T.C.

ISTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

THE EUROPEAN UNION'S LIMITATIONS REGARDING RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA

MASTER'S THESIS

Abdul Aziz ARAKJI

Department of Political Science and International Relations
Political Science and International Relations Program

MARCH, 2022

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MARCH, 2022

ONAY FORMU

DECLARATION

I hereby declare with respect that the study "The European Union's Limitations Regarding Relations with Russia and China", which I submitted as a Master thesis, is written without any assistance in violation of scientific ethics and traditions in all the processes from the project phase to the conclusion of the thesis and that the works I have benefited are from those shown in the Bibliography. (3/25/2022)

Abdul Aziz ARAKJI

FOREWORD

The end of this academic journey has come as Coronavirus forced the world into a shutdown our pressors at Istanbul Aydin University put so much effort into delivering a proper education to the students. Therefore, I want to genuinely thank my thesis advisor Dr. Hazar JANE, for her extraordinary support and technical help, due to the effort she put into maintaining a proper university work and checking up on her research students, I was able to finish my thesis on time, with any problem I had she kept finding solutions especially as working from distance. I would like to thank all the professors of Istanbul Aydin University for motivating their students into coming up with a new strong opinion that could put the students in a better place in the future, mentioning the professors that made me think out of the box, Professor. Dr. Filiz KATMAN, and Professor Hatice DENIZ. Their experience. knowledge with high level of technicalities in our field let me widen my view regarding many topics.

This part is dedicated to my parents and siblings, who have helped me complete many chapters of life. All the sacrifices that they have been through in life all for us to get a proper education. Without all their continuous support, I would not have been able to achieve any of this. My siblings played a huge role in this therefore I would like to thank Rami, Mohannad and Ranim for their support and encouragement.

Last but not least, I want to thank my friends especially Saria Al Zaim, Ahmad Jrab, Ahmad Dandashleh, Markus Bheil, Paul Nissen, Yasmina Akar and Fatima You. They were family while my family is away. With them this journey been full of unforgettable memories.

March, 2022 **Abdul Aziz ARAKJI**

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ABBREVIATIONS

AfD	**:** Alternativ Fur Deutschland
BRI	**:** Belt and Road initiative
EEC	**:** European Economic Community
ECSC	**:** European Coal and Steel Community
ECtHR	**:** European Court of Human Rights
ENP	**:** European Neighborhood Policy
EU	**:** European Union
EURATOM	**:** European Atomic Energy Community
INF	**:** Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty
NPT	**:** Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons
PPP	**:** Purchase Power Parity
RIC	**:** Referendum d'Initiative Citoyenne
SD	**:** Sweden Democrats
UK	**:** The United Kingdom
USA	**:** United States of America
USSR	**:** Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WTO	**:** World Trade Organization

THE EUROPEAN UNION'S LIMITATIONS REGARDING RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA

ABSTRACT

The European Union reached the historical crossroad of challenging the United States of America's hegemonic influence by cooperating with the rising eastern powers Russia and China. The EU long standing social, economic, and military ties with the USA been questioned ever since Trump got in power, which put EU members of rebelling against the EU dependency on their long-standing ally. Accepting that the relationship with the US been jeopardizing the survivability of the EU, resulting in cracks in the EU due to the US dangerous foreign policies, that aims to compromise other countries interests in order to survive. The EU is beginning to turn away from the US influence, by heading towards the rising powers in order to secure their support in that endeavor. The EU is dependent on Russian gas, yet Russia is seen as an expansionist country ever since they have annexed Crimea, with China on the Russian side their foreign policy regarding the Middle East had negative insights from the EU. The EU is stuck, as it can neither maintain its dependency relations with the US, nor can it easily reconcile the differences it has with the rising powers. The EU dependency led a certain segment of its own citizens to criticize it regarding the open-door policy for refugees, which has created in the rise of populism. The divisive effect has created legitimate concerns regarding the future and the continuance of the EU. The social welfare that been promoted in many European countries for the European social stability have reached difficulties due to the mass migration and coronavirus. As a result of Brexit, many states within the EU shown a strong urgency to break away from the institution, as Brexit is successful for the United Kingdom, different EU members started considering it such as Italy, Poland and Hungary subverting the EU regulations and taking a nationalistic posture. The EU is seeking development with the proposition of an EU army, in order to curb the US influence and become a deterrence for any threat especially Russia. The EU regrets the open-door policy as it led to a direct threat towards the establishment, diplomatic solutions came into hand in order to slow down the influx of refugees. The EU decision making is unclear whether it wants to make a change and leading it to become the core of change by disrupting the current system.

KeyWords: *European Union, Eastern Rising Powers, Populism, Belt and Road Initiative, Breakaway states, Hegemony.*

AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ'NİN RUSYA VE ÇİN ILE İLİŞKİLERE İLİŞKİN SINIRLAMALARI

ÖZET

Avrupa Birliği; yükselen Doğu güçleri Rusya ve Çin ile işbirliği yaparak Amerika Birleşik Devletleri'nin hegemonik etkisine meydan okumanın dönüm noktasına ulaştı. AB'nin ABD ile uzun süredir devam eden sosyal, ekonomik ve askeri bağları Trump'ın iktidara gelmesinden bu yana sorgulanmaktadır ve bu da AB üyelerini, AB bağımlılığına uzun süredir karşı olan müttefiklerini isyana sürüklemektedir. ABD ile ilişkilerin AB'nin bekasını tehlikeye attığını, ABD'nin tehlikeli dış politikaları nedeniyle AB, çatlaklara yol açtığını kabul etmek ve hayatta kalabilmek için diğer ülkelerin çıkarlarından taviz vermeyi amaçlamaktadır. AB, bu çabayla desteklerini garanti altına almak için yükselen güçlere yönelerek ABD etkisinden uzaklaşmaya başlamıştır. AB, Rus gazına bağımlıdır ancak Rusya, Kırım'ı ilhak ettiğinden beri yayılmacı bir ülke olarak görülmektedir. Rusya'nın yanında Çin'in de Orta Doğu'ya yönelik dış politikası AB'den olumsuz algılanmıştır. AB, ABD ile bağımlılık ilişkisini yeterli düzeyde sürdüremediği ve yükselen güçlerle arasındaki farkları kolayca ortaya koyamadığı için tıkanmıştır. AB bağımlılığı, kendi vatandaşlarının belirli bir kesimini, popülizmin yükselişinde ortaya çıkan mültecilere yönelik açık kapı politikası konusunda eleştirmeye yöneltmiştir. Bölücü etki, AB'nin geleceği ve devamı ile ilgili meşru endişeler yaratmıştır. Avrupa sosyal istikrar için birçok Avrupa ülkesinde teşvik edilen sosyal refah, kitlesel göç ve koronavirüs nedeniyle zorluklar yaşamıştır. Brexit'in bir sonucu olarak, AB içindeki birçok devlet, Brexit'in Birleşik Krallık için başarılı olması nedeniyle, kurumdan ayrılmak için güçlü bir politika sergilemeye başlamıştır.

İtalya, Polonya ve Macaristan gibi farklı AB üyeleri, AB düzenlemelerini altüst ederek ve AB'yi kabul etmeye başlamıştır. Milliyetçi bir duruş ile AB, ABD etkisini kırmak ve başta Rusya olmak üzere her türlü tehdide karşı caydırıcı olabilmek için, AB ordusu önerisiyle kalkınmayı amaçlamaktadır. AB, düzene yönelik doğrudan bir tehdit oluşturduğu için açık kapı politikasından üzüntü duymaktadır, mülteci akınını yavaşlatmaya yönelik diplomatik çözümler ele almıştır. AB'nin karar alma mekanizması, bir değişiklik yapmak ve mevcut dünya sistemini bozarak onu değişimin özü haline getirmeyi isteyip istemediği belirsizdir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Özellik seçimi, Destek Vektör Makinesi (SVM), Transfer Fonksiyonu, Sürü Zekası Algoritması*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Importance Of The Topic

The European Union been suffering from political pressure from the world Hegemon the United States of America, that has strategically benefited from the European Union. Such behavior from the U.S. Forced the EU to seek new opportunities, to find a way to expand their chances and running a relation with the Eastern powers. Such a relation could be measured by the U.S. as a direct threat and could cause a long-term economic battle that put the EU the center of it. The EU could benefit from such tough situation to grow its military power and to avoid the dependency that the EU been built on, dependency is a sign for weakness, if by any chance the EU managed to maintain its relation with both the U.S. and Russian-China, with their economic strength and massive landscape the EU could play a role in changing the world system from the current unipolar system to a multipolar, with the right assistance of Russia and China, avoiding the dependency strategy that U.S. pushed the EU to follow, an EU army could be possible and an EU superpower could exist all with the right decision making.

1.2 Research Objectives

The European Union relations with Russia and China is an important study to analyze the shift that is happening from the West towards the east, changes within the EU that is constantly affecting the future relationship with its long term ally the United States of America, which led to the growth in the Russian-Chinese relations, relations with countries that at some point in history were considered adversaries, and now growing into a partnership. With an aim of figuring out the outcome of such a relationship, the EU found itself in a new dilemma with the rise in Euroscepticism, and populism, such a dilemma started to grow from the western ideological fundamentals that threatened the understanding of certain people of the current systems “political, social, and

economic". The race to hegemony also forced EU countries to choose a side which led in a policy division between EU members, the alteration in the political positions paved the way for far right and far left leaders to get in power or having influence on the status quo, countries such as Italy and Hungary took part of such changes especially during the process of Brexit. Analyzing the changes could point out how the EU is changing its foreign policies, and how the EU members would prefer to conduct one to one cooperation with other countries.

The research objective is to find a possible outcome for the reader, while the information that will be handed in would guide the reader to assume a better understanding over the topic, by collecting most of the data and using the ideas of the theorists, the topic could be easier to analyzed by the reader to perceive a better perspective on the overall future of the European Unions and its relations with the US hegemon, and the rising power. The objective is to totally analyze the whether the European Union could survive in a Multipolar System or would it have to split.

1.3 Research Question And Main Argument:

Such a detailed topic comes with important questions to be discussed, to justify the importance of the question it is highly recommended to clarify which country is considered essential. The U.S. has sort of minor authority on other countries, and the EU happened to be dealing with such problems, therefore questioning the certainty of the future relationship between the European Union and the United States of America? Such a relationship between the two been considered strong post the First World War until President Donald Trump got in office.

How did this authority managed to grow after the second World War, and what did the United States benefit from the European Union ever since? And with such problems from the West, the EU started seeking other relations with eastern countries, which put the European Union is a difficult position with the United States. The US saw the EU as an economic threat ever since the eastern powers became more beneficial.

Questioning how would the relationship between Russia and China threaten the European Union peace, and what should the European Union consider before getting in a long-term irreversible relationship with Russia and China? How beneficial such a relationship could be, especially after the claims that the spread of Covid-19 virus happened from China?

Is it possible for the European Union to suffer from economic problems or social problems because of the rise of populism, is there a chance for a divided European Union "Political Division", particularly after the refugee crisis that made a huge impact on the EU? Would the European Union find a way of benefiting from both the western and eastern relations to gain political and military grounds? The U.S. fear of the achievement of a Multipolar System.

As the world is shifting from Unipolar system to a possible multipolar system, how would the European Union survive and be able to compete with the US to avoid being dependent on them? As the EU takes benefit from the Periphery and Semi-Periphery according to the World System Theory by Wallerstein, the US started considering the EU being a core could lead to a long-term economic difficulty since it has been helping China achieve a core tittle that could manipulate the market with its economic and technological capabilities. What does the EU have to do to maintain itself after all the problems?

1.4 Research Methodology:

With a thought-provoking topic the research methodology is important to discuss and explain the steps that must be taken to reach the clear outcome. The research will be conducted by using articles and books, the collection of data will be much sufficient to obtain since it is based on either news articles or official documents. Such a way would enrich the chapters analysis by identifying each period changes and its impact on the European Union.

1.5 Research Limitations:

In every research study there is a limitation, however when it comes to this topic the limitation is based on every political halt caused by countries that

could shift the EU's position, since this topic will discuss a ten-year period, during this period there was a massive change, to a point where the EU members started seeking what is best for them away from the EU policies. Such changes in political changes could limit the fast advancement in in such a topic since there will be a lot of deadlocks. Such slow change could leave a room for EU members to deal with internal social problems, minor changes could create a limitation with such a topic since any social or political change could varies the outcome of this thesis, however since there is a timetable set, a conclusion could portrait a main point, yet it could differ from a reader to another depending on the political spectrum the reader would see it from.

1.6 Literature Review:

-Francis Fukuyama:

Yoshihiro Francis Fukuyama's is an American political scientist and political economist and a writer, in his book the End of History that the liberal democracies reached an evolving lifestyle under the free capitalist market, however in his book Fukuyama argued that with such a system the evolution would never stop, yet in 2018 disagreed with his point on no turn back for liberal democracies, and it all changed with the rise of populism and far right movements in many countries around the world but he focused on Europe and the United States of America. However, with Fukuyama's theory, it would be a great back up for this thesis research since it would explain the changes that happened during the ten-year period, and how having a US President changed the world status quo.

Trumps Presidency seemed like a difficult situation to have the world understand what would happen since he was the first president to make changes in a very short period, such changes had either positive or negative affects over the rest of the world. The reality of Trump being in power crossed many countries, with the trade war, and the tariffs being added on several nations, the world seemed to be going back to the period of instability. The instability appeared to come from the rise of nationalism that will destabilize every nation

in the 21st century, especially the European countries since they have been dealing with a massive influx of refugees.

-Zbigniew Brzezinski:

Brzezinski's political career been full of important experiences from being a counselor for the 36's U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson, and the National security advisor under President Jimmy Carter. Many foreign policy events that made his political perspective important to consider, from singing treaties such as the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty "SALT II", Camp David Accords and many more, however one of the books "Strategic Vision" could collaborate a lot in this research for a strategic understanding of the polarity systems, and who will gain power after 2025. China's economic rise is important to be analyze, since it is considered to take over the U.S. hegemony, and seek countries to dominate the world arena, however according to Brzezinski, the EU is as important as the U.S. or China, since there is a chance of a multipolar system with the EU being the third to come after the two super powers and all that depends on how the EU relations is conducted between the East and the West.

According to Emmanuel Wallerstein in the "world system theory" as the multi-disciplinary macro state approach that discuss the unit of social analysis by dividing them into the three levels, the semi-periphery countries have a long journey to reach a core tittle, yet China been capable of reaching such a tittle in a short period of time while ignoring the fact of being a buffer zone between the core and the periphery and mainly taking advantage of the periphery by making them more dependent on Chinese products. China's economic rise according to Brzezinski is a prediction on how the world could be post 2025 since China been working on its economic growth, yet still manipulating its economic status. Making other countries dependent on China is a strategy to compete with the world hegemon the US, without taking any direct action.

-Samuel P. Huntington:

Samuel Huntington is well known for his book the Clash of Civilizations, and such a topic is very important to add on, since the EU suffered from the massive

refugee crisis, that led to separations within the countries of the EU. Such a theory cannot be neglected since there is a rise in far right in many countries because of such a crisis, and the countries that hosted the refugees suffer from internal problems, economic and social. The social issue is heavily discussed in the cultural differences between the Eastern countries such as Syria and the European countries. What would be added to this theory is how the EU finds alternative to avoid internal clashes, yet it is forced to maintain a previous relation due to the fear in slow changes that could cause a change in the European culture. As Huntington mentioned the clash of civilizations, he understood the long-term vision of the western societies, therefor what happened in Europe post 2015 regarding the massive increase in populist parties could be considered as the rise of a long-lasting clash, such a problem been predicted by the theorist, yet not expected to happen in the 21st century where the world has been advancing at a higher technological paste yet the societies still stuck in the same place, and this could be interconnected with the point of Francis Fukuyama, when he backed off from his theory ever since Donald Trump got in power, this could be a point to keep in mind throughout the thesis to understand how does history repeat itself, and how difficult it is for societies to change their behavior.

1.7 Introduction To Thesis:

Continental Europe has experienced changes over the years, more of a major change with the decline of the system that deliberately inherited powers to certain countries. Colonization managed to empower France, Germany, and many more. such countries started to lose their authoritarian powers with the decline of colonization. Such a period shifted the interest of European countries from exploiting other countries to a new fear, and it is the border security between one and other, which made the countries consider a new system that would grant them less boarder to boarder danger. During the period of colonization continental Europe became the battle ground for two major World Wars “World War I and World War II”, Such wars managed to shape the future decisions of European countries especially from the internal factors such as the rise of fascism and the external factor which is the Eastern, and Western interest

of involvement in both territory, security, and policy management. Such wars forced the Europe's well-structured countries to construct a system that would consciously remove any possible future threat and maintain equal understanding of how continental Europe must be.

With economy being the main factor in the two World Wars, European countries started to develop ways to avoid such problems. Six European countries got together and formed the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), on April 18, 1951, with such a system it slowly developed and came into force on July 23, 1952, however it started gaining popularity and in 1957 the ECSC bonded with European Atomic Energy Community "EURATOM" to become a single program the European Economic Community (EEC) on March 25, 1957 two treaties were signed and both combined into the EEC, with the goal of forming a stable economy between the members and avoiding an economic collapse that would create a rising movement that could be the key for a third World War, although the development of the EEC been considered a slow change in its development, but with the time taken ever since its formation, on November 1 1993, was the first big step and large scale change between those boarder to boarder countries, such countries that once been at war with each other now have an open boarder under the one flag of European Union (EU).

Maastricht treaty formed what today we call the European Union that holds 27 countries, yet the advancement after the creation of the EU been considered a slow progress but successful, with the adoption of the united currency between most of EU members, the EURO has managed to express its joint power on the international market by competing with the world strongest economy at the time of its creation, the United States of America (USA).

Although the Economic vision been considered important for the EU but the vision for continental Europe is to work on environmental problems, tackle climate, climate change, and having a greater geopolitical balance by maintaining and enhancing the supranational governance. Such a vision boosted the interest in countries to join the EU especially that it all started with the Six founding countries "Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands", those who joined later found interest in such a stable economy that could as well benefit them by giving freedom for the citizens to move in

Europe freely and have all countries boost one important goal the mutual currency, even though not all the EU countries use the EURO as their currency, but the open boarder allowed the flow of goods and services to be easier with less tariffs, such a change enhanced the unity between the countries of the union.

As members started joining the EU the union, it was the right time to increase its power and start by gathering in the Netherlands to sign The Amsterdam Treaty, this treaty slowly empowered the EU, its European Community started to get well-structured by coming up with agreements that would protect the EU and it was based on three pillars the first is to coordinate member states' employment policies, second is the improvement in its social policies that were adopted and the third pillar which classified the Schengen agreement as a protection from fraud, and management of any boarder problem that could happen from asylum seekers, immigration laws, some EU members adopted all since it was considered a future protection plan to grow the supranational organization that aims to protect all countries in union from civil future problems. Such a treaty that was signed on October 2, 1997, cleared the vision of the EU by supporting the advancement and making the entire EU work homogeneously. With power given to the parliament it was easier for the EU to consider a united currency that would change the future of the continental Europe since it gave it a structural power, on January 1, 1999, the EURO was introduced by the EU parliament and ever since a new well-structured power was competing with the world Hegemon at that time. Such creation been considered as one of the most important and democratic outcomes, since every member of the European Union took part in the election to avoid having a single person in power that would destroy the world first successful supranational organization.

Whilst the European Union been getting well-formed and gaining popularity, Russia, after the fall of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) suffered from economic problems and needed a greater power with the same ideology to back it up, the Sino-Russian relations began in 1991, with both cooperation the Russia and China ended up becoming long term allies with economic power in the East. China's Economy grew drastically with a GDP of 383.4 billion USD in

1991 to become the second largest economy in the world in 2019 with a GDP of 14.34 trillion USD. 1991 GDP of the USA was 6.158 trillion USD and in 2019 its GDP was as high as 21.43 trillion USD (Silver, 2019). Even though Russia is not considered with a high GDP but its long-term relations with China grants it to compete with the USA and even with the EU. However, Russia-China found that it is in their interest to maintain a close relation with the European Union, with the interest of maintaining a good economic relation between each other.

Far from the economy the ideological factor played a huge role, especially after the fall of the Soviet Union. According to Francis Fukuyama's "End of History and the Last Man" the theory specifies that the world would reach a point where the general system remains constant and evolves within itself. With the idea of liberal democracies gaining popularity after the collapse of the USSR, it has been considered the basis of the new system. As the emergence of the European Union, it has been considered a great example and an application for this theory since its goal is to create everlasting peace and prosperity through the cooperation of liberal democracies. Yet with the election of the previous President of the United States of America "Donald Trump", the theorist Francis Fukuyama changed his mind, reaching a point of reversing his opinion on the theory "End of History". With the rise of populism in Europe and Trump reaching presidency, Fukuyama's idea on his beliefs in liberal democracies changed, since he saw such democracies could not "Move Backwards", and now everything have changed since anything is possible and underway in some cases, even though there is a new elected President in USA, but the rise of populism has started to appear more and more in a country that promotes democracy and the idea of liberal democracies (Menand, Gopnik, Buruma, 2018).

