HEGEMONY: PAST AND PRESENT

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It has been said that a state of hegemony will last for one hundred years before it is overthrown. What is the underlying cause of this change in power? Well, there are different theories as to how this comes about, but Robert Gilpin has provided an answer that could predict the future of the international realm. What I plan on examining is how Gilpin’s argument applies to past changes in the balance of power during the Cold War, and also how it may apply today. In order to understand the change in the balance of power, it is also necessary to discuss what a hegemon is. The hegemon makes the rules in the international system and as a result, brings order to the arena. Is it possible to have stability in the international system without the dominance of a hegemon? Along with Gilpin’s theory on the hegemonic war and how the balance in the international system can change, this is also important because there may not be a need for a hegemon in the international realm in order to achieve balance and order.