



Executive Summary

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STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE, 2050: PREPARING THE U.S. MILITARY FOR NEW ERA DYNAMICS

Roman Muzalevsky

Barring major policy failures, the U.S. military will still enjoy unrivaled capabilities in the coming decades. But a series of megatrends and region-specific dynamics will challenge the U.S. military and economic leadership, exposing the United States to crises and opportunities on the battlefield and in the market. These megatrends will define the evolving multicentric system of interaction among actors, facilitating further dispersion of influence that will undermine the U.S. position as the most influential actor while enabling its rivals to move up the ranks fast.

This system is expected to have neither the place nor the tolerance for unipolarity, as once ascribed to the United States in the 1990s. Instead, it will have plenty of room for numerous actors exercising considerable influence in different domains. The U.S. military will need to adapt to these megatrends to retain its strategic edge. Otherwise, protecting U.S. interests in a continuously evolving world will be a fruitless enterprise, one that will hasten the perceived U.S. decline as the greatest military power the world has ever known.

This monograph helps explore and prepare for the possible and the probable in a transformed world of 2050. Relying on forecasting, scenarios, and wild cards, it envisions the evolution of these megatrends and an emerging operational threat environment and strategic landscape for the U.S. military.

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