As important to discuss the relationship between the EU and the rising power China, the U.S. saw it as a new threat, and according to Zbigniew Brzezinski the new challenge is to keep Russia and China far from discussing trade with any European power since it could put the US-EU relations at risk. In Brzezinski book Strategic Vision, expresses how the world is an economic crisis, with a race between the two superpowers that been competing after realizing the Chinese-Russian relations and their massive geographic land, could generate a

mass-production in resources to attract strong European countries to seek a long-term relation with Russia and China.

Such crisis is considered enough threat and reached a new climax when President Donald Trump started to apply sanctions on those who have relations with China. Even though a new President has been elected in the U.S. and President Joe Biden is considered open towards relations with China, yet a U.S. Foreign Policy would always be in the interest of its people and the country, therefor discussing President Biden's decision, could be considered off-guard. EU's interest could be different from the American, which been a great example during Trump's period, and all the trade war that happened between China, led to a major setback on European Union's economy.

As important the modern-day events are, the history of EU-U.S. relations goes back to the Monroe Doctrine, that gave the U.S. enough space to grow, while Europe was dealing with a lot of tension, the US found it the best way to focusing on its economic expansion and land growth in American continent. Even though this has been considered an old doctrine since it was signed on December 2, 1923, but this time was the key for the U.S. to collect its natural resources and become as strong as it is to participate in the First World War to support those who helped them gain a hundred years to self-grow.

With the growth of the U.S. came a long lasting relation with the European countries, such a relation put the US in a stronger position of having a say in EU policies and EU members foreign policies, such control pushed the EU members to seek new relations with other countries and especially with two countries that been under U.S. pressure "Russia and China", Russia found its way of having good relations with EU members since it was able to supply natural gas to Europe. China's role has also been important since the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) could make transport goods to Europe much easier and more efficient, especially that German and Swedish companies saw a major interest in the rising power. The companies come with military expertise which had a huge implication with the U.S. and such implications also shows how the U.S. sort of manipulates the EU members, as if they are supposed to obey a higher power.

While democracy been promoted by the U.S. even by the EU, forced policies by the U.S. us affecting the long-term jeopardy of their relations, could be

considered deception of their promotion on democratic ethics and states behavior, that shows the falseness in the message that been promoted. Such decline in the relations could be due to either the rise of populism or even the rise of modern ideological struggle as who should the EU follow. Europe is important for the two competitors the U.S. and the Russian-Chinese, for geopolitical power, and being a center of the world, with industrial power that could compete with both at the same time if it had to.

The technological advancement has made the EU realize that the world is slowly shifting towards the eastern powers, Germany with its industrial power, fear to compete with China, especially with the population gap that could give a huge advantage to the Chinese industry, for Germany building relations and building the long term trust could ease the possible block back, if there was an economic collapse, and such relations are not only related to Germany, it is slowly growing with the EU members to take advantage of more opportunities. Such relations started in 1972 when President Nixon took advantage of Détente policy and visit China at that time to strengthen the cooperation and sign the Shanghai Communique, to develop the relation between the US-China, which led to a stronger cooperation between EU-China. All that happened after the Sino-Soviet split which made the USSR seem like the real threat for the region, however the relationship between Russia and China tightened in 1991 under the Sino-Russian relations.

With all the historical complexity that has appeared between the three pillars, the EU seemed to be taken advantage of from both sides, which put the EU in a position of seeking what is best for its long-term existence, securing their economic stability and maintaining a supranational organization that has been a great model to express peace with countries with boarder to boarder. The currency played a massive role in growing the coherence between most of all the EU members, as on January 1, 1999 “Belgium, Germany, Spain, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Austria, Portugal, Finland and the Netherlands” introduced the Euro and adopting it as their currency, later other EU members saw it as a chance to keep the consistency and strengthen their relations with other members, The members were “Greece Malta, Cyprus, Andorra, Estonia, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Montenegro, San Marino, Slovakia,

Slovenia and the Vatican", such cooperation let to a cohesion in production and trade. The members mentioned each by themselves cannot be compared to France, Germany or even Italy's economic growth, therefor the chain effect had the Euro end up as a strong currency.

The currency did not determine the EU's military and security capabilities, however the U.S. had a huge role in the EU joint military activities, since many European states lost during the second World War the U.S. has kept an eye on how the EU members would develop their military, and construction NATO has as well played a role in acting as a shield for the EU, yet the no border policy, Euro currency, kept the European Parliament and strong members to consider that the lack of a joint military and security is a weakness and a major threat due to the economic strength of the EU as a whole. Therefor a new goal was set, and the idea of the European Army appeared, such an army could clearly compete with the world superpower and any other rising power. Such an idea been rejected by the U.S. to maintain the NATO as a good tie between U.S. and Europe. Such actions are referred to as pressure and forced dependency to halt the advancement of the European Union from reaching its military strength.

As China's relation with the EU grew, Russia found a way to do the same, such growth in EU and Russian-Chinese relations, kept the U.S. wondering about the result of such relations and how could it end or is it a Russian-Chinese tactic being used for a spread of a modern shaped ideology. The unfortunate event of having Europe playing a huge role during the Cold war to put pressure on Russia and China, has raised the fear for Russia to strategically work on using its gas export as a tool to maintain a relation and China its import-export strategy that has gained popularity from the world. The lack of trust from Russia and China came from the containment policy that aimed to stop the spread of communism during the period of the U.S. President Harry S. Truman in 1947, such a policy led to a lot of hard relations during the cold war even till it reached to an end, it took Russia and China a certain period to find the right ways of discussing relations with the European Union. The fear of an ideological spread is no longer existing because Russia and China fear to have a rise in the Far right and rise of populism within their own borders, such spread

is coming from western liberal democracies that has been struggling with the rise of populism, and far right-left movements.

The problem in the rise of such movements in the EU or any western society is their weapon capabilities, even though the EU is considered under the protection of the U.S. yet France, and the exiting member the United Kingdom "U.K." has nuclear weapons, which makes the rise of such movements in these countries a big problem, especially after what these countries been through during the fascist period, and to avoid that the European Parliament made it difficult for a countries leader to make decisions that could affect the EU. Yet such a statement could be rebutted with the German economic supremacy over the EU, that could shift some decision making. However, in 1957 after the establishment of the ECSC, European Atomic Energy Community "EURATOM", seemed like a plan to control the changes in nuclear energy, but this community focus is to maintain the peace as well, and later in 1968 with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons "NPT" all EU members saw it as a great decision to be made to promote peace in the world and have a chance of growing the inter connection between states for bigger aim of a world Supranational Governance.

The European Union look up to the idea of the United Nations and believe that countries could get together under one flag, but according to Samuel P. Huntington in his book "Clash of Civilizations", it is hard to have people with different cultures to adapt and could slowly create tensions between one and other. Even though many theorists disagree with Samuel P. Huntington's idea's but ever since the Syrian refugee crisis began in 2011, the rise in national populism and rise in far-right movements, began to appear in many countries around the world, to be specific, developed countries and developing countries that considered such a refugee crisis a problem for their cultural principles. Far from the cultural problems, the economic strangulation that began to appear in these countries, especially the tension from the taxpayers that saw it as a threat for their own retirement plans.

2. EUROPEAN UNION'S CURRENT FRICTION IN ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS

2.1 European Union Relations with Russia / China: Counterweight to US Influence, Global Economic Competitors

The European Union figured that the future of the European Union has come to a point of being in between the two clashing powers, therefor for the EU it is important to adjust its relationship with those members. More or less for the EU each bloc had its negative side that is negatively affecting the European Union. Reaching a better understanding puts the EU in a position of choosing which member could be more beneficial for them, though some of those members can be considered as a problem maker such as Russia, sometimes it is important to maintain a solid relation since they could compete with hegemons, and such a competition simplify how each member has negatively impacted the EU or positively such as a China's growth becoming a counterweight to the US by competing in a moral way.

On March 16,2014, the European Union considered the annexation of the Crimean region by Russia as illegal, the EU recognized the Ukrainian issue right away and took their side. The referendum that was orchestrated by Russia has been considered in violation of International Law according to the European Union. As such, the EU put sanctions against Russia, to follow its ally the United States. Those sanctions were highlighting the main point of what Russia broke, the territorial integrity of Ukraine by annexing Crimea and most importantly its sovereignty, as a result it aimed to put pressure on the Russian economy to limit their expansion. Ever since the crisis in Crimea and the impositions of sanctions, the Russian currency the "Ruble" dropped. In 2013, according to many stocks exchange and market analysis $1 USD reached as high as 32.8153 RUB (Poundsterling, 2013). Today's Russian rubble is fluctuating, however in 2020 the RUB has inflated to reach 75.6088 (Poundsterling, 2020), and the economic instability raised fear between the EU

and its allies, which made Russia's interference in its neighboring countries internal policies a big issue. The EU and its allies are worried about history repeating itself and putting sanctions on Russia led to tensions.

The EU's main concern is its security, therefor the EU recognized that Russia's geopolitical competition could threaten their own policies with their neighboring countries, in line with the "ENP" European Neighborhood Policy which focuses on security and cybersecurity (EUneighbours, 2018). Politically the EU is trying to find a way to develop a unitary and comprehensive answer to Russian assertiveness in the region (Zweerzs, 2018, p.60-65). Due to Russia's decision making the EU to disbalance its relationship with Russia, and on other matters, apart from Russia's interference in Ukraine the EU has had a good relationship with Russia. Due to the sanctions placed on Russia, the future bilateral interest-based relations between the two could be at risk. As the EU extension of the sanctions, the normalization between the two is at the end of its term. Away from the political realm the ENP aims to fight corruption due in fear of a spill over into the EU, promoting human rights, and democracy.

The EU criticized The Russian President Vladimir Putin as the presidential election that was held on the 18th of March 2018 lacked real competition. The European Court of Human Rights "ECtHR" found that the activist Alexei Navalny was arrested unlawfully for the purpose of supporting political pluralism which is unacceptable with Putin term (Roth, 2018). Another major problem that the EU criticizes Russia on is its military inference in Syria and their support to Bashar Al-Assad by being the largest weapon supplier to the Syrian government. The EU is concerned with Russia's constant use of veto power at the United Nations Security Council to block accountability for the Syrian crimes regarding the use of Chemical weapons that were used in Douma and killed dozens (France24, 2019). Such issues weakened the relationship between Russia and the EU (Chichtchenkova, 2018). Simplifying the future of the EU seems to come to a strategic vision on how each major member is planning to compete in a certain region against the other, so far, the EU seems to be suffering from both blocs due to their interference in high tension regions that led to a refugee issue later.

2.1.1 European Union Dependency on Russia's Energy Supply

However, with all the contradicting policies and views between the EU and Russia there is still one important pillar that keeps the EU coming back to its senses, and it is the Russian supply of gas. The enormous Russian gas company 'Gazprom' administration declared on January 15th, 2018, that their company has completed the highest level of sale to EU members (Gazprom report, 2017 p.20-120). Such a sale occurred in the midst of the political tensions and through the sanctions that were imposed on Russia, by the EU and their allies. At this period Gazprom still benefitted from the financial gain of being the EU's gas supplier, especially since the US kept putting pressure on the EU to buy gas from the US, clearly the US has no interest in the European members purchasing gas from their competitor's market. For the EU, is benefiting from such gas deals since the proposed projects by the US and Qatar are at a higher cost (Szczesiank, 2018).

By giving Russian gas companies the opportunity of meeting the demand of the EU, the Russian delivery system and supply prices kept the EU's interest in the Russian gas, especially with Russia suffering from inflation. Even though the EU sanctions on Russia were long-lasting, it did not affect their trade relations, however the main issue is the pressure that is being put on the EU and its members from the US, such pressure is targeting firms that have links with the Russian Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline (Sasse, 2017). The pressure that is being exerted by the US is out of fear that the EU grows higher dependency on the Russian gas, ever since the Russian gas companies are investing in a future for a delivery system only for European firms, creates dependency on Russian gas. At this time a major singling and warning from the US ambassador to Germany claiming that there could be and will be sanctions on firms that use the Nord Stream 2. Such actions show the US interference in EU policies and by pressuring the members to keep their market on cloud nine (Siddi, 2018, p. 1-8). As some EU members are against dependency on Russian gas, other countries saw it as a cheaper alternative and a better path to benefit from gas at a lower cost and better delivery system.

Countries that happened to follow the rest of the EU members on benefiting from the Russian saw it as a great opportunity, Hungary for example as its

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijjarto highlighted that joining the southern gas transport route and cooperating with the Russian company Gazprom is the most realistic plan (Lovas, Simon, 2017). Joining the southern gas corridor is considered a matter of national security for Hungary since the one of the ways for the country to prosper and have a great economic opportunity (abouthungary.hu, 2019). Such members seeking different options left the EU in a position of schizophrenia, as contradicting policies and one of the is the Russian gas, since the external pressure is mainly being dropped on those following Russia's gas export, and EU members that disagree with such a policy are as well putting pressure on those who are (Eurativ, 2018).

The problem began by the US trying to exert its power to ensure its sales, and their alternative were not as efficient for those who needed fast and cheap gas delivery. Germany found the Russian gas the most efficient, letting go of such an opportunity means higher cost on the long run, even though Germany is considered to have the fourth largest economy in the world, cutting down on cost on unnecessary deals would benefit most of the countries that seek to maintain a strong economy (Silver C, 2021). With such an opportunity handed to Germany, being less dependent on the US that is constantly trying to manipulate trade relations and push such countries to rely on them (Bajpai P, 2019).

In Italy the previous Prime Minister of Italy Giuseppe Conte has been urging the EU to end the sanctions that been put on Russia, since he has been committed to boost Italy's trade by strengthening the trade relations despite the sanctions that the EU that been put on Russia in October 2018 (Reuters, 2018). Russia's constant supply of natural gas products at lower prices created satisfaction for the EU's members that sided with Russia. To those members there are no external elements that could be able to distort their relationship with Russia regarding the gas, unless the United States decided to exert a strategy to supply cheap gas to the European Continent (RFE/RL, 2018).

As the EU members began reaching out to the East, China saw it as an opportunity to promote itself to the European Union to prove that it is a passionate, devoted player in the game of globalization and wants to improve its multilateral trades with the world. The European Union has shown less interest

in the Chinese trade relations after the 2018 EU-China Summit (Europa.eu, 2018). The summit became a curse for China, since it was supposed to pave the way for the EU-Russian relations, yet it made it a point of stress. Right after the summit the EU signed an economic partnership agreement with Japan which became a moment of frustration for China.

The Chinese government sought to find ways to satisfy the EU's demand regarding trade, however the EU seemed to lack enthusiasm in such a relation, also led to the EU to put pressure on the EU members that believed in a better outcome from the EU- Chinese relations especially those who considered China's Belt and Road Initiative is a massive plan to put China as the new hegemon.

This reality as put China under pressure, China until today is not considered the world hegemon or the world superpower, yet it is a massive economic superpower, for an economic superpower it is important to improve its relationship with most of the countries even those who are sanctioning their allies "Russia", better relation and new solutions could put China as a world economic hegemon. As China is slowly losing its comparative advantage as a low-cost manufacturing country, it is trying to invest in innovation-led economy and consumption prior to Corona Virus pandemic that is still ongoing, the post pandemic became a huge economic necessity for the world superpowers, however China predicted the world would eventually reach to a point of innovation-led economies. Technology is an important factor for China, and it made it a goal to follow up with the world leading powers (Valero, 2019).

The US Trade war with China, pushed the EU not to side with any of the powers to ensure to be on the winners' side, seeking the right time to improve its relations with China. Such an approach shows the EU interest in the Chinese relations; however, the EU strategy is to maintain a strong relation with both the US and China to benefit from both without taking a side, however the US can never accept being replaced by any other country, yet for the EU it is waiting for the right opportunity to be taken to avoid another long-term dependency, a dependent EU means limited opportunities.

In the meantime, the EU imports approximately 442.61 billion Euro worth of Chinese goods such a number is before the pandemic, with the pandemic the

numbers went down, yet it is growing again. A year prior to 2020 statistics the EU been importing approximately 374.6 billion Euro worth of goods, and the year the difference shows how much the EU became reliant on the Chinese goods for their fair market trade deals. In 2019 Germany had the highest number of purchases, the EU as well exports to China yet it is less than the imports from the China with a margin of 230.45 billion Euro for the year 2020, leaving the European Union balance negative to 212.16 billion Euro with China alone (Morgan,2019).

A G7 member, Italy on March 6, 2019, spoke regarding a possible venture with China's Belt and Road Initiative (Vagnoni, 2019). A statement as this could lead to an economic development for Italy, and to Italy's advantage being included as part of a worldwide push for the safety of global trade in the face of rising protectionist tendencies. On March 23rd Italy finally signed the memorandum of understanding in supporting of the BRI, this memorandum took the Italy a lot of time to decide on it, Michele Geraci, the Italian economist kept expressing its interest in such a negotiation to ensure that Italy benefit from the international transport and trade opportunities given by China (Eurostat,2019). While Italy been focusing on improving the relationship with China, the Chinese President Xi Jinping, been searching for other opportunities in Europe, France, with its anti-Russian gas import, China's belt and road initiative was considered an important part to negotiate to secure a spot in China's Silk Road to improve its trade programs, especially that the United States been adding pressure on the EU regarding trade under Trumps term. The tension that was put by the Trump administration created a European lack of trust in the Chinese intentions, however with all the pressure put, President Xi Jinping saw it as an opportunity to focus to improve the Chinese relations with EU members in search of new consumers, improving its relations with EU members during the US-China trade war, shows the importance for China expend its market, without getting struck by such a war, only due to an anti-Chinese US administration, at that time President Donald Trump, disagreed with Italy's intentions to grow its relations with China and joining the Silk Road (Swanson, Tankersley, 2019). All I fear of other EU members jumping the bandwagon on joining the Silk Road, there for at that time indirect warnings against the Italian Government, as

singing-up to China's global trade framework could be a source of harm for the Italian global relations (Horowitz, 2019). The EU and its members allowing the US to influence and mold outcomes of their actions, that shows how much the US has influence over the European Union's decision making and how the members should act in order to satisfy the United States economy and politics. However, Italy saw this period under Matteo Salvini a period for Italy to grow, taking the big step of ignoring the US and benefiting from the big China deal, which shows that the Italian dependency on the US became hollow (RT, 2019).

With the Italian Chinese relationship growing and reached a good ground, other EU members and continental European members joined the Silk Road in search for a better economic trade with China at better prices, even though until today's date the G7 members France and Germany did not join the Silk Road, however they are benefiting from other contributions given by China. Prior to the pandemic many analysts saw that Germany and France could be candidates that would join the Silk Road (Giuffrida, 2019), According to the World Bank the Total percentage of Export Growth of Goods and Services of the EU members that did not take part in China's BRI between the period 2016-2019, reached 19.23%, yet for those who took part of the Silk Road reached as high as 24.15 (C, Devonshire-Ellis, 2020). Even though the two G7 members are not taking part of the Silk Road, France's trade relation with China reached as high as 50.5 billion USD, with a massive shocking number from the German part reaching as high as 156.4 billion USD (Csis, 2019).

It is apparent that the G7 members are trading goods with China yet avoiding direct confrontation with the US to be as far as it could be from the trade war. As the EU members interests in China expand, and the US finding it increasingly difficult to keep up with the Chinese trade due China's comparative advantage in terms of labor and production expenses, China has been able to introduce new tensions between the US and the EU on this basis. Many European Political leaders admit that the transatlantic trade is only damaging the European Union's economy at its vulnerable phases, therefor many EU leaders fear a continuance Trade relation with the United States (Schneider-Petsinger, 2019, p.3-27).

While the US President Donald Trump came up with the policy of America First, it led to a massive decline in the EU-US relations, especially after Trump imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum coming from the EU (BBC, 2019). In retaliation the EU came to a point of imposing tariffs on American Juices, Motorcycles, Whiskeys and Tobacco (Stearns, Dendrinou, 2019). Such actions show that China is playing a huge role worldwide in regards of trade which is leading to the US to impose tariffs on its allies to maintain an economic stability, such actions are causing it to suffer from pressure from both China and the EU and its members (Swanson, Ewing, 2019).

As the European Union established a new trade deal with the eastern bloc Russia-China on both gas and trade, leaving the US with less of a hold on its EU dependents. The US already been dealing with the Russian Chinese counterpower, and now the EU has been added to the list. As the US add sanctions and tariffs on Russia and China, the EU assesses every step of the situation, whether it was pre-covid or post the ease of the pandemic, the EU seems to establish a balanced relations within which its interests are preserved. In regards of investing in any other country than the US would put pressure on the EU, some of its members would not maintain this risk to weaken their economy for much longer, however other members saw it as a perfect time to avoid dependency in order to appease one state.

When the EU seeks to approach a relation with any country, the US seems to see it an economic betrayal, therefor the EU got bombarded with sanctions and tariffs under Trump's administration, which put the EU-US relationship in an unstable position there for their relationship may lose ground. With such unacceptable US actions, it left the EU and its members to reconsider different options, and it is to act upon their interest in order to keep their economy afloat for their citizens and the future of their states. On the International arena the EU must have its right in expressing its economic interests and trade deals with no foreign power deciding for it or interfering on how their deal must be. China aims to be the leading trading power and Russia being the EU's only gas supplier, such a justification is not enough for the US to impose any tariffs on the EU as if the US has pulled out the EU from the gutter (Eurostat,2019).

