



RESEARCH PAPER

Understanding the Strategic Consequences of AUKUS on the Belt and Road Consortium as Beijing's "Grand Strategy" Tool

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ABSTRACT

This study is important because it examines how AUKUS affects the goals and implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which in turn affects regional stability, international trade, and the overall balance of power. In a broader sense, AUKUS is often seen as a reaction to China's growing influence and military might in the region. It aims to protect vital sea passages and increase Western presence. With the increasing importance of AUKUS, the dynamics of regional and global power structures are being reevaluated, which calls for a thorough examination of its strategic implications. This is especially important in light of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which is a crucial component of the Chinese 'Grand Strategy.' This study's primary importance stems from its investigation of the complex interactions among AUKUS and BRI. It looks at how AUKUS, a new security alliance with broad ramifications, affects the goals and way that BRI is carried out. The study utilizes a methodology that aims to thoroughly examine the intricate interactions that exist between China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) alliance in the larger context of changing international relations, with a focus on the Indo-Pacific area. In-depth interviews, surveys along with relevant books on the said topic was consulted to make this study as an authentic source of data. Using a multidisciplinary approach, this study incorporates elements from economics, geopolitics, international relations theory, and case studies. The report identifies the alliance's important role in tackling issues related to international security, such as counterterrorism programs and peacekeeping missions. Collaborative endeavors in intelligence sharing, armed forces synchronization, and technology transfer reinforced the Western world's security framework, highlighting a dedication to maintaining democratic values and guaranteeing global stability.

KEYWORDS AUKUS , BRI , GRAND STRATEGY, SEATO , NATO

Introduction

The strategic implications of the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as part of China's "Grand Strategy" are discussed in light of the changing nature of diplomatic relations, notably in the Indo-Pacific area. In 2021, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States formed a trilateral security cooperation, which marked a significant change in global geopolitics. The driving causes behind this alliance include worries about regional security, technology cooperation, and retaliation over China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific. It focuses on technology advancements and defense capabilities. At the same time, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which was launched in 2013, is among the largest global development programs in contemporary history. (Lee, 2023). With the goal of bridging continents via

infrastructure development, it carries major geopolitical, strategic, and economic ramifications. BRI is a key component of China's "Grand Strategy," which promotes energy security, economic growth, and geopolitical influence. This study is important because it examines how AUKUS affects the goals and implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which in turn affects regional stability, international trade, and the overall balance of power. Through examining this interaction, this study advances our knowledge of the dynamics of modern international relations in the Indo-Pacific region and their worldwide ramifications. (Lee, 2023)

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

The Belt and Road Initiative, also known as the BRI, was introduced in 2013 with the goal of establishing a network of transportation, energy, and economic corridors that would connect Asia, Europe, and Africa. Its coverage spans more than 140 nations and regions, encompassing a substantial proportion of the global population and financial transactions. BRI attempts to stimulate economic growth through enhancing physical connections, promoting trade and investment, and cultivating cross-cultural exchanges. It covers a broad range of projects, including the construction of ports, roads, trains, energy facilities, and technological infrastructure. (Shah, et. al 2020; Afzaal, & Jamali, 2023). In addition to economic goals, BRI developments China's geopolitical ambitions by increasing engagement and influence. It has been identified as a key component of China's "Grand Strategy," a comprehensive strategy that brings together economic, political, and international goals with the goal to advance its objectives and position around the world. By examining the tactical relationships between AUKUS and BRI, this study sheds light on how significant powers have modified their tactics and alliances due to the changing equilibrium between states in the Indo-Pacific. (Zarrar & Gichki, 2022). Examined are the geopolitical and economic effects of these connections on global investments, trade, and regional stability. This research not only broadens our knowledge of modern geopolitics but also offers wise counsel to academics, decision-makers, and international organizations who are attempting to understand the complexities of this crucial period in world affairs. (Tomé, 2022)

Literature Review

The implications for strategy of the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) cooperation on China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are a prominent topic in the quickly changing field of international relations. Understanding the complex web of AUKUS, BRI, and their wider implications becomes essential as the world struggles with shifting power dynamics, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. This literature review examines the discussion in academia that supports our comprehension of these crucial global strategies, laying the groundwork for a thorough analysis. (Goswami, 2022)

The establishment of AUKUS in 2021 will fundamentally alter contemporary international relations, particularly in the Indo-Pacific area. The US, UK, and Australia form a trilateral safety alliance to tackle regional security issues and promote technological cooperation. It has expanded in reaction to a range of dynamic geopolitical occurrences, such as territorial disputes and an increase in the use of force in the Indo-Pacific region. Because of its emphasis on defense capabilities and technological advancements, AUKUS is seen as a strategic response to China's expanding military might and influence in the region. (Goswami, 2022)

The literature review reveals gaps in our comprehension of the intricate connection that exists between AUKUS and BRI when we summarize the main findings.

