause tradeoffs between people but we can resolve them by weighing – we know weighing is possible because governments weigh all the time.

#### Util is a pre-requisite – A non-ideal framework is needed to have intuitive foundation to make decisions under duress.

#### 4) Weighability - Only util explains degrees of wrongness—if I break a promise to meet up for lunch, that is not as bad as breaking a promise to take a dying person to the hospital.

### 1AC – Plan

#### Next is the Plan – Democracies ought to apply the Fairness Doctrine to members of the free press as per our solvency advocate for the free press to prioritize objectivity over advocacy.

#### The plan forces broadcasters to abide or recognize content as entertainment which would increase marketplace diversity and combat disinformation.

Murphy, William. “We Hold These Distruths To Be Self-Evident: How Legal History Could Save America From Itself.” St. John's Scholar. 2021. <https://scholar.stjohns.edu/jga/vol2/iss2/3/>.

Given this reality, any modern invocation of the Fairness Doctrine in America requires a more nuanced approach than a mere straightforward reinstatement. Well versed in selectively covering “public issues” appealing to specific consumer demographics and not others after decades of practice, a fair coverage requirement may prompt further informational deviation of the public by cable news outlets not only in terms of viewpoint but also in terms of general awareness and knowledge. An outlet appealing to a specific political ideology, for example, may avoid reporting important public information entirely where doing so would involve presenting opposing evidence clearly demonstrating that the viewers' beliefs, logic, or understanding is completely erroneous with respect to that particular and pressing matter. Situations where proponents of an alternative but incorrect view fervently demand coverage opportunities in attempts to obfuscate underlying facts and truths also represent conceivable concerns, albeit less so as the Fairness Doctrine empowered broadcasters with the ability to choose precisely how contrary interpretations were imparted. Perhaps then the most pragmatic solution is to provide cable news organizations with the choice of either adhering to the Fairness Doctrine or instead openly recognizing their respective content for what it actually is, a consumer entertainment commodity, and having it regulated as such. Shifting oversight from the FCC to the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) under that scenario, cable news outlets would be forced to conspicuously label their content as directed by the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act. To the extent, cable news is a for-profit enterprise, and the factual information it claims to share is actually false, misleading, materially editorialized, or simply comprised mostly of plain opinion, the FTC could require prominent labeling of said content throughout a broadcast as “Not Factually Accurate,” “For Entertainment Purposes Only,” etc. In other words, faced with the choice of either presenting an opposing viewpoint or displaying a blatant disclaimer notifying viewers that the “news” they are consuming is not news at all and, transparently, more fiction than fact, the Fairness Doctrine likely presents a more inviting option. While cable news organizations controlling the time with and the manner in which opposing views are presented as well selecting stories to avoid damaging revelations remain viable threats, at the very least, viewers will be exposed to a different take on important issues which they likely would not have realized even existed otherwise and maybe begin approaching the content with some skepticism rather than unchallenged absolutism. This exposure, even minimally, may lead viewers to examine other sources to explore, to some degree, all sides of an issue and help protect against the further spread of damaging disinformation throughout society.

#### The plan empirically solves public mistrust in media and reduces bias.

Klein, Ian. “Enemy Of The People: The Ghost Of The F.C.C. Fairness Doctrine In The Age Of Alternative Facts.” Hastings Communications and Entertainment Law Journal. 2020. <https://repository.uchastings.edu/hastings\_comm\_ent\_law\_journal/vol42/iss1/4/>.

As statistics plainly show, Americans’ trust in broadcast media was at its highest during the life of the Fairness Doctrine and has been on the decline since the Fairness Doctrine’s demise.130 That decline coincides with a quantifiable bias in media,131 which fuels the public’s distrust of mainstream media.132 If Fairness Doctrine 2.0 required outlets like Fox and MSNBC to objectively present opposing points of view on important issues, it would be relatively easy to overcome both the perceived and objective components of bias. MSNBC having to present objective information on the Republican point of view on a given issue, for example, would have the twofold benefit of (1) increasing objectivity and reducing bias, and (2) increasing the outlet’s credibility among the public. In other words, this would not only be beneficial for viewers, who would suddenly be receiving both sides of a story rather than an extremely slanted view, but it would help outlets, as their credibility (and, theoretically, views) would increase. Furthermore, if the Personal Attack Rule were to make a resurgence as part of Fairness Doctrine 2.0, outlets like Sinclair would be unable to air derogatory content without giving the subjects of that content the chance to respond.133 This would by no means prevent outlets from presenting this information, but would afford the subjects of these attacks opportunity to respond, which could either validate or refute whatever the outlet said.