2.2 Strategically dependent EU

With a representation of a world hegemon the United States still consider itself as a superpower, by competing with the rest of the world's powers such as Russia and China, they tend to keep their relationship with the EU on good term, however under Trumps administration the situation deteriorated, yet they kept enhancing the relationship to maintain it. The issues grew when Trump's administration withdrew from the Iran Nuclear Deal "JCPOA", and the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty "INF" with Russia and raised red flags for the EU, however under President Joe Biden he mentioned rejoining the JCPOA and the INF (FRANCE 24, 2021). This period was hard for the EU since they had to deal with the possibility of Brexit, even though it eventually happened, the period was hard for the EU since it had to deal with the US tariffs and UK considering existing, and EU members began to question whether they should continue to depend on the US or invest in forming their own military power. The permanent Structured Cooperation "PESCO" twenty-five of EU members would consider joining such an initiative (Europa.eu. 2019). This idea was brought to the table after the former US President Donald Trump signaled to Germany that it is not paying enough for the NATO, however such a decision making only pushed the EU to re-consider its position under the US influence and whether they should invest in such a project (Baker, 2017). The current US President Joe Biden, saw it as an opportunity for him to shine in the liberal realm, by coming up with ideas to fix the EU-US relations, however regarding the NATO there is no clear view whether members must pay more. Until today, the US believes that the NATO is the EU's most viable option for deterrence, deterrence against those neighboring countries such as Russia, however the US ignore the fact the EU and Russia are growing their trade deals and focusing on their future relations to avoid any loss in trade and security cooperation, the US still believes that the deterrence must be used against Russia. The NATO and US leadership did not appreciate the EU's decision regarding the new dynamic strategy that its following regarding the eastern powers (Herszenhorn, 2019). It was all obvious that the EU will reach a period of pressure under Trumps administration, even though the situation was eased with the election of President Biden. The French President Emmanuel Macron and the German

Chancellor Angela Merkel are on direct confrontation with the United States regarding the NATO since they are considering a possible European Army, an army that could eliminate the European dependency on the United States.

Germany's heavy opposition towards the US is growing since they came to a realization that the only way to grow is to eliminate dependency and for Germany to be in a direct confrontation with the US shows that the EU tension is growing with the US under Trump's administration, even though its eased with Biden yet the EU and its members came to a realization that being dependent on the US, means a forever dependent Union that cannot act freely without satisfying the United States policy. On the NATO position the future of the EU could be decided whether the EU is seeking to push itself from the US relations regarding the NATO, would leave the EU is a tight position where it is not capable of returning back, and according to the NATO secretary general Jens Stoltenberg, standing in the way of the European Union from creating an army could only weaken their relations, yet insisting that the alliance does not stand in the way of an EU military integration, and it could be a good idea to be regulated to strengthen the NATO's capabilities, investing in military could make put the EU on a different world standard regarding military (NATO, 2018).

If the EU happen to establish an EU military, it does not mean that it would be a NATO competitor, but a new ally that could be considered as a core to strengthen the western powers. Ever since the EU decided to talk about the EU military and to invest in it the United States been only underestimating its positive outcome, which raised question for the EU members whether their ally is an ally or just to benefit from their relations, since the integration of the army would benefit the EU, to avoid dependency on the US or NATO to this point (Peel, M, 2019). According to Stoltenberg prior to Brexit, the EU military could be affected if there will be an exit, however with Brexit occurring according to Michel Barnier highlighted that the second the UK leaves it will become a third world country when it comes to the foreign and defense policy (Amiel, S, 2019). The pressure that was put on France grew drastically after Brexit since the United Kingdom had the largest nuclear capability in the EU, which puts France on the second of the list, since its nuclear arsenal is smaller, and considered the

4th largest nuclear arsenal in the world. As Brexit happened, the chances for the EU to avoid dealing with members that had an expansionist agenda previously especially on its boarders, Russia and China are the countries that are meant to be avoided (Anderson, 2019). yet the EU noticed that so far, Russia basically cares about its gas market and maintaining an economic stability, and to tinker on its GDP. China, with an on-going US-Chinese trade war, its aim is to find a long-term trade deal that could take them forward in the world trade especially after the tragic pandemic that destroyed the world's trade.

2.2.1 European Union dependency on US. Military and Security

Up to this point the US lost its understanding to their claims as the protector of the EU, but rather to say that it is there to maintain the status quo and ensuring that the US is still considered as the world hegemon on. For some of the European strategic thinkers, they acknowledge that the transatlantic partnership will remain at its best, at least for the mean time since it is considered a security guarantee outcome, but on the long term the strategic thinkers understand why many EU members are seeking an independent military power, especially when the eastern bloc seems to be growing and reappearing on the international arena as a strong bloc and individual players "Russia and China" (Herszehorn, 2019). As a US ambassador to NATO raising concerns regarding the EU military cooperation, Kay Bailey Hutchison, said that the US does not want to be against the EU military cooperation, but they do not want the EU to fence off American, U.K. or Norwegian products (Trevelyan, 2018). As a major understanding it proves that all the US is seeking for and care about now is not losing its sales to the eastern bloc Russia-China. As a result of the world changes the US is applying pressure on the EU members to avoid massive loses, however such pressure is only having EU members dislike any future cooperation with the US.

Kay Bailey Hutchison raised another point; that if Germany or France by any chance were invaded by a hostile country, would Russia-China be the first countries to call, or would they call they US for help (Politico, 2019). Such a statement fermented anger among EU citizens, with all the taxes that are being paid and involvement of citizens to have the EU as a strong Union, yet they people realized that their countries depend on the US instead of finding ways of growth to avoid dependency and start relying on themselves. The US is dealing

with the EU in a very strategic way, guaranteeing the EU will take part of NATO alliance for an intolerable reason, and the strategy that the US is after, that if for any reason the US wanted to intervene in any conflict that may erupt in the future on EU territory, they will have the full right to enter without consensus. Realizing that the US strategy is to keep the EU tied to the idea of NATO, for the US to maintain a strategic intervention in the aim of avoiding war on its territory. As the US insisting on many EU members to cut down on their relations with Russia and China regarding trade, such a pressure risks the redirection of the US-EU relations, which have been steady since the end of the WWII, would lead the relationship into an unfavorable path.

The US is not accepting other countries interest in finding their own position on the international order that the US currently dominates (Cebul, 2018), that clearly proves the US interest in slowing the EU from growing its relations with different countries on a higher scale in order to keep itself as a world hegemon, and since the US acknowledge the fact that the world is reaching a sensitive position of achieving multipolarity. As much as the US fear a multipolar system, the EU has different views regarding the topic, and their acceptance of the idea of multipolarity grew and augmented day by day with the strategic relations that the EU been conducting with different states. According to the EU having a more balanced system, such as the multipolar system could provide a stable world system with a better security (RFE/RL, 2018). Even though multilateralism is not seen in the same light by all states, yet the result of the dissonance on the US policies demonstrates that the EU is no longer willing to passively accept its dependency on US hegemony.

As the EU leaving no place for dependency towards the United States of America, it establishes a futuristic idea of how their relationship could be demolished by the US self-interest. Since the US always act in its own self-interest with little regard to those they label as allies, and other states most of the time, countries reached a realization of working in their own interests as well.

The pressure that is being put on the EU even since the US withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal been increasing, led to a breach point and loss of trust with the top 3 EU members that invested most of their time to reach a solid ground

and better solution on the Iran deal, and ever since the US withdrew from the deal, the EU came to a realization that the US politics is unstable, and change in policies depending on the administration could only ruin any EU deal by only having a new President (Johnson, 2019).

The previous US administration raised the trust of the EU, been considered as the administration of limited vision, and Trumps administration only brought harm to the EU and their interests. Biden's administration could not gain the EU full trust since President Trump made it hard for the EU to depend on the US. During Trump there was a constant pressure piling up by the EU for years, and President Trump at that time tried tied to limit the EU representation in Washington and saying that it is as equal to national ambassadors. Even after a year of President Joe Biden in office, the US cannot expect the EU to accept what happened under Trump's term, since Trump's decision have severely damaged their relationship with the US, forced the EU to seek new opportunities with the rising powers such as Russia-China, and all in the aim of having the EU be considered as a rising power (Lynch, 2019).

The US considered the problem between the EU and the US as a setback that could become end up in a massive deterioration of relations, which led the senior foreign policy experts and officials to discuss ways to ease the relationship between the two state members, the importance of the EU to the bipartisan group representatives and senators expressing how important to remain committed to the ideals of the European Union, claiming that the period of Trumps presidency affected the relationship. As discussions went on during Trumps term, disapproval from Brussels rose, and an example of that is the relocation of the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, such a huge step that ended up happening, left the EU wondering what the US Presidents could do without any restrictions to protect other nations from the abusive hegemonic decision making. Even though some of the Eastern European countries sent their diplomats to the official opening of the US embassy in Jerusalem, the EU saw it as a provocative decision that could lead to disruption of other peace ideas that the EU been committed to, and that ended up being a negative outcome for the EU (Entous, 2018). As the Palestinian-Israeli issue brought disagreements, another disagreement was brought up yet again it highlighted when the previous

US President called on the German chancellor Merkel to a closed-door meeting lecturing her over the NATO spending, and how much the US is spending and not Germany. Trump asserted that the US is paying up to 686.000 million USD to NATO, or up to 3.6 of its GDP, while Germany is only paying 45.472 million USD and there is a huge gap between the two spending policies (McCarthy, 2018).

At this point the tension increased between both Trump and Merkel to the extent that the Lithuanian President at that time Dalia Grybauskaite felt the need to in and defend her EU colleague (Glasser,2018). After all this the EU-US relationship left no clear vision on where its heading or how this showdown is going to end, even with a new administration the EU has problems with the US under President Biden. As a result of these tensions, the US has been losing ground, that other east Asian countries are in turn gaining. The world is heading to a technological future, so far, the Asian countries been mastering those technological gaps, to promote and triumph in their military outcome depending on technologies. While the US lacks such technology, the EU seem to need time to acquire such technology, leaving China with the technological upper hand. Dealing with China would help the EU resolve immediate problems, and one of them is the EU-US dependency that could be considered outdated.

C. US influence on EU's Foreign relations

While the EU is trying to maintain better relations with the rest of the world, and as mentioned earlier, the US is punishing the EU for what it sees as infractions. The Iran Nuclear deal became a lesson for the EU, the ability to understand how the US functions and believe the EU to follow its lead. The international arena never considered the EU as a strong entity, therefore when the EU managed to stick to its position regarding the Iran Nuclear deal without following the US determinations on abandoning the deal.

Indeed, the pressure put by the US on the EU had colossal ramifications, but the EU did not see it as its in their interest to have any military confrontation against Iran, especially after the efforts put to ease the relations, and enhance the relations between Iran and the world. The US been acting as an isolationist country during Trump's administration, yet when it came to ensure that its middle eastern ally is safe, hand to hand with Israel, threats emerged on

attacking an Iranian Nuclear base through a joint military action, which put the EU in a tight spot with Iran that time. The EU is being held as an international prisoner due to the US change in administrations, any effort put by the EU to improve the relations with Iran a US President could change the whole plan, the EU saw it as a threat to its decision making, since the EU invested its time and effort to bring the US and Iran to the table to get a better decision and reach a deal. The tension increased when the US withdrew from the deal in early May 2018. as it first started, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action "JCPOA" had set its goals on reaching a solution, and they did (Europa, 2018).

The re-imposition of sanctions on Iran expresses the US actual plan, especially during Trump's administration since his public claims were transparent which led to new understanding in politics, a President transparency could lead to many problems since by itself is a deterrent. Trump had no interest in cooperating to make any decision that could benefit or make peace in the region. The key requirements for the JCPOA dealt with important points on "the removal and disabling the original core of the Arak reactor, 15 years no reprocessing of nuclear fuel with an intention to never reprocess, and the permanent commitment to ship out spent nuclear fuel" would have managed to show the future of the nuclear deal, that Iran was and still willing to cooperate to achieve a better economic situation for its citizens (Einhorn, Nephew, 2019). While Iran seeking to find a solution the US, kept accusing Iran of manipulating their way on the 15 years of nuclear deal. Such manipulation perpetrated by the US to bring Iran to the table and later accusing them in a dishonest agreement, put the EU in a position of no longer listening and accepting the US demands.

2.2.2 US Disapproval of EU Arms Trade with China and Russian Chinese Interest in the Middle East

The US consider China as a hostile state since it became capable of competing with the US from many aspects, the economy was the most important, until China's relations with the western countries grew stronger and their dependency on the Chinese supply became essential. As the relations between the EU and Russia and China been put on a higher standard, the US started using a strategy that would limit the EU and EU members of benefiting from the two rising powers. Those members were already on a higher EU plan on limiting the

refugees spread in Europe, Germany and Sweden were highly targeted by the US since they were seeking different relations with the east. What led the EU members to seek the east is what the US has been doing in Syria, the US domination changed the outcome of the war, which had a negative reflection on the EU policies. In the case of refugees, the war was taking too much time, especially since the US is against the Syrian leader Bashar al Assad tat is seen as the winner of the Syrian civil war. The threats conducted by Israel on Syria could also prolong the war and the instability in the region.

Early 2019, the Israeli military confirmed that their attack in Syria on the Iranian forces was a strategic retaliation for the launch of missile from Damascus towards the northern part of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights (Kubvich, Landau, Reuters, 2019). Even though it was intercepted by the Israeli air defense system, Israel claimed that the missile targeted a civilian ski resort, and at this point Hezbollah also claimed that this missile been targeting a military position. The unspoken reason of why the Iranian forces launched this missile, is the fact after the Israeli strike on a Syrian military weapons depot, such an attack is supposed to be considered a break of sovereignty, yet Israel does not mind breaking countries sovereignty on daily basis. After the Israeli prime minister adopted this attack, he already acknowledges the ramifications on policy shifting in the region and on the EU. This undermines the point that mentions that Israel will try to its best to avoid interference in Syria, but with regional manipulation and back up from the hegemon launching missiles into other states is a fact (Treasury.gov, 2018). The issue is that Syria became in theory the battleground for Israel, since they claim Hezbollah and Iran are working against Israel through Syria. From this point on the correlation of Iran in Syria is being attacked, bombed and disabled for in the interest of the US, to insure to benefit the most from its presence in the region, even though this might be considered as a bad decision making but the US does not want to directly confront Iran, to avoid international pressure and enter when there is a necessity, the Syrian war is still on going, yet the news no longer cover it since its controlled by allies of the US and allies of Russia. All this is a strategic game by the US to insure there would not be any strong country in the region but Israel. An example of that is how the US decides to deploy forces to Syria to

corner the Iranian and Russian presence. The US is acting as a passive actor that only intervenes when there is a need in a limited matter, but when it comes to having a direct confrontation with Iran, the US backs away and let someone else do the job, since a direct confrontation could lead to a massive war (Chengu, 2019). Therefor the US see Israel as a very important asset to be invested in to avoid direct problems.

For the EU, the Israeli attack on Syria is being conducted to create more tension in the region, especially that Bashar al Assad was trying to promote peace in his country that has been under external aggression, and influence ever since the year 2011, that used the Syrian territory as a battleground to eliminate and create terrorist groups under the name of Islam to increase the hate and the islamophobia, just another original western creation to limit the countries surrounding Israel, to be exact an American creation (Ziabari, Kuznick, 2018). Such a formation of a new terrorist group is not new, Al Qaeda was one of them, to limit the spread of the USSR in Afghanistan, as mentioned in an interview with Hillary Clinton the US funded a terrorist group in Afghanistan and Pakistan to kick out the Soviets, what changed from 1988 till 2011, what changed are the titles of the groups that were newly formed.

The European Union has accused the US of the problem maker since Europe is suffering from a mass migration problem and terrorist groups caving in their states, and the more problem in the Middle East is mainly affecting the EU since their policy is to promote human rights and take care of refugees, that only forced the EU from sending back the refugees. Many of the EU members have accepted Bashar al Assad as the de facto Syrian leader in power, even if those states were against his rule, recognizing him as a leader could have promoted peace in Syria, finding a political solution that would end the war in Syria had to be endorsed (Davenport, 2018). Al Assad as a De facto eased the mass number of migrations to Europe, and the position was taken by strong states and ex- EU member, Germany, France and the UK to a lesser extent in the aim of ending the war. Such a decision does not mean that the EU want the refugees to stay and not return to their countries of origin.

One of the problems in this case is that Russia and China are supporting certain European leaders to be in power, in aim having leaders that would seek a better

relationship with them, while such an action could induce problems in the near future between the states that are slowly drifting away from the dependency of the US and those who want to keep a relation with the US. The state that are included are those who have growing relations with Russia and China, even strong countries such as Germany and Italy. Russia became the huge influencer in Syria in 2015 and grew drastically especially in the late 2019, such an influence occurred due to the decision making of the Syrian leader that is seeking Russian support to get rid of the terrorist organizations, those who were planted in Syria to disrupt the region. Russia does not want to help Syria militarily but wants to prove its presence on the international arena and how it could control the tension that has been going on in Syria, yet for sure benefiting from Syria is a possibility, a way of benefiting from Syria is working on the reconstruction of a country that has been at war for more than 10 years, the reconstruction of a destroyed country could improve both economies (Kershner, 2019). As Russia working to fix the Syrian economy Iranian presence is only a setback since Israel directly targets Iran for the benefit of the US.

Russia is an important investor since it has lobbied governments across the world to invest in Syrian economy, this created tension with the US since their reconstruction process in Syria ever since it was put on the table. So far Russia's influence in Syria has been at the expense of the US influence, that explains the sporadic confrontations that been occurring from time to time in the region. To really understand why the US is not as comfortable with the Russian presence since it's a race to see who should benefit from the Syrian war the most, since pre-Syrian war the Syrian economy was considered strong (Vohra, 2019). So far Russia and China are leading in the postwar rebuilding process, China's technological capabilities gave it the advantage in the region and for Syria China donated around 800 electrical power generators to Lattakia, Syria's largest port. China also started on plans for rebuilding Syria's telecommunication system shows how important the region is for the rising powers, to help most of the regions rise and avoid dependency on them or the United States of America. As the US losing influence in Syria a competition between Russia and China could occur, questioning who would claim more influence over the Syrian state, however as mentioned the Syrian leader prefers

having Russian influence, since Russia been dominating the Syrian affairs, all this race in the middle east scare the EU and put pressure on how to deal with the region that is causing the massive numbers of refugees escaping to Europe (Ramani, 2019), and all speculations will come to an end when the actors of involved interested in Syria are done dividing the cake.

The Middle East also became the key factor for having tension between the US and the EU, after the murder of the critic Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi Arabia, the EU started questioning their ties with KSA, even though the EU benefit from their oil, that does not mean the EU has to tolerate states that could lead to creation of problems that could spread later to their own union.

The EU saw another flaw to highlight, and it is the US arms transfer with Saudi Arabia, the weapons that were sent were used in Yemen. The famine in Yemen and the unnecessary arms transfer with Saudi only proves that the US wants to maintain the chaos in the region while the EU is trying to ease its relations and calm the tension in the region since its only backfiring on continental Europe. At this point the EU began to understand how much the US acts exclusively out of its own interest, in order to make profit, selling their technologies, targeting Iran in the region just to make enough profit. Some claim that the US talks about democracy and human rights, it is all being broken daily under the supervision of the US, the middle east became the battle zone that has been funded by the US and other countries (Carter, 2018), all in the aim of slowing the growth of the region and ensuring that Israel stay strong. And the weapons trade is not the only problem from the US, but their criticism on who the EU members should deal with pushes the EU to question who they should depend on.

Sweden saw an opportunity of trading weapons with China which push the US to question their relations with some EU members, and Germany on the other hand is getting pressured by the US for having direct relations with China in regards of weapons trade. Even though it is considered important to the US to be the weapons supplier, but ever since Russia and China started to ease their relations with states especially those from the EU, the US saw it as a direct threat.

China is buying weapons from Germany and Sweden, as China is growing its relations around the world is a threat, yet it seems hypocritic that the US is allowed to sell and buy weapons, and even fund deadly wars such as Syria and Yemen, but when it comes to China growing its armory it is considered a huge danger. China is benefiting from a huge weapon exporter, Germany, and as recently it has been recognized as a top five weapon exporter alongside with the US, Russia, France and China.