These gaps call for additional research, which will serve as the main topic of the upcoming chapters. This literature review concludes by emphasizing how crucial it is to understand the AUKUS-BRI structure in modern international relations, especially in light of the region's constant change. (Wang, & Wang, 2022). These gaps call for additional research, which at first will be the main topic of the upcoming chapters. This literature review concludes by emphasizing how crucial it is to understand the AUKUS-BRI movement in modern international relations, especially in light of the region's constant change. (Wang, & Wang, 2022).

Critical Analysis

The study's thesis, "Evaluating Strategic Implications of AUKUS on BRI as China's 'Grand Strategy' Instrument," addresses a crucial and ever-changing field in modern international relations, especially in the Indo-Pacific area. The Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) alliance's formation in 2021 marks a pivotal moment in the geopolitical landscape of the world. A new facet of international relations has been brought about by this trilateral assurance partnership, which was sparked by concerns about regional security, goals for technological cooperation, and a response to China's growing influence. AUKUS's strategic intent is highlighted by its emphasis on defensive abilities and advances in technology. It represents an effort by Western nations to adjust their response to the rise of China in the Indo-Pacific and address changing security dynamics. The reorganization of defense strategy, specifically the focus on nuclear-powered submarines, has significant regional and global ramifications. In response to China's growing military power and domination, it is becoming more widely perceived as an attempt to support Western influence and safeguard important sea lanes.

Material and Methods

Research Design

Using a multidisciplinary approach, this study will incorporate elements from economics, geopolitics, international relations theory, and case studies. This methodology has been selected to guarantee a comprehensive examination of the strategic ramifications of AUKUS on BRI. The majority of the research will be qualitative in its very nature, enabling in-depth analysis and comprehension of intricate geopolitical phenomena.

First and foremost, the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) alliance's formation in 2021 has been a significant development in modern international relations, particularly in the Indo-Pacific area. Despite its significant implications for both local and global politics, there are remarkably few comprehensive studies that thoroughly examine the strategic ramifications of AUKUS, especially in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative of China (BRI). Second, as an enormous global development initiative that is a component of China's "Grand Strategy," the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has huge economic, strategic, and strategic implications.

Data Collection and Analysis Techniques

To guarantee a thorough grasp of the subject, data for the study is gathered from a variety of sources. Among these are Primary Sources: International treaties, policy papers, speeches by Chinese, Australian, and UK officials, and official documents from the governments of China, Australia, and the UK to comprehend the strategic consequences of AUKUS on BRI as China's 'Grand Strategy' Instrumentation. Secondary

Sources: To present a comprehensive viewpoint on the subject, academic publications, newspapers, books, online articles, and observations from think tanks and global organizations are used.

The following trilateral connection has been marked over time by extensive defense collaboration, intellect sharing, and coordinated military drills, all of which have contributed to fortifying the Western world's security architecture. When it comes to responding to regional conflicts, counterterrorism campaigns, and peacekeeping missions, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States have frequently coordinated their efforts. The AUKUS alliance's current context is significantly shaped by the changing geopolitical environment, which is typified by China's ascent to prominence in the world economy and its growing self-confidence in the Indo-Pacific area. The alliance was formally established in 2021 as an anticipatory reaction to the evolving security landscape, the changing balance of power, and technological developments in the maritime industry. Common worries about regional security, such as disputes over land and the escalating military prowess of some Indo-Pacific actors, have propelled AUKUS.