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### 1AC – Advantage

#### The advantage is democracy –

#### Democracy is backsliding now

Freedom House 21 [Freedom House. Freedom House works to defend human rights and promote democratic change, with a focus on political rights and civil liberties. We act as a catalyst for freedom through a combination of analysis, advocacy, and action. Our analysis, focused on 13 central issues, is underpinned by our international program work. “New Report: The global decline in democracy has accelerated”. 3-3-2021. . https://freedomhouse.org/article/new-report-global-decline-democracy-has-accelerated.]

Washington  -  March 3, 2021 — Authoritarian actors grew bolder during 2020 as major democracies turned inward, contributing to the 15th consecutive year of decline in global freedom, according to [Freedom in the World 2021](https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2021/democracy-under-siege), the annual country-by-country assessment of political rights and civil liberties released today by Freedom House.

The report found that the share of countries designated Not Free has reached its highest level since the deterioration of democracy began in 2006, and that countries with declines in political rights and civil liberties outnumbered those with gains by the largest margin recorded during the 15-year period. The report downgraded the freedom scores of 73 countries, representing 75 percent of the global population. Those affected include not just authoritarian states like China, Belarus, and Venezuela, but also troubled democracies like the United States and India.

In one of the year’s most significant developments, India’s status changed from Free to Partly Free, meaning less than 20 percent of the world’s people now live in a Free country—the smallest proportion since 1995. Indians’ political rights and civil liberties have been eroding since Narendra Modi became prime minister in 2014. His Hindu nationalist government has presided over increased pressure on human rights organizations, rising intimidation of academics and journalists, and a spate of bigoted attacks—including lynchings—aimed at Muslims. The decline deepened following Modi’s reelection in 2019, and the government’s response to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 featured further abuses of fundamental rights.

The changes in India formed part of a broader shift in the international balance between democracy and authoritarianism, with authoritarians generally enjoying impunity for their abuses and seizing new opportunities to consolidate power or crush dissent. In many cases, promising democratic movements faced major setbacks as a result.

In Belarus and Hong Kong, for example, massive prodemocracy protests met with brutal crackdowns by governments that largely disregarded international criticism. The Azerbaijani regime’s military offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh indirectly threatened recent democratic gains in Armenia, while the armed conflict in Ethiopia’s Tigray Region dashed hopes for the tentative political opening in that country since 2018. All four of these cases notably featured some degree of intervention by an autocratic neighbor: Moscow provided a backstop for the regime in Belarus, Beijing propelled the repression in Hong Kong, Turkey’s government aided its Azerbaijani counterpart, and Ethiopia’s leader called in support from Eritrea.

The malign influence of the regime in China, the world’s most populous dictatorship, ranged far beyond Hong Kong in 2020. Beijing ramped up its global disinformation and censorship campaign to counter the fallout from its cover-up of the initial coronavirus outbreak, which severely hampered a rapid global response in the pandemic’s early days. Its efforts also featured increased meddling in the domestic political discourse of foreign democracies, as well as transnational extensions of rights abuses common in mainland China. The Chinese regime has gained clout in multilateral institutions such as the UN Human Rights Council, which the United States abandoned in 2018, as Beijing pushed a vision of so-called noninterference that allows abuses of democratic principles and human rights standards to go unpunished while the formation of autocratic alliances is promoted.

“This year’s findings make it abundantly clear that we have not yet stemmed the authoritarian tide,” said Sarah Repucci, vice president of research and analysis at Freedom House. “Democratic governments will have to work in solidarity with one another, and with democracy advocates and human rights defenders in more repressive settings, if we are to reverse 15 years of accumulated declines and build a more free and peaceful world.”

A need for reform in the United States

While still considered Free, the United States experienced further democratic decline during the final year of the Trump presidency. The US score in [Freedom in the World](https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2021/democracy-under-siege) has dropped by 11 points over the past decade, and fell by three points in 2020 alone. The changes have moved the country out of a cohort that included other leading democracies, such as France and Germany, and brought it into the company of states with weaker democratic institutions, such as Romania and Panama.