While the Chinese economy is growing, getting stronger the US see it as a threat, more of a threat that EU members started following the path of the Asian rising powers. China's power could compete with the US and the EU at the same time with their one-sided ally Russia. Even though China is avoiding any conflict and it is seeking an economic race, the US is trying to find any chance to clash with China to limit the growth of their economy, some of the theories mentioned could lead to a dark path, regarding the spread of the corona Virus in early 2020, that the US could have altered the virus to limit the growth of the EU and the Eastern powers at the same time. Such a theory might not be evident, yet it fills the gaps since those states were growing drastically with the help of the Russian and Chinese camp.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS ON THE EUROPEAN UNION

3.1 Refugee Crisis: Economic costs and Sociopolitical Division

As the Syrian war created a mass number of refugees to escape, the EU welcomed the refugees to insure a safe place for them. The EU took advantage of the flow of refugees to have access to cheap manual labor that many EU members lack, since the manual labor became highly costly due to a decrease in such forms of labor over the past few decades. As the EU welcomed the refugees, targeting the poor was an approach to benefit from the mass number of refugees, the refugees who do not have a any formal way of leaving the conflict area. The EU has targeted those who have no significant educational background, as they are seeking for a new home to build their new home at. With a lack of formal education, the refugees would be facing a manual labor opportunity, which would help to regulate and drive down the labor wages on a large scale (Sunderland, 2016).

Large number of the refugees that fled to Europe were highly skilled laborers, and they were considered an addition to the EU as a whole. With all the plans of the EU that it had worked on seem to reach a point of loss of control, since the refugees that they entered Europe were not all as expected. The refugees that are coming from a different culture, having a different lifestyle, seemed to take advantage of the welfare system that the EU been working on for quite a while, by not being productive and taking advantage of the system the EU seemed to be allocating funds in a very strict way after the rise of populist movements in Europe. Europe has been under a substantial amount of pressure as a consequence of the crisis (Paynter, 2019). The crisis had several factors, varying from security threats, social antagonism, and regular legal issues. Such factors prevented the refugees from finding jobs and working in a peaceful way in Europe.

The European social welfare system is not as used to the people not working nor paying taxes, the system had to accept a new reality that welfare does not work when you have people that do not support the system unconditionally, now days the system is crippling not only from the refugees that entered Europe, but the spread of corona virus forced people to stay at home which also became a new test for the European Union, after such a change the people started questioning whether the EU could maintain stability for its citizens.

Prior to the coronavirus the EU had to allocate a lot of economic resources to help the refugees that have entered continental Europe, and to send humanitarian aid to those who been suffering from wars, such as Syria, Libya, and Sudan. Most of the support that was giving had to go to Syria since the large number of refugees were mainly coming from Syria due to the way the war was shaped and lasted for more than 10 years. The EU fear a new influx of refugees going towards Europe, adding to that the early stages of the Syrian refugee crisis they EU had to cut deals with Turkey to limit the flow of refugees that been crossing from the Turkish border, and the deals were a bit costly, and Ankara demanded a lot of money to prohibit the entry and passage of refugees through the Turkish territories. This boarder was considered the largest exporter of Syrian refugee passage, tension occurred between the EU and Turkey in 2020 due to a lack of trust from the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for the EU policy makers, since they were postponing the payday and that led the Turkey to open its boarder again (Menke, 2020). Plenty of problems led to the EU interruption, especially regarding the border problem that has made things hard to control.

The EU expended plenty of economic resources or order to tackle the issue of the refugees, yet such a massive budget being put on to tackle the issue of refugees did not come into a great effect since the refuges that entered or still entering the EU had a different understanding, experience of how the a welfare state is and how it must function and taking advantage of a welfare state would only lead to an economic instability which the EU is suffering from (Barder, Ritchie, 2018). The refugees only saw the recipient state is always capable of funding them, and the integration became a problem at that time since coming from a different region had different perspectives of how society could be. The

problems that are being caused by the refugees are basically due to the hosting countries that are not able to pay attention to their own citizens, and they citizens are feeling more and more neglected by their governments, ignoring the people of the country only led to the rise of populism and nationalism in Europe. In some European States the parties are influencing the current status quo to change in the anticipation of a difficult cultural change.

3.1.1 Refugee impact on the EU internal politics

The refugee crisis had a huge impact on the EU internal politics, prior to the rise of populism the EU been trying to maintain a strong unity, but for the UK the EU was considered a weak ally since the US has been always sticking its nose into EU politics, which felt as a weak union that has been dominated by a power that only seeks to benefit of. In October 2016, Prime Minister Theresa May, announced her intention to invoke Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, and formally giving notice of Britain's intention to leave the European Union (Pruitt, 2017). The reasons for the UK to exist is basically due to the weak EU policies that ruined it ruined its future understanding regarding the European Unions and the refugee beliefs, the Open Border policy became a threat for the UK since Brexit came at a cost of holding a solid anti refugee policy

The Brexit is divided into two issues, the first issue is the economy, since the EU failed to address the economic problems that have been developing since 2008, the rise in the unemployment rate and reaching up to 20% in southern Europe had its own influx on the UK. The tension grew that the policies that the EU is coming up with is only helping the strong states such as Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands (Tahir, 2018). For Germany to enjoy in 2021 an unemployment rate of 3.7% (Ians, 2021) and while the Brexit was in process the unemployment rate was 4% makes a huge gap between the strong and weak states, since most of those who want to leave the EU focused on the UK since it had better opportunities.

The second reason for Brexit is the rise of nationalism around the world, as mentioned earlier that continental Europe been the solid ground for the World Wars that shaped the way it is today, lack of trust and fear from some institutions no longer serve the same purpose as before, for example the IMF

and NATO are reaching a point of losing control. Those who support the EU still acknowledge that those institutions are weak and must be fixed but not discarded. Adding that the rise of nationalism and rise in populism started with the refugee crisis, the immigration crisis in Europe has affected the internal life in the UK, while the EU been ignoring the rising tide of nationalism, it has forced the voters to think of their national right, making migration the trigger for Brexit (Jenkins, 2018). For the UK the issue is not only the EU but also Ireland and Northern Ireland is considered an internal problem, if the UK adds customs or any border control between the two, that could revive the tension between both the Irish Catholics and British Protestants. The History between the two is known for the large number of deaths, nearly 3,700 people were killed in the 30 years of violence between the two sides, which only stopped with a peace deal in 1998 (Casert, lawless, 2018).

There are many disadvantages for the EU since Brexit, and it is the diminished in nuclear arsenal that made the EU stand as a huge power. Collectivism is the key for the EU to stand strong, however ever since the EU began functioning as a weak union with its policies, only led to the rise of populism and refugee policies that decreased trust in the EU. Brexit only guided other countries to consider exiting the EU, some of these countries are highly important for the EU economy and as mentioned collectivism is the way for the EU to maintain its stability.

3.1.2 Italy: The Breaking Point for the European Union

The understanding of the EU been getting questioned by Italy, the key country that could change the future of the European Union, the balance of its structure, and at that time the Italy held its last election in March 2018. The result of the election led to the formation of the coalition government between two parties, the Five Star Movement and the Right-Wing League, such result shows the rise of the populism in Italy. The reason why there is a rise in populism is really simple to understand and expected, Italy been suffering from a high unemployment rate which is mostly located in southern part of Italy, with the numbers rising from 17% in 2014 up to 29% in 2019 the numbers showing are only the unemployment rate in southern Italy (The economist, 2018). However, as a whole in 2014 Italy's unemployment rate was 12.7% and it was as high as

Italy for a quite a long period since Italy used to float between 6% - 8% of unemployment rate. Ever since the two parties got together the unemployment rate started decreasing.

During the 2008 financial crisis, Italy was seen as the main destination for the North African migrants that been crossing the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, leaving the unemployed in Italy to direct their frustration towards those who illegally entered Italy, most of the frustration exists due to the lack of resources in the country. Northern Italy voted for more independence from the South, such a voting struck due to the differences in economic stability within Italy, all that led to an internal disagreement till the last election that had parties willing to stand against the EU to keep the Italian people safe.

The economic instability and refugee flow led to the birth of the anti-immigration movements as the Italian shores were the easiest to reach for the illegal migrants that been fleeing away by water. The internal discomfort in Italy been existing until this day due to the EU policies that are not acting for the states' interest, all from 2008 until today's date reducing the poverty level is a hard task for the EU since its acting for the interest of stronger states, all that caused an internal breakdown within Italy. As the two parties got together and been capable of reaching common points, the coalition came up with joint programs for governmental planning, which includes plans for mass deportation of illegal migrants, those migrants that entered Italy and did not claim legal documentations, and a strong anti-immigration policy (the Economist, 2018). As the Northern league switched their initial goal of separating Italy in small states, they reached the point of understanding that Italy is off better being one united front, therefor they agreed on transforming the country to a nationalist and anti-immigration country in order to keep Italy united, but distant from the EU policy making that has been forcing Italy to accept the refugee's that they no longer wish to welcome. Matteo Salvini, The Deputy Prime Minister of Italy and Minister of Interior said in reference to Sicily, that "The island must stop being the refugee camp of Europe" (Euobserver, 2018). With such claims this clearly demonstrates how Euroscepticism is growing in many countries in Europe, as it is growing in Europe having it nurture in Italy points out the upcoming future of Italy and Europe.

The regulations that have been added by the EU on the refugees that are seeking to reach Europe from the Italian shores and not remain in Italy, the refugees want to reach the northern richer countries of Europe such as Germany and Sweden. The EU and been taking advantage of Italy by adding regulations that had to force the refugees to stay and get processed in the country where they must get their fingerprints in Italy, which indicates that the strong countries of the EU are only working for their own interests (Rusheva, 2018).

This could draw attention to Italy alongside with Greece, the country that also been dealing with refugee crisis, and economic instability, which led to the rise in nationalism. According to the BBC analysts group Greece held the highest public dept in Europe, but that also led Italy to be the second with the highest public dept (BBC Analytics, 2015), such a dept put together the parties and led them to a coalition to work together to find a better solution to get rid of poverty in Italy. Such solutions would be costly, tens of billions of Euros cannot be afforded by Italy on its own. The solutions were extremely hard to achieve, but important for the EU if they do not want Italy wants to ask for a withdrawal, especially that Brexit ended up being an actual shock for the EU, to have a member withdrawing. The policies that the Italian party coalition seeks is to guarantee basic income for the poor families in Italy that have been suffering from unemployment, families will be provided with a salary of 780 Euros per month as a basic monthly income. Such a salary to be provided forces family members to work to keep the money flow running in the system. Such a program is costly, the implementation of this program had an estimation cost of around 17 billion Euros, in order to get rid of the high poverty in the state, that was the first policy (Ghigiarelli, 2017).

The other policy that developed to fix the Italian problems is based on two income tax rates, and this policy is the most expensive policy since the idea of two flat tax rates set at 15% and 20% (Horsfall, 2018). There has been a plan that sales and taxed would increase in a year of the implementation of the policy, yet there will be a deficit of 12.5 billion Euros, that put economists in a place of hesitance that such a policy could lead up to 50 billion Euros in lost revenues (Reuters, 2018).

The Third policy is the pension reformation, this policy is important for the Italian citizens, that would boost people to work in order to secure a place for a pension, as mentioned that the pension is set to be 780 Euros, abolishing the current pension program that raises the retirement age in phases. The point system in Italy was introduced to help the elderly retire earlier, this system combines the people's total years of social security with their age with a total of points that must at least be 100, that means a person who has paid his taxes and invested in the system for 41 years could retire at the age of 59 (Trifiro, 2018). Such a system is ideal for the European countries, especially when it comes to Italy, a state that is suffering from stable social security since every government that comes has its own policies on workers.

Italy undergoes a hard time due to its high debt, there was a fourth policy implemented and its controlling and cutting the dept. The populist parties that got in power in 2018 been asking the EU for a revision to the EU's Stability and Growth Pact, the revision which set a tough budget deficit in limit of 3% of the country's GDP. The plan is to reduce the debt with building solid grounds for the revival of the internal demand, and not by continuing austerity. Italy had its bad days regarding the debt, its percentage of national GDP debt reached as high as 132%, such a high percentage is abnormal and put Italy in a position of crisis. As Greece at some point led the EU into crisis, Italy a could also lead the EU into problems. The decisions that must be taken by the EU might not as effective since the policies that they adopted in early 2021 only affected Italy negatively (Kermani, 2018). Italy is seeking a better future therefor it must seek better opportunities and better economic stability.

The populist parties had other targets ever since they got in power, it is not only the economy or Italy's debt. Anti-immigration programs became the solid hand that led to the coalition of the two parties, there for their goal is to start with a mass deportation program to keep out the refugee's not from the EU, but from Italy that is suffering from a lot of pressure from the EU. The plans that they came up with are considered against human rights, for Italy, to have a brighter future and more stable deportation of the people arriving from North Africa is a must, they estimate at around half a million person (Ellyatt, 2018), Italy consider deportation since those who entered are undocumented, which makes it

a priority fir Italy to deport them. There are disagreements between Italy and the EU members on this policy, since they EU wants them to hold the refugees in Italy and not send them back, which in theory demands Italy to set part of its GDP to help the refugees, while their own citizens are suffering from unemployment. However, it is important to have a stronger co-operation to fight the human trafficking organizations that exist between North Africa, Turkey and Europe.

As the populist party grow stronger in Italy, the foreign relations became a setback between Italy and the EU, since Rome saw it right to reach out to Russia. Such buildup of relations led to a disagreement between the populist party of Italy and the EU in regards of the sanctions that are imposed on Russia, as Italy wants them to be lifted. Italy no longer see Russia as a military threat, rather as a prospective partner for Italy, NATO and the European Union. As the Mediterranean Sea is considered a smuggling route for the illegal migrants it is considered as a threat, therefor Russia suggests finding a solution to end it and to end the continuous influence of violent extremists that claim to speak in the name of Islam, although all they do is ruin the reputation of the religion.

With an unstable Middle East, Russia is seen as the key play for ending the wars in the region in the scope of Italy, especially that Russia became the most important actor involved in defusing the situation in Syria, in theory, if Russia was capable of limiting the problem in Syria, and stabilize the Middle East, that could also limit the problem for Italy and the EU with the massive flow of refugees trying cross their boarders. The US accusations were followed by the EU's which propagate the pressure that is being put on the EU by the US against Russia to perceived hostile anti-western activities, notably following Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 only made this endeavor harder for Italy.

As the EU pressure on Italy grew, the Russian-Italian relations maintained a growing path, it led both states to build co-operation plans to have stronger ties. Such a growing relation is seen as a threat for the EU especially after Brexit, the breakaway state UK, is functioning normally even after the massive loses, at the end the EU is being threatened with a new break in its union, and this time it is a continental European country. Such a threat is growing ever since an unexpected bond due to events that led to this strong relation between Moscow

and Rome, had them acting together in strategic manners. The fear of having another breakaway state induced into the EU, countries were heavily effected, France, a state that had an EU ally lost from its near shores seas and led to economic loses, has also been experiencing direct tensions with Russia over the case of Libya, and their intervention for the killing of Libya's falling leader Muammar Gaddafi.

The EU experienced an internal threat since Italy, demanded from Russia to get involved in the Libyan issue to avoid the massive flow of refugees that are trying to escape their unstable country, the EU realized that Italy is no longer seeking solutions with the EU, since EU members are using their power outside of Europe, which led to the flow of illegal migrants, and pushed Italy to seek solutions with Russia to limit the problems. Italy wants a simple solution that would stop the flow of illegal migrants from coming from Libya or any other country. Rome's position regarding Libya been against the camp in power that has been recognized in Tripoli, Italy supports Khalifa Haftar, it became a problem for Italy ever since the reopening of the Italian embassy in Tripoli, while the French embassy been closed ever since 2014. The damage that has been done to Italy is basically due to unorganized international policies that are affecting many countries, Italy happened to be one of those countries, therefore Russia is the first to be contacted by Italy to resolve the problem and find better solutions to ease tension in the region, that became one of the most alarming issues for the EU since one of their union members no longer seek the union for help. Italy has been putting pressure on the EU through their internal policies, while on the international relations they have become a threat to the EU, such tensions has also led to a division in the Italian politics and happened to create confusion in Rome.

The Venezuelan crisis created complications for Italy, ever since Italy vetoed on the EU statement regarding the Venezuelan crisis that only led in destabilization in the Italian domestic politics. According to "Politico" the EU Italy had no proper reason to Veto, as for Rome, the main concern is the Italian nationals that are resident in Venezuela. The Italian veto has only put a limit to the EU plan on issuing a unified statement, a statement that recognizes Juan Guaido as the Venezuelan interim President. The EU was taking the path of the US and

joining them with other South American states to resolve the Venezuelan crisis. The EU members that signed up for the recognition of the Juan Guaido, started with the UK before exiting the EU, France, and Germany, and found a way to convince other EU members to sign up for it. Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Denmark, the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Poland Sweden and Spain, those members signed up for the acknowledgement and support for Juan Guaido, the interim President that claimed that there will be free and fair election.

Juan Guaido is an obvious US hand puppet, chosen by the US to replace the President Nicolas Maduro, in the aim of granting the US a share from the Venezuelan natural resource. For Juan Guaido to take over, the EU had to help the US with its decision making in order to put Juan Guaido on the Presidential seat and enforce a Presidential election that could change the current status inside of Venezuela. The US under any administration seeks to have military presence, and the case of Venezuela is not much different since they wanted military presence and intervention, that shows the US hostility to secure natural resources and creating more chaos and wars under the pretext of freedom and democracy, all that in order to take advantage of the oil of Venezuela, and any other country it happened previously in Iraq the endless war. As Venezuelan crisis is an internal problem, it is also an international since it became a race to get the oil and natural resources out of the country (Rettman, 2019).

As Russia is concerned about the Venezuelan issue, President Vladimir Putin expressed the need to have President Nicolas Maduro in charge, and insuring on keeping him as the Venezuelan President, with support of other countries, China and Cuba. Italy's decision to block the EU plan to vote for Guaido was so important, ever since Italy saw the poorness in the EU decision making, and the hostility of those who they follow. Italy decided to invest its time in building relations with China, which led to having Italy officially as partner with China on the Belt and Road Initiative. The leading parties of Italy are pro-Russian and willing to consider the Russian policy suggestions, while not taking the EU suggestions into consideration, especially after all the failed policies that led Italy to a devastated economic situation in Italy (Ore, 2019).

According to Juan Guaido the tension in Venezuela comes from the people, since the people no longer want to live in poverty and no longer satisfied with the socialist system, and it is unacceptable for the people to live in such a situation. As Guaido asked the US to mobilize its armed forces to intervene in Venezuela, Russia publicly highlighted the consequences of having such an interim President in Venezuela would only lead the country into chaos, especially after all the previous experiences that the world have suffered from when the US intervene in a country the consequences are drastic. Russia sent 100 troops as well to Venezuela to ensure that the US is not crossing the line, to analyze the aim of the US in such a country that holds a lot of natural resources.

According to Alsessandro Di Battista, who left the movement in February of 2021, as a former Italian MP that was preparing himself to lead the Five Starts movement, has expressed that his opinion on the issue of Venezuela, also signed an ultimatum that would lead Venezuela to chaos (RFE/RL, 2019), such an action was considered a scheme for Italy and for the party itself, since an identical scheme happened during the Libyan war and Ghaddafi period. As soon as Italy veto on the unified EU statement, other Russian friendly countries saw analyzed the possibility of the US taking advantage of a country and push it into a worse position that it is at the moment, therefor following the Italian position was the right decision making. These countries, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, and Malta.

That was considered a breakdown for the EU, since many of its members are no longer blindly accepting the decision making, a corrupt and flawed system that is dependent and solely fulfilling the US interest, the interest of the US that claim that the world need a Liberal identity and a adopt the democratic order. Di Battista raised the question of whether the EU have learned from its failed decision making and mistakes of telling nations what to do, gave examples of Syria under Bashar al Assad, Libya under Muammar Ghaddafi, and Venezuela under Maduro, the first two examples that were given proves that there was a massive war that occurred and never ended in Syria, and an ongoing chaos and poverty in Libya, where is the liberty and democracy that been mentioned. This is an example to prove how much the US is pressuring the EU to follow its interest, which led many EU countries to seek relations with rising powers,

Russia and China for assistance, and that could be a greater opposition that could lead into chaos within the EU due to their weak policy making and following a hegemon that basically cares about its interest only.

3.2 Pre and Post Covid-19 Effect on Economy and Security

Prior to the 2020 pandemic the world economy and security had its own course, with the US top advisor of the former US President Donald Trump, Peter Navarro said that the Euro is grossly undervalued, there is one EU country that is considered as the powerhouse of the union's economy and its Germany, though according to Peter Navarro, Germany is finding tricks to manipulate the euro exchange rate for the purpose of trade (Donnan, 2017). To dive deep into the economics world, there is no clear method to analyze whether a currency is undervalued or vice versa, therefor many economists think that some economic measures could pull the euro, or any other currency. Ever since the implementation of utilizing the euro as a common currency in the EU, it suffered from fluctuations, however it never lost its value compared to the US Dollar, the lowest it reached was approximately 1.0339 USD to 1 Euro (Alphagold futures, 2018, p. 1-25).

According to the previous Minister of Finance in Germany Wolfgang Schaeuble, a strong united single currency is better for Germany, considered as important to boost the German economy, yet for some it could be more difficult from the EU members since they do not have the same economic basis, and they are considered weaker economies such as Greece that put the EU in a tough position for a while. The US consider any strong currency as a threat, when it comes to the euro it is below most estimates of fair values and the German exporters are the ones benefiting the most from it. The US market was less dependent on the European products, however with the euro being undervalued, German, and other EU products started flooding the American markets with their low prices, risking the American production market. The result of such large number of imports from Europe, is a disruption in the American currency and it is considered a threat for the US since their market is also suffering from a race with China.