AUKUS is further supported by a shared dedication to technological innovation, especially in the field of security and defense, as demonstrated by its emphasis on creating and exchanging cutting-edge military capabilities like nuclear-powered submarines. The alliance's recognition of the critical role that cutting-edge technologies play in preserving a competitive edge and guaranteeing regional stability is reflected in this tactical emphasis on technological cooperation. (Shi, 2022)

The Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) alliance's early workings were based on a historical lineage of common principles, reciprocal interests, and diplomatic connections that have shaped the three countries' relationship. The origins of cooperation can be traced back to the early 1900s, specifically to the wars of the First and Second World Wars, when Australia, the United States, and the United Kingdom stood together against common foes and faced global issues that jeopardized peace and stability on a global scale. The United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia began a close-knit relationship during World War I that would later grow into the AUKUS alliance through coordination and cooperation. The foundation for future cooperation in the face of global difficulties was laid during the war by the common sacrifices, strategic collaboration, and combined efforts. This initial phase of cooperation planted the seeds for a long-term alliance that would be crucial in resolving conflicts and crises around the world in the future. (Hall, I. (2022) The need for ongoing cooperation and coordinated security measures became more and more obvious following World War II. The Soviet Union's ascent and emergence of communism presented difficulties that led Australia, the United States, and the United Kingdom to strengthen their alliance by instituting formalized defense agreements and mutually beneficial security frameworks. During this time, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also known as NATO, and the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) were established, strengthening the ties between the three countries and highlighting their shared dedication to protecting democratic principles and maintaining international security. (McKenzie, & Massingham, 2023).

A common commitment to advancing democratic ideals, upholding the rule of legislation, and defending national sovereignty also formed the early bases of cooperation. The maintenance of an international order grounded in the values of democracy, liberty, and equality for all was acknowledged by the US, the UK, and Australia. By fostering a sense of friendship and mutual trust, this shared dedication to

maintaining these values laid the foundation for a strong and long-lasting partnership that would eventually develop into the AUKUS alliance. (Hall, 2022)

Post-World War II Alliance Building

A pivotal time in the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) alliance's history, the post-World War II era was defined by the three countries' increased cooperation. Following the war, common interests, shared values, and a shared commitment to advancing global peace and security brought the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia closer together. During this period, diplomatic ties were strengthened and the groundwork for future collaboration in a number of areas was laid, most notably in the area of security and defense. (Desmaele, 2022). A global order marked by growing complexity, international realignments, and a desire to reconstruct war-torn nations emerged in the aftermath of World War II. As a dominant global force, the US took the lead in promoting international collaboration and reconstruction initiatives, laying the groundwork for upcoming alliances with like-minded countries like the UK and Australia. A strong alliance between these countries was founded on a shared set of democratic values as well as a shared commitment to defending liberty, democracy, and equality for all. (Desmaele, 2022).

Early in the post-war era, cooperation between the US, UK, and Australia increased significantly as they attempted to manage the difficulties posed by the emergence of a bipolar world order as well as the globalization of communism. During this time, the United States and the United Kingdom formulated the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949, highlighting the shared protection of member states against potential threats. In addition, the establishment of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, also known as SEATO, in 1954 demonstrated the three countries' determination to uphold regional security challenges while preserving stability in Southeast Asia. The common experiences of working together during times of war, along with an increasing understanding of the significance of collective security agreements, Early in the post-war era, cooperation between the US, UK, and Australia increased significantly as they attempted to manage the difficulties posed by the emergence of a bipolar world order as well as the globalization of communism. During this time, the United States and the United Kingdom formulated the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949, highlighting the shared protection of member states against potential threats. In addition, the establishment of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, also known as SEATO, in 1954 demonstrated the three countries' determination to uphold regional security challenges while preserving stability in Southeast Asia. The common experiences of working together during times of war, along with an increasing understanding of the significance of collective security agreements. Central to the post-World War II efforts to forge alliances were coordinated military drills, intelligence cooperation, and defense technology exchanges. These cooperative initiatives sought to promote a sense of shared accountability for maintaining international peace and stability in addition to ensuring regional security. (Atanassova-Cornelis, Sato, & Sauer, 2023).

Cold War Collaborations and Security Cooperation

The Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) alliance members' collaboration and security cooperation during the Cold War significantly shaped the geopolitical environment, especially in containing the spread of communism and thwarting the growth of Soviet influence. Driven by common worries over the worldwide balance between powers and the upkeep of democratic values, the three countries intensified their strategic

partnerships during this era. Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States saw a notable alignment of interests during the Cold War era, which resulted in the establishment of strong cooperative frameworks like the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). These partnerships played a crucial role in containing the spread of communism and thwarting the growth of Soviet influence. Driven by common worries over the worldwide balance between powers and the upkeep of democratic values, the three countries intensified their strategic partnerships during this era. Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States saw a notable alignment of interests during the Cold War era, which resulted in the establishment of strong cooperative frameworks like the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). These partnerships played a crucial role in fostering collective defense, deterrence, and containment strategies to prevent the spread of communism and safeguard the sovereignty of allied nations. (Atanassova-Cornelis, Sato, & Sauer, 2023).