Several developments in 2020 contributed to the United States’ current score. The Trump administration undermined government transparency by dismissing inspectors general, punishing or firing whistleblowers, and attempting to control or manipulate information on COVID-19. The year also featured mass protests that, while mostly peaceful, were accompanied by high-profile cases of violence, police brutality, and deadly confrontations with counterprotesters or armed vigilantes. There was a significant increase in the number of journalists arrested and physically assaulted, most often as they covered demonstrations. Finally, the outgoing president’s shocking attempts to overturn his election loss—culminating in his incitement of rioters who stormed the Capitol as Congress met to confirm the results in January 2021—put electoral institutions under severe pressure. In addition, the crisis further damaged the United States’ credibility abroad and underscored the menace of political polarization and extremism in the country.

”January 6 should be a wake-up call for many Americans about the fragility of American democracy,” said Michael J. Abramowitz, president of Freedom House. “Authoritarian powers, especially China, are advancing their interests around the world, while democracies have been divided and consumed by internal problems. For freedom to prevail on a global scale, the United States and its partners must band together and work harder to strengthen democracy at home and abroad. President Biden has pledged to restore America’s international role as a leading supporter of democracy and human rights, but to rebuild its leadership credentials, the country must simultaneously address the weaknesses within its own political system.”

“Americans should feel gratified that the courts and other important institutions held firm during the postelection crisis, and that the country escaped the worst possible outcomes,” said Abramowitz. “But the Biden administration, the new Congress, and American civil society must fortify US democracy by strengthening and expanding political rights and civil liberties for all. People everywhere benefit when the United States serves as a positive model, and the country itself reaps ample returns from a more democratic world.”

#### Media echo chambers threaten democracy – only the plan ensures fact-based and common-ground discussions

Friedland 21 [Julian Friedland, Assistant Professor of Corporate Social Responsibility in the School of Business at Metropolitan State University of Denver, 03-15-2021, “A Fairness Doctrine for the Twenty-First Century,” AREO, https://philarchive.org/archive/FRIAFD]/

Michael Goldhaber, who popularized the term the attention economy, said of the US Capitol insurrection: “It felt like an expression of a world in which everyone is desperately seeking their own audience and fracturing reality in the process. I only see that accelerating.” If we don’t do something about this, American democracy may not survive. For when there is no longer any common ground of evidence and reason, history shows that misinformation will eventually overwhelm public discourse and authoritarianism can take over. That is **precisely what** dictators **across the world gleefully anticipate** will happen in the US. Historically, such an outcome was prevented by the existence of public spaces in which people with differing viewpoints could confront each other. Radio became a national conversation platform, as the public and the Federal Communications Commission recognized the need to protect the airwaves from unrelenting political bias. Given that there were only so many spots on the radio dial, regulators reasoned that the space should be treated as a limited public resource, free from dishonest and misleading content. They therefore required stations to fairly represent opposing views: any station broadcasting one-sided opinions had to allow reply time for other perspectives. The fairness doctrine—which later also encompassed television—was in place from the 1940s up until 1987, when the FCC repealed it on the grounds that modern media technology provides for a potentially unlimited number of voices, so “the electronic press should have the same First Amendment guarantees enjoyed by print media.” As it stands, however, no court has ever deemed the fairness doctrine unconstitutional in letter or in spirit. That’s probably because the doctrine worked so well for so long and because judges feared the effects of new media technologies on public discourse. They were right to do so. Our present technology tailors news to each individual, according to increasingly sophisticated algorithms designed to predict engagement. The preselected material is often maximally provocative or sensational, which compels us to like, comment or share it among our affinity groups. Each of us manoeuvres for attention and recognition by a specific audience with shared identities, inclinations and allegiances. Naturally, what tends to emerge is self-arming groupthink. The upshot is that we now live in a cacophonic reality, which undermines the possibility of coherent national conversations based on common sets of recognized facts. The Biden administration could combat this by establishing a digital fairness doctrine for the twenty-first century. This would not mean setting up a government agency as the arbiter of truth. The purpose of such a doctrine is simply to preserve the possibility of a functioning national discourse on critical issues of public interest. It would not run afoul of First Amendment free speech guarantees, given that it would do nothing to block speech itself. In fact, it would expand and enrich national conversations, by preventing echo chambers prone to systematic bias. Any digital media platform employing targeting algorithms and with an audience of 1 million or more could be required to provide opposing viewpoints on a consistent basis: at least for the 10% most viewed news or opinion stories. Tax incentives could be provided for those who go above and beyond this. Top ranked stories would have to include prominent tabs marked opposing view or disputed claims. Disputed claims tabs would lead to a reputable third-party factchecking service and opposing view tabs would lead to an honest counterview, if available.