After a lot of economic studies, the main focus of the US is the Purchase Power Parity “PPP”, this index gives the ability to compare different countries’ currencies with each other, also to determine whether the currencies are undervalued or overvalued and according to the results the German euro is 17 percent undervalued against the American Dollar. While the overvalued currencies are the French and the Greek, the French euro by 5 percent and the Greek by 7 compared to the American Dollar (McGeever, 2017).

The former European Commission President Jean-Claude Junker, who is considered as an individual that dislike the rise in nationalists and populist parties in Europe, yet he emphasized the need to defend European sovereignty. As the euro is the second most used currency in the world, for it to become the most used currency Europe must be sovereign and not having any international pressure. According to Juncker Europe pays 80 percent of its energy import bill that is worth of 300 billion Euros each year, and only 2 percent of the EU energy imports that comes from the US (Reuters, 2018). There were other complaints other than the energy imports, another point is the unfairness that European companies are forced to buy planes in American Dollars instead of euro’s there for the euro is under high pressure done by the EU main ally the United States of America.

Even though crude oil is one of the main imports for the EU, but it does not change the fact that paying in American Dollars is not fair, and according to Eurostat, the majority of these imports are invoiced in Dollars. Since the aircraft industry is European, buying the crude oil is mainly for the EU, and a study is conducted by the European commission that there is no legal or accounting obligation for not trading in Euros. Clearly the US created a system that forced the industries to adopt the US Dollar, since the Dollar stands for business and the crude oil is set on two US exchanges that are “Intercontinental Exchange and the New York Mercantile Exchange”.

China, as large manufacturing country it is also a oil buyer yet still less of a consumer than Europe, and the European currency is way more stable and powerful than the Chinese Yuan, the Chinese Yuan did not stand a chance of competing with the American Dollar, however the euro with all the pressure is still capable of competing with the American Dollar. The energy sector is not

the only area for the euro to challenge any other currency, but in this case the Dollar could be challenged by trade, if the EU uses its accounts collectively that could be in total around 15 percent of all the international trade in goods (Guarascio, 2018). About 93% of the US trade is invoiced in Dollars, and the EU is trying to do the same with its currency, since they could enjoy almost 1.8 trillion Euros if the currency issue was managed properly (The Economist, 2018). After Brexit the number dropped, yet the numbers that were handed in are high and unacceptable and must be used as a reference frame to solve the problem.

For the US it is unacceptable for the EU to grow strong, while it maintains the pressure on the EU, there would not be any way to flourish, or to compete with the US, since the EU if it acts as a sovereign state it could compete with the US, even Russia and China in the realm of economy, military and political (Bershidsky, 2018).

As mentioned earlier regarding the rises in the unemployment rate in Europe, welfare states are dealing with relapse due to the polices that are no longer benefiting the EU members due to the rise of illegal migration from both African countries and Middle Eastern countries. The result is a discrimination between towards those who are coming and even discrimination between the European's themselves since the German European citizen benefit more than a Lithuanian citizen. Discrimination in Europe existed before however, it is happening again, those first generation of migrants who stepped foot into Germany or France whether they were Christians or Muslims received less in wages than most of the nationals.

It is considered a normal act since larger number of migrants are arriving to Europe in the past ten years, and due to the massive influx of migration the social welfare program and system in no longer reliable, the large number of employments in EU countries led the governments to cut down on its funds. Until this date the illegal migration and refugee crisis is considered a massive problem for the EU, therefor the policies that been implemented prior to covid are to be studied since the spread of the virus is reaching an end, and which could trigger again another phase of migration, yet the policies were meant to be studied since they created discomfort between the people and the EU, the

members that are heavily suffering and disturbed from the welfare system and state is Italy since their public dept has increased and the refugees are still in Italy. To have a perfect welfare system there must be a routine, and a work life balance, one child policy, and social responsibility (Goodwin, Eatwell, 2018).

The refugees that fled to Europe are in a rough spot, since they do not have a work life, from learning the language, and experiencing the life in the hosting country. Some refugees come with more than one child, forces the governments to pay more on the refugees instead of paying for their citizens that could be in need. That led to the disbalance in the economy in Europe, since the citizens seek equal representation or even a better one than the refugees (Zaborska, 2018).

Russia is hoping the EU would consider the eastern rising powers as their new allies, therefore after the conflict in Ukraine, Russia did not want to create tensions with the EU members, some of those members are on good term with Russia, due to the fact that trade is their main goal. The EU saw Russia a direct threat at some point when it annexed Crimea as Russia is considered a historical major threat in wars. According to Russia the annexation of Crimea is not a plan to expand their territorial right or to create tension but to proclaim their land back.

The land was historical part of Russia, under Nikita Khrushchev Crimea was transferred to Ukraine with the framework of the USSR, after the collapse of the USSR, the land may go back to Russia, and as it was given from one state to another within a union that no longer exists (Milkoyan, 1992). The referendum helps understanding the conflict from a different perspective, that the people see themselves as Russian, yet they were threatened by the Ukrainian official and non-official statements coming against those who still believe that they are Russian and not Ukrainian. As any US administration, their ability to manipulate the world news, they were able to put pressure on the EU, and pushed the idea that the Russian President Vladimir Putin is planning to expand his territory. The US saw it as strategic to do so, since it holds risks to deteriorate important EU-Russian relations, on trade of Gas that comes cheap from Russia and redirect the market towards the northern West.

Some EU members noticed that the policies that been implemented are for the interest of those with stronger and better economies such as Germany, France and Sweden, and it ignores the states with weaker economies, that could lead to a breakaway. Brexit happened, changes occurred yet the union still functions, that could push Italy into a breakaway since it is seeking its sovereignty back. By avoiding dependency on the EU and following the BRI agreement with China this could be the better strategic way to eliminate the factor of Union dependency. The refugee crisis is causing internal problems for the EU, by weakening states and this could lead to other nations to seek a breakaway as well.

The EU policies must change in order to maintain the EU as a whole and seeking solutions for the EU policies to keep the bloc together and avoid economic issues that are caused by the EU negligence over the weaker states. Supporting the nationals of the EU is as or more important than the refugees, or the result is a rise in nationalism. Even though Nationalism is the new flag for the EU members, and it is obvious that the countries are heading towards a nationalistic period, their aim and goal is sovereignty and equal living standards.

3.2.1 Post Covid-19 and Future of the EU: Boarder Problems and Covid-19 Regulations

Post covid is still inaccurate of the results that could come out, yet the problem is that the EU is suffering from several problems, the economic became a huge factor since there were a lot a of money put during the lockdown that forced governments to pay for citizens while they are at home and not working, the EU countries faced a new major concern and it is the security that led to closing the boarders between EU countries to limit the spread of the virus, however countries started considering as a better alternative (WHO, 2021). States started feeling sovereign again, even though their boarders are open between each other, yet the upcoming policy making could be different than before the pandemic.

Those who got affected the most are those EU welfare states that accepted refugees and were forced to pay for their citizens alongside with the refugees,

policies changed, and those members started seeking ways to get rid of the refugees that they accepted during the ten-year period, yet it became an impossible task since the refugees that entered Europe have already built families and many of them became successful due to the opportunities that been handed in by the hosting countries, not necessarily because they are refugees, but the countries that hosted them hands in a lot of opportunities.

There is no sufficient evidence of how the future of the European Union would after such a great hit since, it is first massive challenge for the European countries ever since the great depression, it has been combated by the massive campaign to vaccinate most of the people to bring back the normal life, the recovery of the EU states been as high since the long lockdown. 2020 was a hard year for countries that have good economies, Germany, France and Italy are considered countries that had a large impact from covid, but tremendous comeback after the colossal crisis. The countries mentioned, suffered from drops in the typical sending yet, there were two countries that came out successfully from the crisis, Germany had a good recovery policy, it was impressive since their consumer spending post covid is 15% short from the pre-pandemic level (N26, 2021). While France had two long period of lockdowns, their initial drop reached 80% of drops yet were able to surpass this issue with the policies that were taken by them.

Such phase been considered hard for the EU, yet those countries policy making managed to succeed in this process, yet not every European country been capable of succeeding since other countries have been already suffering from economic instability. Those countries security have also been threatened earlier by the rise of populism and also the massive influx of refugees.

When the European Union decided to close its boarders with the rest of the world, even between the members of the union, the citizens of the EU started considering the change is lethal for the future of the European union, especially that the citizens seek crossing boarders without any check-up, a lot of pressure by the people to limit the spread of the virus by asking for vaccination programs and by demanding open boarders again to benefit from cross countries relations.

The EU also came up with a new system called the traffic light system, that classify each countries color whether the citizens of those countries are allowed

to travel or not, the colors were red, orange and green and similar to the vehicle rules. Vaccination programs were highly recommended for the citizens of all the union even the refugees, yet to travel between country and another now proof of vaccination and documentation, that the individual traveling is negative all in the aim of having a better control over the spread of the virus (DW, 2021). All that led to a modern clash between the EU members on who should the refugees depend on, the EU as a whole or as individual member state.

Prior to the pandemic the EU been facing a rise in populism due to the refugee crisis, but with the Covid-19 the EU could not function as it used to before, therefor the strong countries took more advantage of the weaker ones, Germany, France and Sweden seemed to care about themselves first claiming if they could control the spread of the virus in their country ad have their economy flourishing would only be in the benefit of other EU members. That shows how weaker states dislike the policy making that the strong EU members are getting away with.

4. EUROPE'S POLITICAL BATTLE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES HEGEMONY AND THE RISING POWER

4.1 European Interest in the Rising Eastern Powers and Horrendous Rise in the Far

Instability in the European Union appeared prior to Coronavirus, the rise in populism, nationalist movements led to the instability, by having the left- and right-wing parties in an ongoing clash to change the current system, the right-wing parties are growing faster than the left wing due to the policies conducted by the EU, and which led to rise in populism in order to ensure that the people get what they asked for. In an interview with Jean-Claude Juncker, the rise in nationalism in Europe is a predictable yet unhealthy form of nationalism, since continental Europe has already suffered from problems in the past such as World Wars that were built on hate and nationalistic speeches (Bremmer, 2018). The previous American administration of the former President Donald Trump, populism became the norm in the world, it changed with the newly elected President Biden, yet the ramifications of the pandemic and Trump in power were hard to get over. The polarization pushed people towards the extremes, prior and post the pandemic. Instead of settling and sticking to a conventional right- and left-wing parties, the people saw the system that the live in as a failed corrupt system that benefit the powerful states.

The world is going through a phase of change, the world of politics is no longer based on grey areas, the tension or conflict that been considered in a grey area shifted to black or white, the EU been compromised in creating disbalance in the world system, therefor the EU been affected greatly with the rise of populism, especially that it has breached their core and important state members such as Italy and which led to many countries seeking more their sovereignty (Stokes, 2019). Powerful members been seeking such a change, which explains the need of independency from the EU or certain EU restrictions and American influence.

4.1.1 Germany's Rise of the Far Right and AfD's

As problems been accumulating, the EU members low income, and high income are experiencing similar form of the crisis. It is considered a crisis, since Germany, a state that is considered as an important member of the EU and a leading member of the union for some states, is witnessing the growth in the far-right parties such as the "AfD" Alternativ Fur Deutschland. Even though in the 2021 election the AfD has only gained 10.3% of the overall votes yet being party of the top five most voted for still a breaking point, the party itself is losing its grounds in the new election, yet for it to still exist after is a question of state stability. even though the competition was between the "SPD" Social Democrats and "CDU" Christian Democrats, as mentioned before there is a polarization, such a party to gain seats in a country as Germany elaborates the true needs of the people and it is important to highlight the fact that this is the first far right party to enter the Bundestag in 2017 ever since World War II (Domes J, 1979).

The Open-Door policy that was brought up by the chancellor Angela Merkel in 2015 led to such a problem, especially that this policy mainly targeted the Syrian refugees. 2017 election the AfD had 94 seats out of 709, while now they have 83 seats, they have lost ten seats yet still not enough to explain such a presence, even though this number could be seen with a less of an impact to make a change in Germany, but such numbers is capable of maintaining a political balance (Bremmer, 2018). Merkel's decision making has only damaged her reputation, the party's reputation among the people that used to support her. The supporters are now searching for an alternative that could make Germany peaceful and safe.

Merkel backed up from the Open-Door policy, however it was too late since the refugees not only from Syria, but any poor country with a weak economy, they fled to Germany seeking for a better life and better future, and Merkel wanted to back up in order to avoid losing more supporters. The 2021 election shows that Merkel lost her position in that, yet the suggestions that were made in late 2019 is to stop accepting the refugees that entered illegally and trying to swarm around the EU for a better opportunity. Another idea that got implemented that the refugees that enter Europe must get their fingerprint in the first place they

enter, therefore Italy is suffering from the German policy since most of the refugees are entering to EU through Greece or Italy.

While Germany made deals with Turkey to control the EU-Turkish border, Italy had to seek other countries to get rid of the German policy that could cause trouble to Italy's economy. As Russia is helping Italy to maintain peace in northern Africa and limit the mass flow of migration from there. Germany and Turkey reached many deadlocks since Turkey would have to hold the refugees in their own country, Turkey have accepted the refugees but also threatens the EU to open the boarder anytime the EU is late on the payment. Germany saw the eastern powers as a threat since they would reach up to any EU member such as Italy, but Germany must benefit from those powers since they supply natural resources at better prices (Berry, 2015).

4.1.2 The Swedish Rise of the SD

The northern European state, known for its peaceful lifestyle reached a breaking point after the migration crisis that made the EU a primary target, rise of populism has also appeared in this peaceful country, under the name of Sweden Democrats "SD". The party appeared in the Swedish parliament in 2010, gained 13 percent of the votes in 2013. Such a high number puts this party as the third party with highest votes in Sweden, those are considered high numbers for a peaceful country such results question whether the Swedish people are happy accepting the refugees (Crouch ,2014).

The SD had an anti-immigration policy even before the immigration crisis, since they realized that the welfare system to function it must not accept large numbers or migrants, and they criticized the open migration policy since they saw it would not suit Sweden, especially that having asylum seekers means more cost on the state (Roden, 2018).

While other neighboring European countries started suffering from the refugee crisis, Swedish people were having difficulties getting along with the refugees due to the increase in the crime rate, some blame the refugees, but the crime rate increased from the refugees and those anti immigrants, the 2018 election shows a 17.6 percent rise in votes over in the 2018 election (BBC, 2018).

Groupings in Sweden between the center-right and center-left led to a high percentage that was considered a shocking number 40 percent in the 2018 election which shows the internal conflicts (Duxbury, 2018). For this grouping, the alliance did not give the majority to outright the command in the parliament and to be in control, for both the center right and center left it is a must to avoid the SD from gaining power, to avoid any rise in populism (Apnews, 2018). The SD started gaining steals without having any coalition since the people are demanding a change. With all the problem going on in Sweden, it saw itself shaking hands with eastern powers such as China for weapons trade, China been trying to invest in many countries to create opportunities to limit the spread of migrants. More job opportunities around the world would limit the massive flow of migration, and in military China had to prove itself as a peaceful negotiator in order to exist against the hegemon that has been trying to eliminate any growing nation, the European Union is one of those who has a limited growth.

4.1.3 France an Anti-Immigration Country

As a welfare state bordering Germany, France's experience appeared as a rough one due to the mass immigration that erupted from the Open-Door policy, resulted in a competition in French presidency election between Marine Le Pen and Emmanuel Macron. This competition was the obvious fight for the far right in the French presidency, that shows how Europe as a whole even the country that promotes state and social liberties. The loss of Le Pen in the election was expected since her percentage of captured votes was as low as 21.3 percent in the first round and in the second 31.9 percent which equals to 10.6 million votes (Bloomberg, 2017). Even though Le Pen failed in winning the presidency yet, she remained as the head of the National Front Party.

As 66.1 percent of the votes went to the winner of the election President Emmanuel Macron position regarding the western and eastern relation still getting questioned, winning in the election, and having other European nations that support the eastern rising states does not mean France must do the same. While Marine Le Pen is considering retirement from all the political pressure, her niece Marechal Le Pen could play a huge role on the far-right movement to challenge Macron. Marechal came up with ideas to control to stand grounds against the nationalist movements and its by creating a bridge between the

center right and conservatives in the aim of achieving a better coalition or the upcoming election to directly compete with Macron (Archynetys, 2018).

Marechal Le Pen is trying to find anything wrong to convince the people, voters that whatever says the people must question it, especially that Macron is fake and works for different interest, and it seemed obvious that in the explosion in Beirut Port in Lebanon, Macron was the first to push for help to fulfill the American agenda indirectly. However, due to the policy making in France there was a rise in the far-right movements that has been shaping the future of the European Union tacitly (Bremmer, 2018). Europe suffers from the US without even realizing the outcome, especially during trumps term when the entire political sphere was in chaos.

4.1.4 Spain and the rise of the Vox

The history of Spain was threatened by fascism for quite a long period due to the fascist dictator Adolf Hitler and Francisco Franco that made Spain the testing ground for his massive invasions, however, how days the Vox far-right party had its similarities to the other rising parties in Europe. The Vox far right party had unappealing policies that could match our modern-day policies, their anti-immigration, anti-gay marriage, anti-diversity and LGBTQIA rights shows an unpredictable future for Spain (Shafak, 2019). The party's aim seems to target many sectors yet converting the gender ministry into a ministry of family reveals the hidden truth of how Europe is shifting and how Spain could become a far-right country, a country that could create spill over into the European nations that might be able to change the future of the EU. The rapid rise of the Vox party and rapid gain in seats shows how the impact of the American policies is affecting Spain, and the response of the EU has ramifications since the policies that have been used only corner weaker economies and weaker states to accept EU policies and which led to the rise of populism in their countries.

The certainty in Spain is based on the peoples demands, which led to the rapid gain in votes that reached up to 10.26%, such high numbers grew faster due to the policies of the union that claims to care about all yet managed to fulfill the stronger states position (Kirby, 2019). According to political scientists the

countries that hosted and suffered from fascism could never get back to the same point in life, however, Germany, with the AfD still in the position of taking seats, and Vox in Spain achieving higher positions due to their supporters, and as history is repeating itself in different pattern, the EU could be on a decline for the reason that every policy that has been conducted by the EU or the US had an impact on Spain and plenty of EU members, therefor Spain's position is a normal outcome. Spain saw no good outcome from the European Union that is benefiting the strong states, therefor China's Belt and Road Initiative became the talk of the century for Spain.

Being included in the development and funding such a relation could limit their dependency on the EU, and to be more accurate to be less pressured by the hegemon that acts as the ruler of every country, since Spain been criticized by the US for refusing to send warships to the Persian Gulf, and not wanting any military tension with Iran or any other country. The pressure from the US and the EU led to this party to get together and disrupt the internal affairs, and possibly a long-term internal instability (Sputnik news, 2019). Managing a better union could maintain a better relationship with the countries, however if the EU will follow the US and let it pressure its member states those states would seek the rising states from the East.

4.1.5 Italy's Instability and Far Right Pressure

As the European union losing its strength the important country that might make a change with their party achieving the power, Italy is once again a direct threat for the EU and EU policies, since it has been ignoring the EU, the threat became larger, and the Italian position became harder to deal with since their relationship grew stronger with China.

While Salvini took advantage of being the party's representative his control grew to the strategic point the Italy been waiting for, control over the Italian shores to limit the illegal migrants from reaching any Italian shore. Direct confrontation burst forth with Brussels, since he saw that the best way for Italy to exist in the future is by having Italy depending on its policies not on the EU policies that might destabilize the future of the state (Taylor, 2018), still according to Salvini the future of Italy must not be depended on the EU interest.

With far-right parties in power the EU would still consider it as a threat since all economies are interconnected and Italy's economy is the third largest eurozone economy (D. Clark, 2021).

As the EU acting as a strong entity their fear of losing Italy in the hands of a far-right movement is growing since any crack in the shell is a crack in the union. It is evident that the EU has already lost control on the communication level since the EU policies has already damaged it and forced them to seek the Asian powers. Those far-right movements seem to put their focus on separating their policies from the EU policies, and for the EU to lose such a member because of the US that is imposing the policy making indirectly became a costly issue that cannot be tolerated. Possible relation between the far-right parties across Europe is a big danger, especially that if Matteo Salvini reach out to the National Front in France, their coalition could be a strong beginning for their populist union, especially that on the French side there has been strong attempts to destabilize the status quo (Williamson, 2018). Italy under Salvini has focused on different countries, those eastern European politicians that align with the anti-immigration ideas.

Salvini did not stop on finding coalitions in Europe, Steve Bannon, Trump's former chief strategist became involved in Salvini's plans to find the best way to take over the European parliamentary election for the advantage of populist movements, such a problem raised more attention from the EU towards Salvini's policies, also fear from those countries that aim to stay under the support of the European Union (Horowitz, 2018). As the far-right movements are aiming to get in control, by eliminating the European Union role over any union to gain back the nationalist feeling for countries (Bremmer, 2018). The eastern countries seemed ignored Italy's role of engaging with China regarding the BRI seemed to be a next level plan to threaten the EU and question its existence. As the states that been mentioned claiming not wanting any far-right movements to rise, yet the American pressure has only forced the parties to gather together and look for the alternative.

