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## **Sticks and Carrots in American Deterrence**

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The United States is currently the world hegemon, or in more simple terms, the world leader in culture, power, and setting the status quo. In the current international arena, we have four nations who have been seen as rapidly growing in power, both economically and culturally, named by Jim O'Neill of Goldman Sachs' (2001, 1) as the BRIC countries, standing for Brazil, Russia, India, and China.

With these BRIC countries rapidly rising in power, the world will now be looking to see how the hegemon will react to the new, more prominent presences, and more importantly, how relations will continue after the United States has made its reaction. This issue is important now more than ever, as the United States must move to secure world peace before serious confrontation arrives.

The goal of my study is to evaluate the history of the United States' reaction to these rising powers, dating back to the end of the Cold War Era, around 1992. I will be using CRS (Congressional Research Service) Reports to establish reliable historical reports. I will be focusing on the Stick and Carrot view of deterrence (H.L.A. Hart, 1972, 2-25). My theory is that using Carrots, or trying to deter an opposing nation from war with benefits such as alliances or economic aid, will result in a less hostile situation where war is less likely to ensue when compared to situations where sticks (or threats) are used. I will then evaluate the standing relationship between the US and each nation, compare this standing to historical record, and conclude whether my theory is correct or incorrect. Results and Conclusion will be presented at the MU's Undergraduate Research & Creative Achievements Forum on April 21st of 2021.