#### That causes nationalism and exclusionary populism

Fuchs 18 “Democracies Everywhere Are Backsliding. To Survive We Must Unite | Michael H Fuchs.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 9 Nov. 2018, www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/nov/09/us-democracy-countries-global-authoritarian.

The United States is fighting for the soul of its democracy. While the hateful agenda of [Donald Trump](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/donaldtrump) was dealt a rebuke in the midterm elections, in a deeply polarized country, the struggle for democracy will only intensify as Trump and his allies attempt to pull America down a dangerous path.

The president spouts racist conspiracy theories – which have been used as [justification](https://www.vox.com/2018/10/29/18037580/pittsburgh-shooter-anti-semitism-racist-jewish-caravan) for the mass slaughter of Jews in a synagogue and which appear to have [inspired](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/oct/25/trump-insults-bombs-targets-democrats) the attempted assassination of Democratic party leaders – with impunity. The president said the US military should shoot at asylum-seeking refugees at the southern border. He attacks the media as the “enemy of the people”. And all this was just in the past month.

But the United States isn’t alone – democracies across the world are struggling for their survival. Hungarian president Viktor Orban has launched systematic attacks on his country’s democratic institutions. President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines has led a campaign of extrajudicial killings of drug users and sellers. Brazil elected as president Jair Bolsonaro, who has [defended](https://www.npr.org/2018/07/30/631952886/dictatorship-was-a-very-good-period-says-brazil-s-aspiring-president) Brazil’s former dictatorship and espouses hate against women, the LGBTQ community, and others. Whether driven by nationalism, racism, fear of immigration, or other forces, populist movements can be contagious.

This should not be surprising, as political transitions can happen in waves. The “third wave” of democratization swept across Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, and in 2011 a rapid succession of popular rebellions erupted across the Middle East.

Democracies and autocracies learn from one another. In the wake of the murders at a Pittsburgh synagogue, China’s state-run media [suggested](https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/10/28/asia-pacific/chinese-state-media-claims-pittsburgh-mass-shooting-highlights-need-anti-extremism-education-similar-xinjiang-camps/#.W93lXdhKjBI) that the United States employ “anti-extremism education” like that China is using in Xinjiang, where it imprisons roughly a million Uighurs just because of their religion. When Nigeria’s military recently killed protesters who had been accused of throwing rocks, the Nigerian military [cited](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/02/world/africa/nigeria-trump-rocks.html) Trump’s comments that the US military could shoot refugees at the southern US border if they threw rocks.

#### That sets the stage for escalation – multiple warrants –

#### Nationalism affects political incentives to escalate and intensifies reaction to perceived threats – Indian doctrine proves.

Ahmed 14 (Ali, PhD is a freelance analyst. “China and India: Nationalism and Nuclear Risk”, http://thediplomat.com/2014/12/china-and-india-nationalism-and-nuclear-risk/)