4.1.6 The Eurosceptic Union

As there is a massive rise in the right-wing nationalist and anti-immigration leaders, the European Union got weakened and reached the point of seeking ways to maintain grounds in the European Parliament, since the far-right parties are getting in power and taking over the seats to compete with the EU. Those parties that gained power seemed to use the EU as a test bench to stress test it, gain more power and authority in the EU through the mistakes that were done by the EU. As prior to Brexit, those who were voting for a Brexit demanded the union to shrink, the reason behind it seemed obvious that the EU was a weak entity that is not capable of suspending the US influence. As Brexit occurred the changes seemed positive for the UK since they are capable of rebuilding their economy on their own without getting worried about the EU policies that have been tampered with from the US. According to the former President Donald Trump, the EU must not include so many states therefor signaling that the solution is shrinking the EU or dismantling it to give the sovereign countries their rights (Sheep, 2018).

Trump had a long-term strategic vision to dismantle the EU, France was the target, Trump started signaling to Emmanuel Macron, asking for a French-exit from the EU, in return of having a bilateral trade. Every US administration seems to have its interest therefor for the UK to depend on a union that listens to a hegemon with multi-position depending on the administration. However, discussing the French issue it is considered a tactical request to slow down the Euro and the EU economic stability. The problem is beyond the destabilizing the EU, the tactical decision by signaling is to affect the EU militarily, since with UK leaving the European Union, France becomes the last player that has nuclear capabilities, for France to decide of leaving the EU it is a big step, since it is hard to do since it is considered the strongest asset for the EU after Brexit, if France leaves the EU, it could be counted as the final step closer to the dismantlement of the European Union.

The US fear of having the EU Army to grow, that explains why Donald Trump signaled to France, to eliminate the future of the EU Army, since an EU Army would lead to a dismantlement of the NATO that seems to give more right for the US to interfere in many regions. As the EU being threatened by the US, the

change in an administration does not mean the threat has vanished, Trump led to the rise of populism, while Biden is trying to slow it down yet covid and the worldwide inflation created a huge disbalance in the system. The far-right parties are letting the people decide of whether the future of the EU is beneficial when those who are in power will make a change, and to take into consideration that the world is dealing with nationalist movements (Willsher, 2018), the possibility of France to demand an exit is low, however with the growth of populism and nationalism the future of any EU member is being threatened, since a possible break could lead to the domino effect, and there is no trust in the systems that are in power as there are no stable grounds on how those systems could benefit the people on the long term.

Vladimir Putin Speech on September 28, 2015, paved the way of how the future of the world systems could be formed, addressing how the world should consider the idea of multipolar system. Those who considered it are seeking growing their power, part of it is the EU, however, for the US if the EU does that it could compete with the US. The rise in the far-right parties has slowed the EU from considering taking party of such a venture in the multipolarity idea. As the EU seemed to demand acting as a regional hegemon the parties limited it due to the corruption and internal problems, such as the migration problem that has affected most of the EU members (Wight, 2015). While states been seeking good relations with the east, the US been contributing to destabilizing any county that could consider a multipolar system, such interference led to the rise in nationalism and populism in many countries around the world.

4.2 The European Union and the Far Right

As the right wing, populist, Eurosceptic parties gaining power and take on the seats of the parties that led to this problem. The European Union's parties are being threatened by the populist and nationalist parties since they are working hand to hand to secure and ensure a change happen in Europe, or to dismiss the status quo that has put the people of Europe down.

4.2.1 The Race of the German Far Right

The stronger the economy the more effort must be put to make a change, Germany with its massive economic might in Europe, the far right parties are gaining power more and more, even though it has eased in the last election, with the gas problems and inflation around the world post covid a change could occur, the AfD plan is to overtake on the SPD, in the recent election things got difficult for the AfD, however, the future election could be difficult for most of the parties since the situation got difficult right after the elections, however prior to covid the AfD had a stable status or an increasing one since they were making the competition harder and harder on all the parties (Hume, 2018). The coronavirus helped the SPD and the CDU to remain in power, and for the AfD to lose seats yet the green party is as well on the rise which make a race for the those who must make a change.

The problem that Angela Merkel been facing for the last years had to be solved by making a coalition with the SPD, however as the SPD got the highest seats this election shows the outcome of Merkel policies. The aim of the SPD is to gain power, however for the CDU is to keep up with their decision making to avoid losing more seats than this election. Since for the German parties, getting the highest votes and highest seats is a goal to achieve, their target is not getting in coalition and gaining the highest seats, if it was a must that proves that the parties are losing power, at a certain point any coalition made could be a must to have the party votes raised up, and the competition that resulted in this election loss for the CDU began two elections before the most recent in 2021.

While each party began to pressure the other party to maintain power, the election in Germany was a huge clash since the AfD, is a scary party especially that Germany has already suffered from a fascist dictator, which led them to fear having such a rise again in the far-right parties (Schutz, 2018). The back clash that forced the former SPD chairwoman Andrea Nahles to leave is the fact that it has agreed with Angela Merkel and Interior Minister Horst Seehofer the head of the Christian Social Union of Bavaria “CSU”, has only led to criticism from the media towards Nahles and scandals as being accused of being outmaneuvered by the CSU leader, as for selling out the parties ideological beliefs in return of having a promotion (DW news, 2018).

All those coalitions were happening just to avoid having a far-right party in power, which made the electoral status quo fluctuating. All that led to tension in the German politics, since the AfD has got seats and voters of the CDU, slowly the shift in the German politics was in the benefit of the far right, even though the election wasn't as positive for them post covid however maintaining seats in the German parliament means they exist and people in Germany still want them (Hough, 2017). Any shift in the economic situation could heavily lead to a negative outcome that could hurt Germany and the EU as a whole. Such a change is no longer considered part of the natural electoral procedure.

4.2.2 France Presidential Race and Le Pen Movement

The liberal country under Emmanuel Macon's presidency has been experiencing lots of changes, even though Macron defeated Marine Le Pen in the election, the upcoming election in 2022 could be a critical election since Macron has raised a lot of hate in the country and the liberties for people are being taken away (Chrisafis, 2017). By having Macron in power only raised the tension in France, especially that his attitude towards the wave of populism only showed that people are losing their rights for expression. The populist movements in the neighboring countries of France such as the UK, and other countries seem to grow slowly especially in Italy, the situation of the rise is still under control however any economic crash could lead to a massive collapse (Fleming, 2018). Any big change in France is not possible since the country has strong unity when it comes to a negative change.

With Macron's victory he saw the need to make a change in the system, he saw himself as the new leader of the free world, also considered himself as the champion of multilateralism and globalist vision, claiming that the free world is in the power of France and other EU members if they reach the point of having a joint unity, and portraying the future of the EU army as a massive goal to avoid future dependency on the US or Russia-China. He had promises if fighting for the climate change, stand up to the US and take on the populist in the EU (Larson, 2019). So far, all that would be good for France, and a great way to slow down or limit the rise in populist parties' growth from within the nation.

Emmanuel Macron plans, policy making implementations were considered as negative on the state for a certain group of people, which led them to revolt against him and against the problems that enveloped France. As it started with protests, they were under the name of the “Gilets Jaunes which stands for Yellow Vests”, such protests were a reaction on the negative policies regarding the eco-tax on gas, slowly those protests rested on the political struggle that France has been going through (Licfield, 2018). As the 2022 French elections are coming Macron seems to be in a safe bubble however, Marine Le Pen is no longer the highest threat for him, Eric Zemmour, the French journalist that is gaining popularity from certain groups and certain politicians abroad questions the reality of the French Liberalism. As a far-right writer is gaining popularity due to the policies that were taken by Emmanuel Macron adds on how could the only country that has nuclear capability be if it fell in the hand of the far right, that has been heavily affected by the US previous President Donald Trump. Coming back to what led to this issue, President Macron’s ignorance forced groups to form, according to the analyst in political science Alexis Poulain, as a technocrat, Macron is a man that is comfortable talking about millions of Dollars deals and having such a man as a President that is hoping to listen to the people is a dream that might never occur. Macron cannot be considered as a good President for the people that would work for their interest, especially that the pressure being put on him is coming from the banking sector, since he has an affiliation with banks certain groups (Democracy now news, 2019).

Macron’s decision on pressuring the yellow vests for a while, in the aim of them backing up, even when force was used in Paris, that is considered an abuse of power over the people in a liberal country (Davies, 2019). The events in Paris were unfortunate and kept escalating, until Macron came to the point of realization, that those reforms and policies would only lead to chaos, at that time he was forced to listen to the yellow vest movement.

Presidents Macron decision of using force on the people in Paris led to a negative outcome, since the yellow vests realized that once ignored by the system, means the current system could lead into a future authoritarian rule, therefor there was no stop especially after they succeeded in the first task (bock,

2019). All problems have stacked up and led to having Zemmour taking the highlight after being heavily criticized as a racist.

Early 2019, to be more exact the first week of that year the yellow vest protestors did not stop, they gather together to seek new goals. The plan of the yellow vests was organized, as they started with the fiscal policy revolts, and later the movement started seeking to achieve the "Referendum d'Initiative Citoyenne- RIC" (Mauerhan, 2018). The aim of the yellow vests grew stronger towards giving the people more power ever since the republic threatened the safety of its own citizens, even though they were revolts, but Macron had a plan to eliminate any opposition that would stand in-front of his policies (The Local News, 2019). The demands that are being imposed on France by the people led to a loop of change, where Macron started reconsidering any policy or reform that would be taken, all in the aim of avoiding any political estrangement to secure the upcoming presidency.

The yellow vest position seemed to be in a growing aim, therefor in 2019 they decided to take part in the French politics, while they were getting prepared for the European election, studies were done by Emmanuel Macron's party on how likely the yellow vests are to win and how much they could reach. The result came up to be 12% potential win all because of Macron's decision making and use of force (Mcnicoll, 2019), all that came on the expense of the parties on the right and left spectrum. Such a high number could result in a change, as low as it potentially could be the future of the EU and leading countries is being threatened by those who are in power since their decision making is causing the negative impact on the EU. The 2019 election could have given Macron the chance to stay in power, however people are losing interest in his decision making and leaving the stage for the far right to grow more power, and as mentioned the 2022 election could be considered the most challenging election for the republic as the far right is getting praised in France and other European nations.

There are different range of European populists, as their ideas and identities are Eurosceptic and could be a bit different from other, a new opposition for the establishment is apparent and capable on making changes. Macron came to a new realization that his decision making on putting an end to the populist wave

is impossible, he was only helping the populist figures or parties grow with his failed policies. Those movements took advantage of the negative actions of macron, and their aim is to get in power to secure seats in the European parliament, their goal is to become a new force to change the future of the French political landscape and other EU countries (Bell, 2019). European leftist claim that the rise of populism is a result of Eastern countries making problems for Europe in order to threaten the US. The left seems to follow the US pattern of understanding the political order since they benefit from the US. However, Russia and China seem to ease the relation between EU members and east in order to get rid of the populist agendas.

4.2.3 Hungary Under Viktor Orban

Viktor Orban, the prime minister, and the face of the far-right movements in Hungary, calls for the European politicians that follow an anti-immigration policy to group up and take over Europe's institutions, his speech made an impact after the Syrian refugee crisis. Orban has a goal of uniting Europe's radical right, which gave him the chance to create a new partnership between Italy's former deputy prime minister Matteo Salvini, and the polish right wing government (Walker, 2019). At that time Salvini was being heavily criticized for his decision making regarding the refugees that were trying to cross to Europe, and Viktor Orban already had his crazy idea regarding the refugees which shows how the EU has been affected by the US administration and policy making during that period that is still forcing the EU to deal with populist figures.

In a conference in Budapest, Viktor Orban mentioned and explained the structure of parties, how they are usually right and left, how they are different because some of those parties are affected by a different dimension, awhile giving an example of how some could be for the idea of migration and some against. The goal of Viktor Orban is to grow the numbers of anti-immigration followers that could threaten the core of the establishment, that could give him and other EU political members a majority in the European Union parliament, EU commission, with a last step of swaying the people for a vote towards an anti-immigration leader when that happens it could change the political status quo of the EU.

As the people of Hungary getting worried about the immigration issue that has been ruining the EU and afraid of having Hungary deal with the same issues, Viktor Orban has different plans for the EU and the establishment itself by pressuring them and threatening their long-term existence, and as France under Emmanuel Macron been suffering from a rise of populism, for Viktor Orban the French President is pro-immigration program that might be considered as a competitor. As Italy pulling the EU towards the right, both Viktor Orban and Matteo mentioned the need of "New Blood" in the European parliament, as this speech took place in Warsaw, it is obvious that Poland had interest in leaning towards the right to avoid any refugee's therefor the Warsaw-Rome Axis seemed like an amazing development plan in the eye of Viktor Orban in 2019, having hopes on what could happen later in the EU (Broniatowski, 2019).

The issue for the EU that the opposition that been growing is siding with the Eastern powers since the EU is forced to follow the US decision making is resulting in a growth in the populist leaders. That does not mean that the Russian-Chinese block is the core issue for the EU to have a rise in populist leaders, the issue is that the US had Donald Trump as a President for one term, yet a lot have changed during his presidency. Hungarian neighboring countries also suffered from a rise in the far right from the same problem, such as Czech Republic, Austria however Italy was the scariest since a change there could make a massive change for the EU.

4.2.4 Italy: The Weak Point

As the far seeking a coalition between each other to compete with the European Union establishment, Early 2019 the former deputy prime minister said that the ongoing coalition between the Right heads of the EU could lead into a "European Spring" as a goal of degrading the power of the EU front Germany-France. As Salvini been pushing to have the alliance built before the European parliamentary election of May 2019 the opposition been strong, been capable of slowing down Salvini and his allies (Giuffrida, 2019). A strategic meeting with members of the Polish right-wing party that is in control in Poland "Law and Justice Party" been held during Salvini's term and this meeting been considered a call for the right to gather and enhance their relation even if they would lose their positions in the future (Gotev, 2019). As Salvini lost his position Viktor

Orban is still in power which are meant to have the rest work until the right get back in power.

As Salvini post-covid seemed to drag his party away from the right and pushing it towards the mid-right, Mario Draghi seems to have difficulty forming a government for Italy. Since the policies that were taken by Salvini cannot be adjusted easily. Italy is a sensitive country to adapt to the changes in the European Union, since the establishment is being questioned and whether it should exist after all the rise in the far right in that region. The future of the EU relies on the decision making of Italy, ever since Brexit any new exist towards a populist system seems to be a threat, Italy is at the highest risk since it's the country that historically suffer from political changes and political instability.

In plenty of conferences and the most recent one Viktor Orban, Matteo Salvini and Mateusz Morawiecki they made the call for "Renaissance of Traditional European Values" (Hungary Today, 2021) in the aim of pushing the EU away from the bureaucrats that are in control. Such a call could be seen as the major division of the EU which it has been driven by the US manipulation to disturb the Russian-Chinese relations in the union and over-all the relation between the people and the establishment is losing track therefor we see the rise in the populism and nationalism (Pluncinska, 2019). Re-establishing trust between the people and the system requires determination and a change to analyze the negative decisions that were made before.

Polish far right politicians praised the strategy that Salvini took, a strategy of limiting the immigration for the migrant boats by closing the ports, investing in the coast guard control, and aiding the countries that migrants are coming from such as Syria, Libya (BBC, 2018). Most of the EU populist parties saw that this strategy is important to limit the migrants, especially during covid-19 when each country been threatened since their boarders between EU members are not highly equipped to guard who comes in and out. The direct help for the countries that are leading to the massive numbers of refugees would improve the situation in the region, especially if stability is promoted in those countries.

The idea of Pan-European network between the nationalist parties became a threat for the European Union since it has been breaching strong countries such as France, Italy and even Germany. While Emmanuel Macron acting as he is the

real power, yet there was a breach from Marine Le Pen, with Italy's far right the Five Star Movement, the link between different nationalist parties could lead into a greater power that would strike the core of the EU, Germany's AfD seems to be connected to most of the EU far right parties (The Economist, 2019). The borderless connection is only working to grow the power of the nationalist of Europe and by itself is a political dilemma, that is directly targeting the European Union and the Establishment parties, while those nationalist parties claim to restore the real European values and to bring back the dignity of the poor workers that been suffering from the policies that eliminate the rural workers and mainly focus on the urban.

As the establishment is growing, it became a greater threat to the nationalist supporters therefore the threat grew and started breaking into the core of the nations. As before there were claims that the threat is basically from the outside, however now it is considered to be mounting from the inside of each country since those supporters found common interest between each other and a greater goal towards the nationalistic parties. Prior to coronavirus Salvini the Italian figure that created massive threat for the EU with his ally Orban especially when the stated that the EU must stop depending on the United States, and reconsider different state members to either follow or grow interest on. Viktor Orban wants transparency for the European people especially his countries people to know where this relationship of EU-US dependency is headed, which led to Orban discussing the idea of who should the EU follow either the US bloc or the Russian-Chinese bloc.

4.3 The United State of America and European Union Policy Disgruntlement

Over the past fifty years the power of the United States grew drastically, however, yet ever since the creation of the European Union it became a threat for the world hegemon with the strategic economic policies that grew a huge interest for European states, since such a chain action could only lead to a stronger currency.

As the Euro been considered as stronger currency than the American Dollar the threat kept growing over the years, until the recent events during President Trump when he decided to bring back the US to the age of isolationism with a

possible economic development under the banner of America First. Trumps Administration targeted the EU in a very aggressive way, which started with questioning the international security, trade dispute and diplomatic tensions that been recognized as the new threat during Trumps term, however, for the EU it was a good future realization on whether their relationship must maintain the same flow of US dependency or start detecting new possibilities that could help such as the Russian and Chinese support.

The relationship between the EU and the United States of America deteriorated ever since Trump got in power and his policy making grew negatively against EU state members. As Trump had the America first policy, the NATO issue became the topic to bombard on the EU and especially Germany with, Trump did not want to have the US paying the most for the NATO (Dimitrova, 2020). The tension between the US and Germany shows how the Trump administration been targeting the strong countries to slowdown the economic advancement on the European Union, such countries been working withstand the problems that been halting any advancement, Germany started growing its relationship with Russia, which triggered the US since they are supposed to be the ones benefiting from the EU not Russia.

Since Trump had a different mercantilist understanding over the transatlantic security stayed as a zero-sum approach in regards of the world politics yet, the aim became economic for the US, as Trump lost power, Biden seemed to have an aim of fixing what Trump have done to the EU-US relation, so far it seems like the relationship is getting better but the future of the EU-US trade is at risk since a transport container from China to Europe use to cost approximately 2000-3000$ however, due to the trade war between the US and China the sanctions that were been put on China raised the cost of the shipping container up to 20000$ (CNBC, 2021), such a number is extremely high, and proves that there are still ramifications of Trumps policies that are affecting the EU and other countries around the world.

As mentioned in previous chapters the China trade war is massive collapse for the EU since it only forced them to trade with their ally and to be pushed away from the US competitor China or Russia. While the US aiming to force China to hand in the real numbers for their economy, it forced the entire establishment to

crumble with it, since the entire establishment is now depending on China from technological advancement, and cheap labor for any product, and Russia for natural resources such the gas (Dimitrova, 2020).

The US is being pressure by any growing supper power since they could become the future competitors that could race for the world hegemony, as the system we live in is failing, liberal democracies are no longer capable of adapting to the capitalist greed, the US is losing its popularity since countries are no longer capable of maintaining a stable economy with all the economic changes that have been going on. Therefore, the multipolar idea started threatening the US, especially after the EU wanted to come up with the EU army, that is possibly capable of protecting the EU and discarding the military dependency on both NATO and the US army.

As included in previous chapters how the EU been suffering from the US tariffs and sanctions, the EU members had no other option but to look around for a possible alternative that could demonstrate a beneficial outcome. As long as China is considered as a threat for the US, any country from the EU or outside that has trade relations with the US eventually will deal with a negative impact from the US-China trade war. As a result, the EU had to reach a point where it must face a decision making and the members must face the consequences, on which bloc they must follow and how to avoid the dependency issue.

5. THE EUROPEAN UNION'S PLANS TO MAINTAIN ITSELF UNDER THESE CONDITIONS

5.1 The EU Can Maintain Positive Relations with Both Camps

The European Union has been working on its relations with the United States of America, and at the same time trying to maintain a solid relationship with the Russian Chinese camp, and while it was trying to maintain a better relationship with the rest of the world countries the internal and external influence been a hassle to adjust to all the relationships that the EU been involved in, yet it been capable of keeping everything under control. With all the tension that has been going on the EU been trying to prove that it is possible to maintain a solid relationship with both camps without sacrificing from their internal or international relations.

As explained and elaborated in previous chapters on how the US is putting pressure on the EU regarding the food trade which could later translate into an economic war, Covid-19 did not help, therefor the economic war been postponed, yet in 2021, there is a high inflation around the world, without even noticing the world has started to reach the economic strangling post the vaccination period, when the liberal democracies believed that their societies could be the most productive, yet they have realized when a system keep backing up their people, there will be a huge problem such as a lack in labor power, which leads to a huge slow in the economic productivity, therefor Covid-19 could have been considered the beginning of the economic war.