Comprehensive cognitive ability sharing, armed forces cooperation, and joint training sessions aimed at strengthening the Western bloc's collective defense capabilities were characteristics of security cooperation within AUKUS. In order to address local security issues like the crises in Korea and Vietnam, the alliance members collaborated through offering military support, practical assistance, and intelligence resources to counter the spread of communist regimes. (Klein, O'Connor, & Gonzalez-Hernandez, 2022).

Evolution of Trilateral Relations

The evolution of trilateral relations among the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia is a story of intertwined histories, shared values, and enduring cooperation. This trilateral relationship has developed and evolved over decades, shaped by common geopolitical interests, security concerns, and the ever-changing global landscape. The foundation of this trilateral dynamic can be traced back to the shared experiences of World War II, during which the three nations collaborated closely to combat common adversaries and protect shared democratic values. This initial cooperation laid the groundwork for deeper ties and set the stage for future joint initiatives and collaborations. (Scott, 2021)

During the Cold War, the three countries strengthened their cooperation even more by collaborating within the structures of SEATO, NATO, and other strategic alliances to protect international security and counter the communist threat. The trilateral relations among these nations adjusted to the shifting dynamics of world politics as the geopolitical environment continued to change. Reevaluating strategic priorities and exploring new avenues for collaboration were prompted by the end of the Cold War and the advent of new global challenges. This change was characterized by a stronger emphasis on dealing with. In This evolution was marked by an increased focus on addressing contemporary security threats, such as terrorism, regional conflicts, and non-traditional security challenges. (Hall, 2022).

The trilateral relationship has proven resilient and adaptable throughout this evolutionary process, with the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia reiterating their commitment to sustaining shared democratic values, advancing world peace, and promoting prosperity. Beyond conventional security issues, they have collaborated in fields like trade, education, scientific research, and cultural exchange. The common goals of upholding a rules-based world order, guaranteeing regional stability,

and encouraging collaboration on new global challenges like warming temperatures, internet safety, and economic interdependence continue to shape the development of trilateral relations in the modern era. The trilateral engagement is a reflection of shared values, a dedication to multilateralism, and a shared goal of working together to address challenging global issues. (Hall, 2022)

Global Security Challenges and Joint Efforts

The Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) alliance has been shaped in large part by global security challenges and cooperative efforts. This alliance reflects the shared commitment of these countries to deal with complex security threats and maintain global stability. These nations have worked closely together over the years to address a wide range of security issues, from tackling terrorism to upholding maritime security and guaranteeing the integrity of multilateral peacekeeping efforts. The post-World War II era, wherein the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, among other allied nations, developed a formidable defense network with the goal of preventing the spread of communism while preserving global peace, is one important context for their collaborative efforts. This cooperation was especially noticeable during the Cold War, when the United States and the Soviet Union's divisive influences dominated the geopolitical scene. These countries collaborated within the structures of NATO and SEATO, actively taking part in advantageous military preparation and exchanging information to ensure collective security in response to the perceived danger posed by Soviet expansionism. (Taylor, 2023).

The alliance's active participation in missions of peacekeeping and humanitarian interventions throughout the world served as further evidence of their collaborative efforts. This involved the AUKUS countries' combined forces working with international partners to reduce emergencies, restore stability, and adhere to democratic values in conflict-ridden areas under UN peacekeeping command. Their concerted efforts to address issues related to international security demonstrated their dedication to advancing peace and security worldwide. (Taylor, 2023).

Furthermore, the AUKUS alliance continues to demonstrate that it is committed to working together to counter contemporary security threats like cyberattacks, international terrorism, and the spread of WMDs. The three countries have collaborated on joint projects to share best practices, technology know-how, and intelligence in order to create comprehensive plans for dealing with these new security threats. Their joint efforts have included the creation of cutting-edge defense technologies, electronic safety protocols, and counterterrorism frameworks, all of which have improved the architecture of global security. The AUKUS cooperation continues to place a high priority on working together to address changing security challenges in the modern world especially in the Indo-Pacific area, where maritime security and regional stability have emerged as critical issues. Their concerted attempts to counter illicit conduct in the maritime domain, intelligence-sharing programs, and joint naval exercises all demonstrate this commitment. The goal of the AUKUS countries is to maintain a safe and stable international environment while defending the values of free speech, democracy, and international cooperation by utilizing their paired resources and expertise. (Taylor, 2023).