Following Gaurav Kampani’s recent essay in International Security, another paper by the author was published by the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies. This new paper is quite compelling and deserves a close look, especially where he notes two tendencies increasing deterrence instability between India and China. However, there may be a blind spot in Kampani’s analysis. But let’s start with the first tendency noted by Kampani: As both militaries have entered nuclear strategic decision making – with the Indian military lagging behind by about a decade – there is a push to move from minimal to limited deterrence. This involves, in part, seeking to enhance deterrence by building in options for limited nuclear use. The second tendency is in the negative implications this carries for no-first use (NFU), which is currently the professed policy of both states. This was particularly evident in the now-defunct Indian debate on the expected revision of its nuclear doctrine. Taken together, the two beget a situation of instability described by Kampani as: “… limited options render deterrence more credible and are more likely to achieve intra-war deterrence … The net strategic effect of these operational changes will be the lowering of the bar for nuclear weapons use in the future.” Kampani rightly notes that there are mitigating structural and institutional features, namely large and strong militaries and balancing institutional pulls from political and scientific establishments, that make for stability. Kampani’s case is that while “there is reason for concern, the case for nuclear pessimism in the China–India nuclear dyad is overstated,” so can’t we, on account of that stability, leave well enough alone? To be sure, the two states have considerable depth in both territory and forces, thus precluding the ready or early resort to nuclear weapons. However, nationalism is growing stronger in the politics of both states. Chinese nationalism is being fanned by the nationalist turns in Japan, and this year India elected a nationalist government. The impact of nationalism on strategic rationality is to force everything towards the hard option. During crises or conflicts, there are also media-induced nationalist pulls and pressures magnifying this force. Of course, this force is further strengthened by both states being on the cusp of rising to the next echelon in power, with China poised to become a superpower and India a great power. The adverse effect of downward movement by either will be taken as impacting its standing. In India’s case this would include its regional salience in relation to Pakistan. Finally, while nationalism in both states can prove fatal, it is bad enough in just one as that would suffice to ensure a mirroring in the other. The net effect of this is the escalation of the several border incidents in the recent past between the two states, such as the most recent, which coincided with the Chinese premier’s visit to Delhi. Clearly, there is nothing positive to be found here. A nudge is more liable to end up as a push, and a push more liable to transform into a shove. Nationalism and the cultural need to save face at this stage will likely kick in with greater gusto. The side that perceives itself to be on the losing end can be expected to escalate to escape disadvantage. To be sure, escalation can very well occur. Indeed, directions in the military preparedness of both states betray as much. Even though there is only a border dispute between them, an incipient rivalry in the Indian Ocean is being played out. This horizontal escalation is building in scope. Coupled with the nationalist impulse in strategic thinking, vertical escalation is becoming a certainty where otherwise it would have remained a mere possibility. What will vertical escalation look like? Nationalism-inspired strategies will place a premium on territory. With forces available and mobile thanks to increased investment in infrastructure and aerial transport fleets, the rapid concentration of forces can be foreseen. This might potentially set the stage for de-escalation, since neither would be able to claim an easy victory. In fact, precedence does favor this in that China withdrew after its earlier forays into India and Vietnam, and India has restricted its actions against Pakistan in Kargil to that theater itself. However, nationalism, with its effects on strategy, is the wildcard, making it difficult to rule out escalation. Traditional nuclear strategists would claim that India currently lacks strategic deterrence, since its Agni series is not yet complete and the K series has not yet been tested from the nuclear submarine. Even so, India will likely have enough deterrence elements to please such strategists by the end of the decade. In the interim, it is exercising minimal deterrence, the effect of which cannot be discounted, as China values its economic trajectory. However, this can, at best, only ensure deterrence stability at the upper reaches of city busting levels. As Kampani notes in his warning of military pushes in both states towards the operational – instead of political – utility of nuclear weapons, there will also likely be military pushes in both states for operational level leverage with nuclear weapons. Kampani admits to both militaries being capable of nuclear use from demonstration shots to shots across the bow. A nationalist strategy, coupled with a military need to recuperate from a bad bargain, may foreshadow the operational use of nuclear weapons. Use of nuclear weapons will not necessarily bring about a doomsday scenario in that the choice of nuclear first use and its response will be in areas marginal to the territorial and socio-political heartland of both states. Nuclear first use of this kind would likely invoke the strategic benefit in the deterrence logic of the “threat that leaves something to chance.” The scenario here relies on a factor usually discounted in traditional strategic analyses, which presume strategic rationality and have internal political factors as a [unknown] blind spot. Consequently, though Kampani is right that the “competition is unlikely to assume the unbridled nature of the former superpower rivalry,” that is not quite the real fear.

#### It causes protectionism causing strategic disengagement and trade wars destabilizing relationships and causing war

**Morelli et al 20** [MORELLI, Massimo, , MATTOZZI, Andrea, , NAKAGUMA, Marcos Y., *Populism and war*, CEPR Discussion Paper, 2020/14501 Retrieved from Cadmus, European University Institute Research Repository, at: <https://hdl.handle.net/1814/68417>]