As President Biden got in power the EU saw it as an opportunity to rebuild the relationship that been threatened by Donald Trump, since Trump assumed that the EU has only taken advantage of the US regarding trade, and has ignored the US interests, the tariffs that have been imposed were around 11 billion USD on the European Union products (Blenkinsop, Hepher, Heavy, 2019). While the EU-US negotiations during Trump period acted, the EU saw it the right time to

find a solution to maintain a relationship with both US and the and Eastern powers.

For the US the trade problem with the EU is not the only threat, but the massive growth on the EU and Russian-Chinese relations became the direct threat since there are EU members such as Germany, as the interest grew from Berlin in the Russian gas trade with Gazprom and it was considered a better deal than dealing with the US, yet the US could provide other deals that could interest the Germany, or any other member that has been in direct relation with the Russian-Chinese camp, and Italy's role in pressuring the US grew drastically since Italy is taking a huge role of being part of the Chinese BRI, other European countries have also followed the path of Italy during Salvini's term since they realized the Chinese BRI is an important tool for the future to be taken advantage of, especially when it comes to a direct link from the Eastern world to the Western.

What threatened the US more at that time that shockingly Switzerland, have agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative, while they focused to grow their relations with China, and improving the bilateral relationship with China in order to benefit from the future trade deals, all that happened prior to Covid-19, while in 2021 as mentioned that a container from China due to the tariffs and sanctions the price skyrocketed to 20.000 USD. Switzerland's neutrality is considered hostile since it has been neutral in all but taking advantage of their relations with China.

The European Union's role been successful in maintaining a positive relation with the US and the rising powers by keeping the internal problem, pressure away from their international relations that been threated during Trumps term, a period that has been threatening and questioning the EU ability of maintaining a positive relation with the rest of the world. The goal of the EU is to maintain a positive relation with both camps even if it had hard times, for it to insure not losing support from any bloc that has been successfully promoting the EU's interest, therefor their main aim is to hold on to any deal to maximize their profit.

There are some claims that the US has a strong influence on the EU, yet there are EU members that do now follow the US path since they do not support the idea of a foreign state controlling the EU decision making and deciding on the

behalf of the European population on the interest of another country, however, there are some questions put out there on whether the EU wants to have those states not support the US, to maintain an equilibrium to withstand the problems if they EU is not going through the right phase with any of the blocs. Could it be a safety strategy to adjust or slow down the changes that could crumble the EU foreign policies? This could be considered as an EU strategy to maintain a two group within the EU, that might create competition between the world leading camps, to ensure support will be provided from both camps in order to take advantage of the camps as the EU is flexible and must depend, yet it is only used to be taken advantage of the rising powers and the hegemon. The problem of having such a strategy that it could create many drawbacks since competition creates tension, and a when superpowers are having conflicts, there are ramifications to it and consequences therefor now days the Euro and many other world currencies are at risk, since the tension between US and the Russian-Chinese camp is growing, the world economy is being treated as well. The possible reason for the EU to use such a strategy is to avoid international criticism since the EU is not taking one side and ignoring the other, which is could also explain the European Union's long-term goal of maintaining stabile relations with both camps.

There could be blame on EU members that have been pressuring the EU regarding such a decision making, on how the EU must maintain a positive relation with both camps, yet those members could be the reason why the internal pressure is as well harassing the international relations whether it is on the US side or the Russian Chinese side, the pressure is could be negative yet it shows the goal of the union in general that is trying from and create unity with other countries in order to mee the European interest at any cost.

The US pressure under Trumps administration in early 2019, forced Brussels to shift its views to believe that the real competition must be between the US-EU against the Russian-Chinese camp, since the EU saw a policy being implemented against them by the US to weaken the European Union, all this been brought up by Donald Trump, however, his successor been trying to fix the problems yet it is hard for the EU to ignore, but it is in their interest to maintain a solid relation with both camps.

For the first time in history, the European Union and the United States of America had such an experience, of a President that is heavily independent, with an isolationist mentality, that kept analyzing and expressing his discomfort regarding the European projects that could threaten the US interest, a President that been able to ignore and depreciate the history of the EU-US, the importance of the US in taking a huge part in shaping better circumstances for continental Europe to be able to create the EU, and during Trumps administration the EU-US relation became undervalued. It is important to discuss how Trumps administration been capable of changing the whole world, the internal policies that affected the EU been also affecting different nations, however, for the EU Trump saw the EU as a new threat especially since the EU army became a topic, as Trump's words were rough, his words emphasized that the European Union is more of an adversary than an ally, and the formation of the European Union came in order to weaken and take advantage of the US (Smith, 2019), and that was Trumps project towards the EU which also later led to different consequences.

The negative actions of Trump raised fear for the EU, which during his term Brussels was forced to act in any means necessary to ease the tension in order to maintain the positive relationship with Washington that has been directing fire towards the EU. The EU been living in fear ever since Trump decided to take part in the American politics, until today, the EU is working cautiously with the US in order to maintain a positive relation and not lose much from its resources, Biden seems to care for the EU, yet cares to secure deals with both the EU and China at the same time. Moreover, Trumps term been a huge lesson for the EU, ever since US senior-level members of Trumps administration urged the EU to ignore Trumps tweets and focus on the US administration policies, yet most of the policies that were implemented by the US administration were based on Trumps tweets, that turned out into actual policies that not only threated the EU but threatened the world status quo as a whole.

The world started experiencing instability ever since Trump got in power, for the EU the aluminum tariffs that been imposed on them on march 2018 seemed like a beginning of an economic war that has been conducted by the US, not long after Covid-19 struck and led to a bigger economic instability, while after

Trump got in power his withdrawal from the Iran deal raised instability on the international arena, post Iran deal Trump kept trying to suffocate any country that does not get along with the US policy, and even North Korea had to deal with Trumps actions which also created fear around the world since there was a possible World War because of his actions.

Trumps statements were more aggressive than Bidens, since his statements ended up actual policies, that forced Brussels to always be aware of their decision making since it could lead to a worse outcome if been ignored. Especially that EU members at the time started growing their relationship with the US rivalry and did not support the trade war that has been going on between the US and China.

Ever since Trump got in power, the EU had to start depending on its own and seeking what is better for the survival of the Union, which raised a lot of questions if the EU still cares about the US, since many EU members are now heavily involved in trade relations with the Russian-Chinese camp "The rising Eastern powers. All those are claims, that seems positive, yet negative since many EU member states are seeking self-interest that could collide with the EU's, therefor, dealing with an opposition explains that the internal problem is growing since states would rather be independent and the EU is considered inefficient since it is trying to maintain all relations.

The general policy of the European Union criticized the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative, as soon as Italy joined while Salvini had a saying in the Italian politics, Brussels kept pressuring Italy to follow its path. Which leads to how the EU aims to keep their relationship with the US especially under Trump's in control and avoid more trade issues, when Biden got in power some changes happened but the EU still trying to control its relations and avoiding tension in order to maintain a strong relation with the ally that has been there for Europe during the first two World Wars.

China position regarding the European Union is steal not clear on what it would lead, however, China has been working on its relationship with the rest of the world even during the pandemic that slowed down all the world countries. That did not stop EU members from having trade deals with the rising powers, especially with China since their technology is growing fast and reaching out to

the rest of the world at a better cost, the US trade deal left some shortage around especially post pandemic lockdown on chips since those hips come from China and there is high amount of unemployment around the world. There are some expectations that the shortage of electronics and chips could last till year 2023 that gives the EU a reason to maintain a solid relation with China in order to benefit from their trade deals.

While the EU is maintaining a positive relation with the Russian-Chinese bloc, by avoiding direct confrontation from the other blocs, EU members are now heavily interest in growing their relations with the East since they saw their ability to work on a problem in order to solve it and have it working properly. The trade war has only grown a barrier between the Eastern powers and the EU as mentioned before their goal is to adjust for them to have a strong relation with both camps even.

The internal EU changes are benefiting China, ever since populist Italy joined the new Silk Road, the US became aware of any future domino effect that could cost them their relations with those countries, Italy is a well-developed economy and an important player that been pressured by EU policies, as they have pushed themselves to have relations with China, it was a huge achievement for those countries that been rebelling against the EU, US and China considered it as a massive achievement at that time that their policies and supplies are helping them grow relations around the world.

Post Covid-19 Italy the G7 member joining the silk road without having any concern about the European Union or the US, since those EU members started to focus on how to develop their economic situation without being dependent on the EU, all came down to small important points to work on decrease the poverty and amount of unemployment in Italy.

Italy became the strategic country for China to deal with since Italy hold the biggest Chinese community in Europe, at around 300,000 Chinese and in order to have this community invest and grow better trust in Italy the New Silk Road was the start for it (Frese, 2019). The Chinese community saw Italy a strategic place to invest in, therefor the numbers show that Chinese investors put around 15 to 16 billion Euros since year 2000 worth of investments that no other European country have done for Italy.

The US had also interest in Italy, moreover their investment in Italy were military, there is approximately 15,000 US troops deployed in Italy, that claim to protect Italy from any danger, Italy had to accept such a deal since at that time the US had no competition and been considered the protector of the world (Frese, 2019). The US is worried about Italy getting in direct relations with China regarding the silk road for geopolitical and strategic issues, the US has a strategic base in the Mediterranean Sea, losing it seems to be a greater concern on their long-term vision. The US ambassador to Italy had a meeting with the former foreign minister Enzo Moavero Milanesi, as the ambassadors raised red flag on how China is slowly growing in Italy and in the EU, which leads to a fear of the US in the China's investment strategy.

Garrett Marquis warned Italy on the legitimacy terms and infrastructure vanity projects that would be conducted by China, such pressure did not change Italy's position even after Salvini losing power (BBC, 2019), Italy still has the same position since states are supposed to act with the idea of self interest in mind, whether it's a populist party in party or not, State interest must come first, and with all the changes that Italy had the international arena and the EU considered the it as an anti-establishment prior to the changes of views that Matteo Salvini had.

The EU started growing instability since it is not capable of facing any strong countries, especially China, since losing such an important member could lead to a decline in the Chinese investments in the European Union, being worried about the outcome of the EU seems to be in the hand of individual states that could rebuild their own economies, by having bilateral relations and deals. 2019 was a rough year for Juncker ever since the trade war been affecting the EU, which forced Juncker to clear the EU's position indirectly by signaling to China that the EU wants to stay on good terms with China in order to benefit from the Chinese products.

Even though the EU as a whole wants to maintain a positive relation with both camps, Brussels still has to re-consider any relation with China, especially if its members are reaching out to the rising powers. Germany started getting pressured by Brussels, since the relationship that Germany been building with Russia could determine the future of the European Union's position regarding

the rising powers and eventually lead to a direct confrontation from the United States of America.

Even though the pressure that Brussels been putting on Germany is minimal, yet it is an open policy of how the EU is trying to continue maintaining its relationship with both the east and the West without having any trouble. Brussels felt threatened when Washington started with pointing fingers regarding their trade relations with Russia, the US fear of losing other EU members to their trade rival Russia, as Merkel seeks the best for its country, the US been ignored until todays Germany would choose Russia over the US since they are able to supply at a lower cost and faster delivery time. Brussels consider Germany as a strategist that works or its economy and maintain as a leader in the European Economy (Johnson, 2019), however the history of Germany is dark which forced them to work in a greedy way, to protect their people since both World Wars Germany was blamed for it.

To summaries the EU relations with both blocs, the EU finds it easy to maintain a relationship with the US since it is sort of the link between the East and the West, and the US has a lot of interest in the EU since they could compete in the future. However, their relationship with Russia and China is a bit strategic, since the EU suffered from the Russians during the two World Wars, yet Russia became the middleman for the EU-China relations with all their capabilities of securing a soft relation regarding trade.

As the United States of America had its own isolationist period, China's involvement in large wars was inexistent there for it was considered as an isolationist as well, however China hard larger dreams for their people which led to the history of the first silk road that appeared on the world map in 1454 CE (Mark, 2018), this road seemed to be embedded in the history of the European nations since European explorers used this road to explore the world such as Marco Polo.

This is the experience of the European nations that they had with China, it all started from the silk road that led to a larger innovation in the history, the EU now days seeks to grow any relation that could benefit their interest, especially if gives them the ability to grow stronger. To maintain a good relationship with

both camps it is important to act in a neutral way to prove both camps that their neutrality would not affect any of the camps negatively.

5.1.1 The European Union Mediate for its Own Interest to Avoid Bloc Separation

The US trade war with China resulted in a massive tension, which put the EU in a delicate position to mediate between both camps, however each camp had the bad intention of slowing or crashing the others economy and proving to the world who is the actual economic power, whether it is the US to re-claim its position around the world as a hegemon or China to claim a new status as the new world economic leader. The EU is working hard to maintain the status quo, since post covid the situation was getting worse between the members and post the pandemic and lockdowns the EU still trying to maintain a solid ground between the members. Ever since the spread of coronavirus there was an international instability, as it was getting ramped up to since the trade war it all reached a difficult spot that the world could experience a new reform in regarding the international trade system, new regulations were being added and it all got worse during the pandemic and post.

While the US seems to be on the aggression side, it still afraid of losing their European ally that has been growing relations with different countries. Russia and China been trying their best to promote better deals than the US to attract countries that are in need, for example Russian gas and easy reach to the European countries made it a better choice, while China been suffering from the trade problems their technological advancement made the world depend on them, especially since they are capable of fast production.

The trade war seemed to be benefiting the European Union in some situation according to the US, however the results were actually negative, and it proven that the EU started taking a part of the mediation in order to maintain a stable economic level. The current financial system that exists at the moment is interconnected, as covid-19 already disturbed the global value chains, there was a drop in the EU stocks, however, what actually worries the EU is losing competitiveness in various sectors, such major sectors that the EU shines in and

at the same time is getting threatened by the US trade war on China is the steel sector.

The EU sees itself as a steel exporter, if it imports steel and have no place to export their finished products, it will lead to a huge problem in the EU market, with all the fear and questions that been put on the EU the EU extended the steel import urb until 2021 according to Reuters (Blenkinsop, 2018). In any country a flood in certain product would create an export issue, all the issues for the EU grew drastically ever since the US decided to impose 25% tariffs on imports of steel and 10% on aluminum, such measures had a wider spectrum than targeting only the EU, but Trump wanted to bring back to solidarity for the American production therefore the NAFTA members Canada and Mexico were targeted as well (Pramuk, 2018).

As the trade war continued the EU did not want to lose its ally in such a war, for staying neutral at certain points mediation could be far from possible since the US and the EU share the same interest therefore a clash could be possible. As for China, the EU has raised concerns regarding the Chinese worldwide involvement, however, as the EU fear to clash with the US, solving their issues regarding trade is slow, yet the EU started raising awareness to their members regarding the Chinese investments in their key sectors, such as robotics, aerospace and most recently the artificial intelligence that has been advancing pretty quick.

Even though the concerns that has been brought up are no longer merely economic, yet technological advancement is the core for economic advancement as well, the US has a strong opinion regarding China therefore their concern is basically geopolitical. As the EU mediating between the two blocs the geopolitical concern became its own concern as well, those who are worried about the China's power are not only from the West, but eastern countries also such as Japan and India grew concern regarding the massive advancement that China been leading to. The EU realized that the future relationship with China could be an unstable therefore diplomatic precautions was a must, as for the US since their relationship been long yet with Trump it has reached unstable conditions the EU can still manage to maintain a neutral relationship with the

US without massive worries. Trumps administration been acting roughly towards the EU, all that led the EU to consider the US during Trump as rivalry.

Trump America First policy led to many outcomes one of them is for the EU to start looking for alternative allies, since allies are not supposed to imposed sanctions and tariffs on each other nor come up with policies that only aims to interfere in others status quo (Narlikar, 2018). Prior to Covid-19 the EU signed many trade deals with countries such as Canada, Australia and Japan all in the aim of maintaining a good trade cooperation during the trade war. Yet corona virus dieselized most of the trade deals that have been worked on, it became the problem after all the rise in populism in Europe and rise of populism in the US. As the trade deal rely on multilateral agreements all have been considering the US trade war on China as the modern declaration of war, since economy is the new war. Technological advancement became the interest of all those who are in coalition therefore their role grew in mediating the relationship between all in order to benefit.

As for the EU as much as it supports the US and its allies, it also fears losing a partnership that could benefit it, while it is working on both sides to maintain peace, coalition became a new way of protecting itself from both parties. Non the less any coalition that the EU went is forged to defend the Liberal Order that has been ruling the our modern society, where at that time the US President Trump started targeting the EU since it has been using the Liberal Order and supporting other nations, in fact the actually picture for those who been collaborating with each other considered the US President as the primary threat to the liberal order and world peace ever since he got in power problems been caused by him (Allison, 2018).

2018 for the World Trade Organization the former director general recognized the upcoming consequences that could be caused by such a trade war, therefor the mediation between the US and China in late 2018 became a must in order to ease the tension between the two states to avoid a long-lasting issue. The escalation in the trade conflict caused fear in the European Union, as mentioned countries were put in a position to communicate and collaborate together to work on this massive issue, especially that this trade war could result in a global trade war.

Roberto Azevedo the former director general of the WTO, knew the urgency of interfering in this conflict, since the parties reached power struggle where both could compete with each other from the economic side and military side, yet Trumps position been mainly economic. According to the Chinese premier Li Keqiang, been open about the Chinese policies and what is needed for them, as claimed China needs open market, and he pointed out that Trumps unilateral policy making would not lead to any world advancement, and unilateralism in general is not a viable solution to promote Liberal democracies (Deng, 2018). Trumps administration and Trump intentions were to deglobalize, while the US under Trump claim the need for deglobalization, China is getting ready to advance in the globalized world, the policies and actions of the US are only slowing down China.

The US seem to be afraid of the Chinese advancement, claims from the international arena, especially from the US that China is weakening and manipulating its currency for a positive goal. Since there are accusations of manipulating the Chinese Yuan, Chinese economists see it as a negative impact on China, if China manages to promote itself on the international arena as the world largest economy, it could decrease the US ability on manipulating the world economy (Elliott, 2018). According to Li Keqiang, the devaluation of the Chinese Yuan will do more harm than good to China's economy, while China is being manipulated by the western media and western policies, China sees no reason why to claim that the Yuan is the world strongest currency, since all those policies and trade wars are only harming China (Bloomberg, 2018). The WTO is afraid of losing control regarding this issue, since the tension is piling up, especially during Covid-19, and the accusations that are being held from both countries could justify their decision making while leading to a massive economic problem or even world instability.

As Trump started reaching to the end of his term and by getting taken over by Biden the EU-US relations became more stable and less problematic, the EU been keeping an EU on the possible future ally China, yet their relation needed some tinkering and some effort to be put into it since the EU is trying to maintain a solid relationship with blocs that is basically constructed on bilateral or multilateral relations, such as the rising powers are Russia and China, Russia

is playing a huge role in creating problems, since it is growing its relations with the EU members such as Germany, by both having a bilateral trade relations between Berlin and Moscow, trade deals that been considered a headache for the EU.

The Chinese trade with the EU been undermined by the North American pressure that grew negatively during Trumps term, such an experience became a shock for the European Union for analyzing that change is still viable for liberal democracies, and all the advancement they had means nothing. The questions regarding liberal democracies been questioned by Fukuyama, and it is evident that liberal democracies are losing their momentum. A great example to that is Italy. As it first realized that it is a major European player, all because it joined the BRI, Italy saw itself as the gate keeper for the rising powers for the European union members since the populist part of Italy did the first initiative to make a change. ever since Italy joined the BRI many EU members joined the BRI in order to benefit from such an important road that could benefit the EU and its members.

Brussels considered Italy's act for joining the BRI wrongful, according to Italian officials joining the BRI is the way for the EU to put less pressure on the EU. Brussels goal is to maintain a solid diplomatic relationship with both camps without any tension growing in order for the Union to benefit more yet mainly having the US always on their side. As the EU decision making regarding this issue seems important the EU members position is more important since the EU cannot exist without its members, therefor the EU must start understanding that this is an unstable situation for the EU, it is a must for it to start paying more attention for those members that decided to follow the silk road in order to avoid separation within the union. The rise of populism, nationalism in the EU threatened the establishment and the EU, since it is no longer capable of siding with one side against the other, in this case the US against China.

Brexit was the key for the European countries to realize that there could be a future without the Union in case the EU kept manipulating the weaker states, and Brexit ramifications were stronger than expected on the EU did not expect it to actually happen, as the Italian exist became a possibility, it became more afraid of losing its members than other nations.

The European Union started focusing on its relationship with the rising eastern powers after realizing the EU-US relations are tied to the US presidential cabinet and administration that could threaten the European Union's stability. The relations with the east been threatened by certain factors and one of them is the one that is causing a lot of trouble and its Russia, the Crimean conflict became the question mark for the European Union regarding the Russian foreign policy and if it has an expansionist mindset to follow up with, therefor the EU blames Russia for this instability.