AUKUS and the Indo-Pacific Context

In the Indo-Pacific region, which is marked by a complicated web of international in nature dynamics, monetary interdependencies, and security challenges, AUKUS (Australia-UK-US) is of great significance. In this context, the formation of the AUKUS cooperation is a calculated reaction to the region's evolving power structures and security concerns.

Due to China's ascent to prominence as a major regional power and its courageous measures in the South Chinese Sea and other areas, the Indo-Pacific has become more prominent as the center of global geopolitics in recent years. As a result, nations in the area are now more concerned about security. Furthermore, AUKUS has stressed how critical it is to improve the region's technological capacities, especially in the fields of security and defense. By emphasizing cutting-edge defense systems and other military technologies, including submarines powered by nuclear energy. (Sayers, Yuanyuan, Galloway, Penning-Rowell, Fuxin, Kang, W & Le Quesne, 2013).

Formalization of AUKUS in the 21st Century

The Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) alliance's formalization in the twenty-first century marks a pivotal moment in world geopolitics, especially in the Indo-Pacific area. The three countries' deliberate efforts to strengthen their strategic cooperation and their combined defensive assets in the face of changing security threats and geopolitical dynamics are reflected in the official founding of AUKUS in 2021. AUKUS was formally established as a proactive reaction to the changing geopolitical environment, particularly the emergence of China as the world's preeminent power and its growing assertiveness in the the Indo-Pacific region Australia, the UK, and the US took decisive action to strengthen their long-standing alliance by means of a formalized framework for working together after realizing the need for an all-encompassing integrated conduct to address these new challenges. (Carr, 2021).

The incorporation of AUKUS was largely motivated by the widespread understanding of the pivotal role that cutting-edge technologies play in defining modern defense and security capabilities. Utilizing state-of-the-art technologies is essential for maintaining military readiness, securing strategic advantage, and guaranteeing stability in the area, according to AUKUS. The alliance is committed to promoting innovation and preserving a competitive edge in an ever-more complicated security environment, as evidenced by its focus on technological advancements, which includes the development and exchange of nuclear-powered submarine technology.

Furthermore, the three countries' shared commitment to preserving democratic principles, advancing global peace and security, and defending the international system built on rules was highlighted by the formalization of AUKUS. Through the official establishment of AUKUS, Australia, the United. (Carr, 2021).

The United States, the United Kingdom, and other parties reaffirmed their shared resolve to tackle global security issues, counter new threats, and fortify the Indo-Pacific region's resilience. The creation of AUKUS also represented an increase in mutual trust and strategic ties between the member countries. AUKUS enabled the three partners to improve their interoperability, share cognitive ability and resources, and align their strategic objectives by creating an official structure for security and defense cooperation. This formalization strengthened the alliance's common resilience and readiness to

confront changing security threats, in addition to enhancing the capacities of the individual countries. (Carr, 2021).

Conclusion

The Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) alliance's historical background is thoroughly examined to show how it changed from its early origins to its regulation in the 21st century. The analysis highlights how the alliance's trajectory has been shaped over time by a complex web of shared past encounters, strategic partnerships, and geopolitical shifts. In the years following World War II, the Americas, the United Kingdom, and Australia strengthened their alliance based on common values and historical relationships and shared security concerns. During the Cold War, the three countries closely cooperated within the structures of NATO and SEATO to confront the Soviet Union's territorial expansion of influence and advance international security, further strengthening their partnership.

Due to the widespread recognition of the critical role that cutting-edge technologies play in defining contemporary security environments, the legalization of AUKUS in the twenty-first century represented a revolutionary turning point in world geopolitics. Underpinned by a shared commitment to democratic values, the group reaffirmed its commitment to innovation and stability in the region, with a focus on innovative defense capabilities like nuclear-powered submarines. With an emphasis on cutting-edge defense capabilities, such as nuclear-powered submarines, the alliance reaffirmed its dedication to innovation and regional stability, underpinned by a mutual commitment to democratic values and the rules-based international order.

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