1 Introduction **In recent years, the world has witnessed a rise of populist political leaders in many western democracies, including the United States** − the world’s dominant superpower. We broadly refer to a populist leader as one who **champions short-term protectionist policies, disregarding their long-term consequences and pandering to voters’ fears and beliefs.**1 Another distinctive feature of populist governments is their **disdain for traditional politics and both national and international institutions. A populist government concentrates resources domestically, choosing to strategically disengage from conflicts abroad. Trade wars, the unilateral imposition of tariffs, closing of borders and abrupt disengagement from international issues are among the measures that have been taken by populist leaders recently**, in line with globalization blaming also emphasized by Rodrick [10]. In the United States, **Trump administration’s foreign policy has been notorious for aggressively resorting to “economic statecraft”, i.e. the strategy of using economic means, particularly protectionism and economic coercion, to pursue foreign policy goals** (Drezner [3]). **The “trade war” initiated in 2018 is perhaps the biggest example of the use of such strategy.**2 Between January 2018 and November 2019, the trade war lead to a tripling of the average U.S. tariff on imports (Amiti et al. [1]), **which in turn caused U.S. trading partners, particularly China, to retaliate by increasing tariffs on U.S. exports. The trade war resulted in a significant reduction in trade flows, disruption of global value chains and an overall increase in policy uncertainty**, consequently leading to a reduction in global growth rates (Ikonen et al. [5]). Alongside with economic statecraft, an additional feature of Trump’s foreign policy has been the “pulling back” or strategic **disengagement from conflicts around the world (Posen [8]), especially “unwinnable” foreign wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan, creating security vacuums and threatening regional stabilities and balances of power.**3 This paper studies the implications of populism for international relations, focusing on the incidence of interstate and civil conflict across the world. We start our analysis from the premise that populism in a superpower dramatically increases the risk of protectionism and trade wars and leads to strategic disengagement (“America first”). The combination of these features could have terrible consequences. We show that the tendency to protectionism can increase the risk of war world-wide and increase inequality within and between countries. Neither the fear that disengagement of the U.S. could lead to war nor the fear that protectionism could lead to war are new. The novel contribution of this paper is to provide a simple unified gametheoretic framework to connect the consequences of these two different features of populism. Our analysis provide an answer to the following questions: (1) Should we expect the consequences of populism to increase or decrease inequality and the risk of civil war in ethnically divided countries? (2) Should we expect populism to lead to a greater or lower risk of interstate wars? In order to examine these issues, we propose a flexible theoretical framework that can be adapted to study both civil and interstate wars. In our model, a war may occur due to the realization of uncertainty over the cost of conflict. Basically, conflict is unavoidable if the cost of war is small enough for at least one of the parties involved in the conflict. Our framework allows us to show that protectionism and the associated reduction in the gains from international trade unambiguously increases the risk of civil conflict. In particular, a reduction in the gains from trade due to the choices of populist leaders in superpowers leads governments in ethnically divided societies to renegotiate the “social contract”. This renegotiation amounts to a reduction of the share of resources offered to the ethnic group(s) not in power, yielding either a peaceful acceptance of greater inequality or a more likely war, or both. Our analysis leads to the novel insight that populism causes inequality to spread across the world. Furthermore**, a reduction in trade** reduces the opportunity cost of interstate wars, especially in country dyads which were sufficiently asymmetric in terms of openness to international trade and of military power. Populism leads superpowers to strategic**ally disengage from international conflicts.** Which types of conflicts will a populist leader choose to disengage from? He will choose to disengage from conflicts where the likelihood of success is small and where it was previously backing the weaker side. Intuitively, these are the types of conflicts that are most costly and lead to little domestic benefits for the populist leader. Therefore, we expect disengagement from superpowers to cause the relationships between countries and between **groups within a country to become more unbalanced, leading, as a consequence, to more internal inequality and to an increase in the risk of both interstate and civil conflict across the world**. This paper contributes to the literature on the formal theory of conflict, in that it characterizes the conditions under which the risk of war or bargaining break-down due to asymmetric information increases with protectionism and disengagement by a populist superpower leader.4 Thus, our paper also relates to the literature on third party involvement in bilateral crises.5 Our analysis is consistent with other papers in the literature that have shown that the probability of civil war increases during economic downturns (Chassang and Padro-i-Miquel [2]). However, while previous studies have focused primarily on the direct impact of economic shocks on the opportunity cost of war, our analysis emphasizes the crucial role of endogenous inequality and bargaining between rebels and government as mechanisms linking adverse economic shocks and civil conflict.

