

Great Power Rivalry or Peaceful Coexistence? International Order in the 21st Century

A one-day academic conference organized as a part of the 2024 Czech Security Forum by the [Institute of International Relations Prague](#) (IIR), Charles University's [Peace Research Center Prague](#) (PRCP), and [Global Research Network on Peaceful Change](#) (GRENPEC).

October 25, 2024 | Prague, Czech Republic

Both scholars and policymakers frequently characterize today's state of international affairs as an era of renewed great power rivalry portending a new cold war. In this view, the disagreements among the world's most powerful states over pertinent regional and global issues escalated in the early 2010s and subsequently transformed the patterns of post-Cold War cooperation into competition.

Given that the key actors in this dynamic – the United States, China, and Russia – are all armed with sizeable nuclear arsenals, the perilous developments in Eastern Europe, East Asia, the Middle East, and other regional conflict hotspots are often debated in terms of escalation risks that could potentially lead to a devastating all-out war. In particular, Russia's open military aggression against neighboring Ukraine and the ongoing tensions in the South China Sea highlight the current lack of confidence-building measures, crumbling arms control architecture, and the unwillingness to utilize international institutions for conflict resolution. And, in the midst of this all, there are several emerging powers – such as India, Brazil, Turkey, and South Africa – pursuing policies of strategic autonomy and hedging, while seeking a greater role in international affairs

The academic conference that will take place on the second day of the 2024 Czech Security Forum will aim to advance our understanding of the nature of international order in the 21st century. We welcome scholarly contributions that will provide a critical appraisal of the current debates over great power rivalry and propose innovative ideas for transforming relations among the key actors in world politics. As one promising area of scholarly debate, we ask whether it is feasible – or desirable – to revive the Cold War notion of *peaceful coexistence* as an alternative to the current escalatory trajectory. How relevant is the concept in the complex international security environment of the 21st century? Are there diplomatic, military, and economic practices that could potentially sustain peaceful coexistence as a *modus operandi* of great power politics? What other alternatives are available for states and international organizations?

Proposals for conference presentations should include a **title**, **abstract** (max. 200 words), and a **short bio** (max. 100 words). Selected presentations will be considered for a special issue submitted to an IR scholarly journal.

Please send proposals to: zakir.rzazade@fsv.cuni.cz

Due date: May 20, 2024