

Week 8 & 9 Practice Questions

The Rise of China; NATO and US Alliances

October 27/28 and November 2/3, 2020

Week 8

Question 1 Suppose the US and China are engaged in a zero-sum interaction.

Table 1: Normal-form zero-sum interaction between the US and China

		USA	
		Contain	Withdraw
China	Seek expansion	$(A, 2)$	$(3, B)$
	Do not seek expansion	$(1, C)$	$(D, 1)$

a) Fill in the “normal-form” game in Table 1 above to reflect this.

$A =$ $B =$ $C =$ $D =$

b) Do you believe that this is an appropriate way to conceptualize the interaction between the two countries? If so, why? If not, are there other actions that you can fill in to better reflect a zero-sum interaction (you can change the payoffs)?

c) Can you find a pure strategy Nash equilibrium?

Question 2 Match each term with the paragraphs below:

- a) Containment
- b) The problem of other minds
- c) Mosaic audience effects

Paragraph 1

John F. Kelly, Mr. Trump’s chief of staff, tilted the White House away from criticism of Beijing in an interview on Fox News last week, saying China had

beaten the United States on trade but “that doesn’t make them an enemy.” He also said that China has “a system of government that has apparently worked for the Chinese people.” The remarks drew heckles from many in Washington who cited China’s human rights record but praise from the Chinese news media as reflecting the more equal relationship that Mr. Xi seeks.

Paragraph 2

The president used his speech on Sunday to call for building a “free and open Indo-Pacific” region, a new approach to Asia that is likely to be seen by China as a challenge. The idea, first proposed by the Japanese and adopted in recent days by Mr. Tillerson, envisions the United States strengthening ties with three other democracies in the region — Japan, Australia and India [...]

Paragraph 3 *The New York Times* reported, today, that Chinese and US warships are moving perilously close to one another. In light of President Trump’s sanctions, a number of journalists are struggling to explain China’s motivations in taking a more aggressive stance in the region.

Week 9

Question 1 Explain the “conveyor belt” view of media.

Question 2 According to Meijer and Brooks (2020), what are the main obstacles to European countries engaging in collective security if the US withdraws?

Question 3 Recently, NATO has started taking a more active role in controlling migration and the flow of refugees in the region.¹ It also [assists](#) allies with counterterrorism initiatives. In light of Meijer and Brooks finding that European threat perceptions of Russia sometimes compete with concerns over other concerns about migration and transatlantic terrorism, how might these functions of NATO affect European attitudes toward its possible disintegration or contraction?

References

- [1] Hugo Meijer and Stephen Brooks. “Illusions of Autonomy: Why Europe Cannot Provide its Own Security if the US Pulls Back”. 2020.

¹See [this release](#) by NATO and [this piece](#) in the *Atlantic* for more details.