#### Backsliding causes prolif and undermines DPT – goes nuclear

**Yulis 17** (Max Yulis, Penn Political Review. In Defense of Liberal Internationalism. April 8, 2017. pennpoliticalreview.org/2017/04/in-defense-of-liberal-internationalism/)

Over the past decade, international headlines have been bombarded with stories about the unraveling of the post-Cold War world order, the creation of revolutionary smart devices and military technologies, the rise of militant jihadist organizations, and nuclear proliferation. Indeed, times are paradoxically promising and alarming. In relation to treating the world’s ills, fortunately, there is a capable hegemon– one that has the ability to revive the world order and traditionally hallmarked human rights, peace, and democracy. The United States, with all of its shortcomings, had crafted an international agenda that significantly impacted the post-WWII landscape. Countries invested their ambitions into security communities, international institutions, and international law in an effort to mitigate the chances of a nuclear catastrophe or another World War. The horrors and atrocities of the two Great Wars had traumatized the global community, which spurred calls for peace and the creation of a universalist agenda. Today, the world’s fickle and declining hegemon still has the ability, but not the will, to uphold the world order that it had so carefully and eagerly helped construct. Now, the stakes are too high, and there must be a mighty and willing global leader to lead the effort of diffusing democratic ideals and reinforcing stability through both military and diplomatic means. To do this, the United States must abandon its insurgent wave of isolationism and protectionism, and come to grips with the newly transnational nature of problems ranging from climate change to international terrorism. First, the increase in intra-state conflict should warrant concern as many countries, namely in Africa and the Middle East, are seeing the total collapse of civil society and government. These power vacuums are being filled with increasingly ideological and dangerous tribal and non-state actors, such as Boko Haram, ISIS, and Al-Shabaab. Other bloody civil wars in Rwanda, Sudan, and the Congo have contributed to the deaths of millions in the past two decades. As the West has seen, however, military intervention has not been all that successful in building and empowering democratic institutions in the Far East. A civil crusade, along with the strengthening of international institutions, may in fact be the answer to undoing tribal, religious, and sectarian divisions, thereby mitigating the prospects of civil conflict. During the Wilsonian era, missionaries did their part to internationalize the concept of higher education, which has contributed to the growth of universities in formerly underdeveloped countries such as China and South Korea.[1] In addition, the teachings of missionaries emphasized the universality of humanity and the oneness of man, which was antithetical to the justifications for imperialism and the rampant sectarianism that plagued much of the Middle East and Africa.[2] Seeing that an increase in the magnitude of human casualty is becoming more of a reality due to advancements in military technology and the increasing outbreaks of civil war, international cooperation and the diffusion of norms that highlight the importance of stable governance, democracy, and human rights is the only recourse to address the rise in sectarian divides and civil conflicts. So long as the trend of the West’s desire to look inward continues, it is likely that nation states mired in conflict will devolve into ethnic or tribal enclaves bent on relying on war to maintain their legitimacy and power. Aside from growing sectarianism and the increasing prevalence of failed states, an even more daunting threat come from weapons that transcend the costs of conventional warfare. The problem of nuclear proliferation has been around for decades, and on the eve of President Trump’s inauguration, it appeared that Obama’s lofty goal of advocating for nonproliferation would no longer be a priority of American foreign policy.[3] In addition, now that the American president is threatening to undo much of the United States’ extensive network of alliances, formerly non-nuclear states may be forced to rearm themselves. Disarmament is central to liberal internationalism, as was apparent by the Washington Naval Treaty advocated by Wilson, and by the modern CTBT treaty. The reverse is, however, being seen in the modern era, with cries coming from Japan and South Korea to remobilize and begin their own nuclear weapon programs.[4] A world with more nuclear actors is a formula for chaos, especially if nuclear weapons become mass-produced. Non-state actors will increasingly eye these nuclear sites as was the case near a Belgian nuclear power plant just over a year ago.[5] If any government commits a serious misstep, access to nuclear weapons on the behalf of terrorist and insurgent groups will become a reality, especially if a civil war occurs. States with nuclear weapons require domestic stability and strong security, which is why states such as Israel, North Korea, and Pakistan could be in serious trouble in the event of a domestic uprising or military coup. The disarmament of all states is essential for human survival, and if it is not achieved, then a world full of nuclear weapons and an international system guided by realpolitik could give rise to nuclear warfare. In today’s world, nuclear weapons leave all states virtually defenseless. But, for nuclear deproliferation to become a cornerstone of the global agenda, a pacifying and democratic power must rise to the limelight to advocate the virtues of peace, stability, and human rights. Those who equivocate democratic interventionism as an idealistic crusade cannot be further from the truth. Some, however, see it as an effective foreign policy that has a grand scheme for peace in mind.[6] The latter contention, despite being widely disputed, holds the premise for the democratic peace theory. Throughout the history of all democracies, not one modern-day democracy has fought against another democracy.[7] Whether that’s because of ideational symmetry, similar objectives and morals**,** or generally pacific foreign policies, such a phenomenon must be given attention by policymakers. According to liberal internationalists, democracies make better partners, tend to move towards increased political and moral agreement, oppose illiberal regimes, and support disarmament policies. This supposition is heavily supported by the smooth post-WWII transitions that the German, Japanese, and Italian governments underwent. All of the governments were formerly fascistic and authoritarian, but with intensive military and economic support from the West, they became some of the most shining exemplars of democratic societies. Even today, Germany is the backbone of the European Union and repeatedly champions democratic norms, such as human rights, economic freedom, and individual liberty.[8] Equipping other countries with the necessary foundations for democracy is no easy feat, but the fight for peace far outweighs the costs of inhabiting a world rife with nuclear-armed authoritarian and belligerent states. In conclusion, liberal internationalism can have a lasting legacy on the prospects for peace if it is executed properly. Putting democracy, humanism, and liberty on a pedestal is what states ought to do if they seek to save humanity from itself. Although the rise of transnational issues pertaining to climate change, nuclear weapons, and civil wars should make international cooperation an increasingly desired aim, states seem to be thinking just the opposite. Only time will tell whether this is a short-lived trend, or a more ominous warning for the world at large.