As from the 2nd of August 2019, the US formally withdrew from the INF "Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty", the US withdrew voluntarily during Trumps term, this treaty been causing problem for Russia, and it has been receiving sanctions from the European Union with the help of the United States of America, this treaty was supposed to bring all to the table, yet it was used as a strategy to manipulate the system and sanction countries.

China is considered an opportunist country, with all what is happening to Russia it is benefiting from it as a curtain to protect itself, such a cover by Russia gave China more credibility and trust which led to EU members to consider China as the new world power to deal with in order to benefit more and the time of the US has passed. With many EU members wondering if the future of the EU could be more beneficial with China, their pressure on the European Commission and the High Representatives led to a review regarding the EU-Chinese relations for future opportunities, while the EU is mediating the trade war between, he US and China it is still benefiting from the US since it is still an ally that seeks the best for the America.

While United States of America and China have a the EU as a mediator to find a solution to ease the problems between both sides, the benefit of the EU is to keep itself away from the direct lens of the world economic struggle, even though covid-19 targeted most of the world countries the EU still find itself on the safe side from the possible world economic crisis that could be evident to put a someone on the global platform as the new hegemon.

5.1.2 The European Union Siding with One of the Two Blocs

The European Union relation with both camps at once been successful, mediating between the two also been considered a successful move, but for the EU to start fully benefiting from its relations with the camps, siding with one of the blocs would be a good strategy for the EU survivability especially during the period of nationalism and populism that been followed by a pandemic. Since siding with both sides at once would lead to a deadlock, the liberal thinkers believe that there is never a deadlock in taking part of siding with both camps, however, the reality is that a deadlock could not be prevented in the future due to the trade war that been slowing the EU down since the ramifications are affecting most of the world's trade.

Each camp has his core policies to preserve and to start with the current superpower the US, the agenda that they have is clear, with an obvious outcome, preserve American interest at any cost and at all times, rally around the allies that would benefit the US in this case the EU, allies that have no benefit for the US would be ignored yet preserved until it becomes reliable. The European Union dislike such an American agenda that clashes with the survivability and interest.

As for the rising eastern powers the Russian-Chinese bloc could benefit the European Union on many levels since it is seeking to grow, by providing better deals to compete with United States of America the rising powers could be considered as they are slowing down the EU since it is not siding with the US, yet from the actual understanding of Fukuyama, if there is a rise in nationalism or populism it could be the root cause of the problem. In this case Trumps term changed the world since it was the core of the rise in nationalism around the world. While the Russian-Chines bloc is mainly aimed to benefit with deals with countries around the world to spread their technological advancement, selling technology in now days is valuable for those that have the capabilities.

The US policies to slow down China been working especially after the spread of the coronavirus, since the US would rather sell its technology to benefit from the EU, as mentioned in previous chapters that the cost of a shipping container from China has reached up 20.000$, the war between the US and China is ongoing.

As the pandemic slowed the world trade, Russia's export and major trade with Europe been solid, since it is based on Gas that worried the US, since EU members are still seeking Russia after the major virus, Russia's market stood strong against all the pressure that has been put on them by the EU and the US, yet the EU members are still considering that the EU must benefit from the Russian gas trade at the low costs unlike the American prices that are costly on the long run. The US questions the European Union long term intention regarding their relationship with Russia, and whether they will let go of the US trade, the trade between both the EU and the US been glorified many times in the past ten years, yet with Trump getting in power all started to change, even though he is no longer in office his actions were depraved.

The European Union understands the difficult times of what the Russian and Chinese camp have been going through, a lot of pressure been put on the EU to strangle the relationship with the rising powers, the pressure that the US is putting on the EU has a long sight strategy, and it is to limit the European Union's relations with different countries. As the EU grows relations with different countries all could lead to an independent bloc, an independent EU is not in favor of the US since the EU is their link to the rest of the world, continental America is isolated from the world, yet Europe is the center of the world, and for the world the US is the European savior during the two World Wars.

Avoiding dependency comes at a higher cost, becoming independent raises more suspicion on what does the EU want for its future, when the EU army came into talks the US started manipulating the EU as a weak union that lacks weapons and deterrence to other states. The US thought if it keeps undermining the EU, they will limit their perspective and vision, however, the EU saw it as an opportunity to study their weaknesses and adjust their problem that is dependency on stronger states.

The US is basically afraid of the European Union initiating the program of the EU army since their multicultural union and technological advancement could help them stand against large nations without the help of the US, therefore he US began to criticize the EU for disregarding the history that has been between them and how the US been the country to get involved in WWI and WWII in

order to help the European people. Criticizing the EU for its ignorance regarding NATO and how of a courtesy it is for the EU and for its current security stability. Trump argued that the US is paying most of the fees to keep NATO functioning and protecting the EU-Russian advancement, the US saw that the EU must not ignore what the US been offering for its safety.

Siding with one of the blocs has been considered a strategy that the EU has control of, if the EU manage to side with one of the blocs it would weaken the other bloc, the effects of siding with one or another would either lead to the removal of the title of the hegemon, or manage to change the world system from a unipolar system to a multipolar, a system that could interest the European union, since the EU is growing and if it manage to maintain the steady growth without being ignore the EU would grow to compete with the world superpowers economically and militarily.

Since the EU been siding with the US ever since its formation and European nations been siding with the US ever since the end of the Second World War, the EU now days ignore the fact that the US is still the savior since EU members are also suffering from the American egoism and having a country that acts in its own interest while ignoring its allies would lead to a negative relation with the any country.

After the fall of Nazi Germany, and the fall of the Berlin wall, Europe only needed the United States of America for trade and defenses, by the foundation of the EU, since the 2000's the EU been growing considerably to challenge and compete with other powerful nations, and those nations are the two blocs, so far as the EU is an ally to the US, the EU been slowed down by the US, to insure that they will maintain as the world hegemon and avoid competitors. The most used currency the USD is being threatened by the Euro that has easily gain more strength than the US. The current hegemon been targeting any country that holds a strong currency, China is at an economic war with the US, and the EU is pressured by the US, all that could leave to the analysis of how the US is trying to manipulate countries to ensure that their currencies are weaker, and so far, the US been failing at this strategy.

As the Euro is gaining popularity over the US Dollar, the US started wondering if the European Union has been giving up on its ally, while watching the

Russian and the Chinese trade glorifying the European nations that been growing drastically without considering the consequences of siding with a rival to their allies. Yet the US still has high hopes to maintain a solid relationship with the European union, since 2019 and early covid, the US kept depending on the Brussels, as their strategy shows that it is in the EU's interest to side with the US for its geopolitical interests, that the Rising powers lack. It seems tempting for the EU to maintain a solid relationship with the US that could offer a lot, yet Trump's term crumbled the long-term base that has been built between the two. During Trump the American presidency has only slowed the growth of the world countries since he created fear with his dangerous thinking that led to tension between many nations.

While the United States of America is hoping for the EU to maintain the relationship with them, the Russian and Chinese are working as a one to empower their relationship with other countries and it happens to be the EU. The outcome is positive for both the EU and the Russian and Chinese bloc since they would grow their trade partnership to compete with the US. As mentioned in previous chapters, Russia fulfilling the needs of most of Europe's energy demand, the company that is working on this project Gazprom is benefiting from the EU which impowers the Russian social life for the Russian workers.

As Russia is trying to sell its natural resources at a lower cost, the US never managed to find the advantage that Russia has which is the geopolitical advantage that Russia is across the black sea to supply gas to Europe, US still cannot sell at a low cost as Russia is doing and as fast as Russia is suppling. Vladimir Putin saw an opportunity to grow his relationship with European nations and in a conference of his he mentioned and highlighted the fact the Russia will maintain stable prices regarding the gas transport, such an important point drew attention from the US since they are not able to supply gas at a lower cost due to the transport cost (DW News, 2018). There are political problems between both the EU-US with Russia regarding Ukrainian issue, the US keeps claiming the Russia is still with an expansionist policy, in fact the EU-Russian relations been at risk, yet the EU no longer works against its interest (Gvosdev, 2019).

While the EU been analyzing most of the members strategic vision, China's rise stroke fear into plenty of the world powers, some theories say that corona virus came to slow the huge rise of China, the fear also came from the European Union and the United States of America, since the US is a major rival in many aspects such as, military, economy and technological advancement. The EU fear both losing and depending on China since it could cause the EU many problems that could slow it down from growing as a superpower. It would not be considered dependency for the EU if there is a strategic way of growing this relationship, especially that at the heart of Europe and heart of WTO, Switzerland as an individual state seeks relationship with the China regarding the BRI since it considered it as a new advantage.

The Belt and Road Initiative is gaining popularity in the European Union, as mentioned that Italy saw it as an important deal to be made, since the history of Italy been also written by Italy's growth due to the Silk Road, while the Medici family grew on such a power, and today Italian politicians are excited to invest in such a project. This project has a strategic vision, and it is to fill the gap that the world is suffering from, while strong economies claim to care to full such a gap, they never do. The US as a hegemon mainly focuses on growing its military arsenal in order to deter different countries, ignoring the world economic struggles that been going on, and when covid-19 hit hard the world was at a shock, and the first to come out from such a problem was China.

For the EU the BRI could be the first step for it to compete with the US and even China, since this plan could give advantage to the EU and push it towards multipolarity, which would put it on. China is not manipulating the EU to take advantage to expand, but to improve its relationship with the rest of the world. The EU taking a side or not shows that the world is slowly shifting towards multipolarity, even though the US doesn't want it, it could happen. The three outcomes that were mentioned could lead to different possibilities, yet the for the EU to avoid dependency from any of the blocs it must take advantage of every country that offers it.

Neutrality is hard to maintain in 2021 or before, therefore for the EU investing in its own military, economy and technology could make it a candidate to compete in a multipolar system. China have seen the EU as a trade partner that

it could depend on, even though the US if pressuring such a partnership the growth of the European union towards multipolarity lays with in the hands of the people and parties of the Union.

The goal of the EU is too important and export freely whether its with the US or Russia and China, free trade and no sanctions could help the European struggle, a situation of limitation due to dependency on a bloc must end for the EU to become a superpower by itself. Whether it is the silk road is a gateway for the EU members, the Union must seek the best outcome for the European citizens that are suffering from unequal pay between a country and another within the European Union.

6. CONCLUSION

The European Union reached a power struggle that forced it to consider the three last possibilities in the previous chapter, While the EU is seeking neutrality for past decade, or siding with the rising bloc and the growing supremacy, such a period been considered as a tough period for the European Union and its decision making grew harder since most of the choices it had could have led to a negative outcome. As the European countries are seeking to have growth in them in economy, the EU been trying to preserve its countries interest, even though sometimes their decision making did not get grow on the same track, yet the EU always consider having its countries interest.

There were some obstacles for the European Union regarding their decision making, the US was forced to accept the EU as an ally since, yet the EU must be independent, and the US been slowing down the EU from such goal. Ever since year 2000, the US saw the EU as an opportunity to take advantage of, as the EU realized it under Trump's term, many of its members states started seeking better outcome since the EU relation with the US is hard to be broken overnight. As the EU been seeking independency, the external pressure that is caused by Washington been growing, and resulting in an unacceptable outcome, as the EU cooperation resulting in acting as a US servant and limiting their growth.

While the European Union been working on widening its relations with other countries, the US became more aware of what is going on, since they fear of losing the EU for the rising eastern powers "Russia and China", therefor the US foreign policies been classifying countries and how much of a threat are they. The US divides its foreign policy threats into three levels, each level has its own ramification and decision making, "A,B, and C" commencing with the first two, A and B are directly threatening the American interests, which forces the US to act up on it immediately, leaving the "C" as an indirect threat to the American national interest, such threats are not immediate nor direct, which could place the European Union in this bracket, however, the Italian relationship with

Russia and China could result in a long term change. The European Union clearly placed in a C level, yet there is a long-term possibility that there could be a change in the system that would shift from indirect to direct.

Prior to Covid-19 the European Union growth been raising fear for the United States of America, Obama's term had positive relation with the EU, yet as the republicans reached the presidency with Donald Trump the EU been considered as a threat, therefor, under his term Trump focused on changing the US foreign policy to direct the European Union's growth, all got worse with the EU growing its relationship with Russia and China. Post-Covid 19 the EU been struggling from Trumps decision making which resulted from negative policies with China or any other country.

While the EU been placed on the "C" level, their growth in relationship with Russia and China became a possible change from "C to B" as a threat. As the EU has started to consider multipolarity, it became a direct threat for the United States of America, therefore which could lead to a future diplomatic clashes, however, as the US is considered as a realist state the EU must also utilize such a strategy to grow internationally and compete with other states especially that after the lockdowns of covid-19 the EU saw no help from the US since the American capitalist mentality has failed during the pandemic. It is possible for the EU to reach a C level if they manage to have power to compete with the US directly without crucifying other partners.

The EU aims to have independency from the hegemon, such a decision does not mean that the EU must ignore the US and not ask to be its long-term ally, in this case the European neutrality is important for it to grow stronger and compete with both camps without being considered as direct threat. The European Union's neutrality has been questioned several times, yet it for the rising eastern powers it is not a major threat since the EU must also care about its existence by working with any camp it could, even though there were some sanctions put the European union to undermine the Russian power since they have broken international laws, the rising block understands since the EU being threatened by the US.

Any EU decision making could be considered as a threat if it does not gratify any of the bloc's player, yet EU partners must understand for that for the EU to

maintain its growth it must become an egoistic actor. It is hard for the EU to survive with pressure from both blocs, therefore ignoring the factor of threat could lead to positive results, the pressure that been put on EU members such as Germany and Italy could be ignored for the growth of the European Union's trust of its states to the establishment, yet the reality is the other way around since countries are not capable of functioning as they should due to the international pressure that has been put on by the United States to limit their growth.

Having Biden in power now could result in a positive outcome yet, for some analysts his policies are failing since the damage that has been done with Trump is apparent, that coming back from such a problem could not be ignored. The US did not fully lose the European Union, but the US lost their trust with the administrations that could change and slow down the European Union on purpose. As there is a rise in populism around the world, the EU saw it as a wrong period to maintain their relationship with the United States of America, since it spread to the EU due to Trump, since the trade war has affected the EU negatively.

Going over all that has happened in the past ten years, the Syrian war, Libya, Yemen, rise of populism, Donald Trump, Corona Virus and most importantly the trade war, has only resulted in negative outcomes for the European Union, the problems that happened only slowed the growth of the European union, being involved with members that funded wars, or took part of such problems led to the European Union to lose track and adjust its foreign policy to either support or legitimize their partners decision making.

The growth in populism in European parties that are against the establishment is weakening the European harmony, since parties are no longer satisfied with the European Union decisions, especially of how the United States of America is acting as if the EU is their striver. As having a strong currency those parties saw that the American interference in the EU-Russian and Chinese relations is a way of undermining the European sovereignty, even though the EU between the members there are no boarder checks or boarder control, yet it is evident that states post 2015 are growing a nationalist identity.

The refugee crisis made it harder for European citizens to adapt to such a fast change, the European mistake is that certain countries been only relying on the US, which took them years to realize that dependency on a hegemon has consequences and some of those consequences created an aggressive ideological opponents intra EU states, with an aim of destabilizing the European superiority, but not to overthrow it, yet their main aim is to change in the system, a change that could push back any factor of weakening the European Union.

Regarding the EU members that are siding with the US had to maintain the solid relationship, yet since they are considered the heads of the European Union, their decision making been overcoming the rest, yet for the members that are siding against the EU decision seemed to not put their effort into only one bloc yet diversifying their relationships in order to gain more power and more opportunities. Such a strategy could be beneficial for the future of the European Union's existence in order to grow, even though it could lead to deadlocks, yet the shell analogy seems accurate regarding the EU. There are several cracks that are targeting the European Union, the US pressure, the internal rise in populism, refugee crisis and most importantly disapproval within the union regarding the two blocs.

In reality the European Union's policies are in favor of the US, while the EU is maintaining its relationship with the US, their plans is to secure relations with different countries yet for the US both Russia and China are expansionists, therefore the EU is making a big mistake by taking part of this relationship, especially ever since Russia annexed Crimea, and historically there were some claims that China seeks expansionism, such claims are false, since China with its massive land, it had been invaded by the Japanese Empire on July 7 1937 (Washington, DC, US Government Printing Office, 1943, pp 40-53). The propaganda that the US is putting out there is to eliminate the threat, yet the US knows the Chinese behavior from their Confucius doctrine.

China been an isolationist country, never wanted to expand its boarder, and the claims that China is trying to buy parts of Africa, by claiming it's the Chinese trap the US has been doing the same over the past two decades without considering states that could fail is the future, the Middle east is at war due to

such US interference without worrying about the possible existence of the states. As the EU see itself as a possible candidate in the multipolar system it must try to cooperate with any country that has projects to either help their economy or stabilize other economies in order for the European Union grow.

A split in the EU is possible between the populist countries and those who support the US, the EU members are seeking relationship with the rising bloc mainly to get rid of the unipolarity that has been dictating the world. Their aim is to get an equal classification, instead of having the US as a hegemon and the Russian-Chinese racing for the hegemony, while the EU must take part and prove that it is an equal power. All must be considered as equal power, since the EU could compete with both camps with its strategic geographical position being the center of the world, and able to compete on any economic level with members. Russia and China with the help of the EU are capable of making a change in the world current system and change it to a multipolar system, however, according to the world system periphery, the world countries are divided into four classes and must be discussed, Core countries, Semi Periphery, Periphery and other.

The core countries are the US, EU, Israel and Australia, having been taking advantage of the semi periphery states, which led them to reach a deadlock, since there is pressure from the core countries towards the periphery from supporting the semi periphery that could end up becoming core countries due the long-term support. The periphery states would rather support the semi periphery since they believe that the core countries been abusing the natural resources of the semi periphery and other states leaving them no place to advance or even develop to become independent.

The core countries used force to take the natural resources of weaker countries, which also let the world trading status to be dealt between the periphery and the semi periphery, the EU co-relation with the China is a must since China is considered a semi periphery, which on the long term there could be a chance for the EU to change its mind from being dependent on Core relations only. The EU split could create many scenarios with plenty of outcomes leading to a change in the world status quo.

If it was possible to split the EU could be the reason of change of the world system periphery theory, by having its own army and having multiple trade resources and having different trade partners means their dependency on the United States of America is over. As mentioned previously regarding the rise in the multipolar system, Vladimir Putin got lot of criticism regarding this topic, in fact plenty of American Authors predicted that the day where there could be a multipolar system is coming sooner or later.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, had predicted a multipolar system, and it would start with the rise of the Chinese power, with the help of the periphery states such as China and plenty more against the core countries, in order to make a system change that would eliminate inequality in the world (Brzezinski, Strategic Vision 2010, p:107-129). While mentioning the rise of the eastern powers, Brzezinski highlighted the importance of having the EU to make such a change, with Trump taking power his policies put the EU under spotlight, the EU been considering such a change since the world is interconnected with globalization and Trump tried to eliminate this factor, which is the core of the EU existence.

The EU has a period of transition of whether it wants to continue its relationship with the United States of America or taking part in making a massive change by eliminating the hegemonic ideology that the world is at. Any decision that the European Union would take would lead to a different outcome especially that covid made lots of changes for the world. The threats that the establishment is dealing with basically came from the US unappropriated policies in order to maintain their power, the US failed at maintaining a positive realm, therefore according to the theorist the world might change sooner or later since history must repeat itself and we have been at a long period of peace. The longer the peace the longer the war, must be seen as a negative idea yet a chance for the EU to avoid its dependency from the US.

While Europe is no longer at peace, the dependency that it has built over the years could lead to either a full split or semi split for the EU, as the union is trying to maintain its solidarity the international difficulties and internal pressure has led it to a position of instability. According to the theorist that were mentioned in earlier in the literature review, enhance the point of a possible change within the European Union, such a change shows the theorists

points adding up together to reach a certain point of understanding, that the European Union growth is based on other major states that they end up being the anchor for the EU or any European member, such a dependency creates a long term world vision over the EU itself, as the US acting as the hegemon it helped the EU and European countries for quite a long time.

Such dependency started shifting from the US towards the rising powers such as Russia for natural gas, and China for technological advancements. The future of continental Europe depends on the how the members seek their relationship decisions, as some are still after the north American policy making, some saw the East as a better side, therefor the unmatched ideas seem to create an un-wanted split within the EU.

A possible split could happen and in my point of view that the possible split could happen when the US officially loses its spot as the world hegemon, which could lead to the modern hegemonic race, even though there will still be a race between the US, the Russian-Chinese bloc the EU will try to compete for its own position, and this is where the EU would start dealing with the pressure that has built up over the years due to the refugee crisis, US tariffs, rise in populism, and the international pressure that is being put on from different regions such as the eastern powers.

The possible split of the European Union is based on how the citizens tend to react towards the policies that will be put by the Union itself, and if the people will keep raising the tension and leaning towards a nationalistic view the split could happen sooner than later, since such an unpredictable change could happen when a large change tend to occur. If the EU happen to lose a second member after Brexit, the EU existence could be at a threat. As mentioned in the thesis, that Italy is the key-point to the split of the EU since it is the first country that happen to see a better outcome from different countries other than the US.

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