#### Nuke war causes extinction AND outweighs other existential risks

PND 16. internally citing Zbigniew Brzezinski, Council of Foreign Relations and former national security adviser to President Carter, Toon and Robock’s 2012 study on nuclear winter in the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, Gareth Evans’ International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament Report, Congressional EMP studies, studies on nuclear winter by Seth Baum of the Global Catastrophic Risk Institute and Martin Hellman of Stanford University, and U.S. and Russian former Defense Secretaries and former heads of nuclear missile forces, brief submitted to the United Nations General Assembly, Open-Ended Working Group on nuclear risks. A/AC.286/NGO/13. 05-03-2016. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/OEWG/2016/Documents/NGO13.pdf

Consequences human survival 12. Even if the 'other' side does NOT launch in response the smoke from 'their' burning cities (incinerated by 'us') will still make 'our' country (and the rest of the world) uninhabitable, potentially inducing global famine lasting up to decades. Toon and Robock note in ‘Self Assured Destruction’, in the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists 68/5, 2012, that: 13. “A nuclear war between Russia and the United States, even after the arsenal reductions planned under New START, could produce a nuclear winter. Hence, an attack by either side could be suicidal, resulting in self assured destruction. Even a 'small' nuclear war between India and Pakistan, with each country detonating 50 Hiroshima-size atom bombs--only about 0.03 percent of the global nuclear arsenal's explosive power--as air bursts in urban areas, could produce so much smoke that temperatures would fall below those of the Little Ice Age of the fourteenth to nineteenth centuries, shortening the growing season around the world and threatening the global food supply. Furthermore, there would be massive ozone depletion, allowing more ultraviolet radiation to reach Earth's surface. Recent studies predict that agricultural production in parts of the United States and China would decline by about 20 percent for four years, and by 10 percent for a decade.” 14. A conflagration involving USA/NATO forces and those of Russian federation would most likely cause the deaths of most/nearly all/all humans (and severely impact/extinguish other species) as well as destroying the delicate interwoven techno-structure on which latter-day 'civilization' has come to depend. Temperatures would drop to below those of the last ice-age for up to 30 years as a result of the lofting of up to 180 million tonnes of very black soot into the stratosphere where it would remain for decades. 15. Though human ingenuity and resilience shouldn't be underestimated, human survival itself is arguably problematic, to put it mildly, under a 2000+ warhead USA/Russian federation scenario. 16. The Joint Statement on Catastrophic Humanitarian Consequences signed October 2013 by 146 governments mentioned 'Human Survival' no less than 5 times. The most recent (December 2014) one gives it a highly prominent place. Gareth Evans’ ICNND (International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament) Report made it clear that it saw the threat posed by nuclear weapons use as one that at least threatens what we now call 'civilization' and that potentially threatens human survival with an immediacy that even climate change does not, though we can see the results of climate change here and now and of course the immediate post-nuclear results for Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well.