

# The Evolution and Development of Anglo-American Economic Relations

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**Abstract:** After the end of World War II, the economic relationship between United States and United Kingdom changed from a second economy to a first economy. United States was the result of United Kingdom colonial expansion and was an important economic partner for United Kingdom. However, with the support of United Kingdom and France, United States inherited the industrial technology of the United Kingdom and obtained continuous funding, and gradually became a leader in the world economy. Therefore, the relationship between United States and United Kingdom is one of cooperation and confrontation. In terms of economy and technology, United States has continuously deepened its own structure, gradually occupied the world market of LinkedIn countries, and become the world economic hegemon after United Kingdom. The change in the economic status of United States and United Kingdom took place mainly in 1956. Due to the emergence of the economic crisis, United States has relied on its own technological advantages to harvest the global economy and become a major technology exporter of United Kingdom. Therefore, the relationship between United States and United Kingdom is a win-win and competitive situation, mainly due to technological innovation and monopoly. Therefore, the study of the economic relationship between Britain and the United States is of great guiding significance for China's economic development and the transformation of its global economic status.

## 1. Introduction

The American academic circle usually divides its diplomatic strategy history into three stages: the mainland expansion period, the foreign expansion period (from the US-West conflict to the end of World War II), and the global competition period (since the end of World War II)[1]. These three stages summarize the aggressive expansion of the United States over more than 200 years. After experiencing two global conflicts, the United States has truly emerged as a superpower with international influence. Some American scholars proudly ask: "In the 20th century, which European national diplomacy can achieve the 'complexity' and success of the United States? What other country can match it? Nevertheless, the author holds the following view: the diplomatic achievements of the United States in the 20th century should be attributed to the strong economic foundation formed in the 18th and 19th centuries, the ingenious use of the international situation[2-3], and all aspects of Britain's failure to contain the rise of the United States. A careful analysis of the attitudes and decisions of foreign relations held at the beginning of the 18th to 19th centuries after the birth of the United States of America is of significant reference significance to the rising stage of the diplomatic strategy of economic relations between Britain and the United States. At that time, United Kingdom was the world economic leader and United States was a potential economic leader, and there was a subordinate, upstream and downstream relationship between the two, which lasted until the end of the 19th century. With the continuous development of United States, its position in the world economy has been expanding, gradually replacing it as the leader of the world economy. During this period of time, the leading American foreign relations are obviously not the so-called "cultural concept shared by the United States and Britain", but actually the national interest of the United States. Looking back in the past gives us the opportunity to deeply understand the core essence of the pragmatic foreign policy of the United States of America[4-5].

## **2. Related works**

With the prosperity of the powerful country, the international situation often fluctuates, but in the fluctuations, it also breeds the birth of a new global order. For example, the British Isles have stood up after extensive conflict with Spain, the Netherlands and France, leaving the world involved in two global conflicts. There are many views and comments on the field of international politics on the global hegemony from Britain to the United States in the 1950s and 1960s[6]. Among these opinions, "the United States and Britain maintain a unique connection", "democratic countries will not fight with each other" and "American foreign policy has moved from isolation to international participation" are regarded as more representative views. Because it does not reveal the true meaning of the smooth transition of British and American hegemony, that is, the smooth transfer of power is crucial, these views are narrow and false.

### **2.1 The particularity of US-British relations**

The accepted fact is that before the United States gained independence, it was only a British colony, and they had the same language and cultural ideas. Mr Obama, a former president of the United States, has stated that Britain is one of the closest and strongest Allies, and that the unique bond between the two countries comes from many similar core ideas. Some researchers have observed that since the 19th century, relations between the United States and Britain have experienced some unique tensions. This connection is rooted in the common interests and cultural ideas of the two countries, and it is these mutual national interests and cultural ideas that shape the US and UK[7-8]. However, at present, both in politics and in academia, the evaluation of the influence of these universal cultural concepts on American foreign policy is excessively amplified. The author's view is rooted in historical facts. It was not the huge differences of cultural ideas, but the increasingly sharp antagonism between British and North American settlements that led the US to seek freedom from British rule. Especially after the Seven Years' War involved Britain and France, in order to make up for the serious damage caused by the defeat, Britain intensified the exploitation and squeezing of its colonies, which triggered the colonial people from the economic and political resistance to armed resistance. Despite the declaration of its independence, friction with Britain continued until the end of the 19th century[9-10].

Despite the so-called "common cultural concept", the tension between the United States and Britain has not weakened. On the contrary, countries such as France and Spain, which lack such cultural consensus, had more harmonious diplomatic exchanges than Britain in the United States. In the 20th century, with the weakening of British power and the rise of the United States, especially after the end of the second world war, Britain has struggled to maintain its complex strategic system, many colonies have declared independence (e. g., Jordan, Pakistan, India, myanmar, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, South Africa, etc.), the relationship between the United States and Britain status also conversion. In this case, the "uniqueness of the Sino-American alliance" and the important influence of the cultural concept shared between China and the United States on American foreign policy has been frequently highlighted. For example, in the early stages of the Cold War, the domestic situation in Greece deteriorated sharply, and communist forces occupied the country's territory. In the spring of 1947, despite the deployment of 40,000 troops and \$460 million in support, it was still unable to suppress the revolutionary unrest of the local people. Faced with great problems, British settlers had to request aid to the United States because to their power. On March 12, 1947, Truman, then president of the United States, presented an extraordinary statement to the leaders of both houses of Congress, begging to help Greece and Turkey. Britain has approached ever since it asked the US to take over the banner of "global overlords". Therefore, it is clear that "the uniqueness of Anglo-American relations" is only limited to a specific historical context. The underlying reason why the United States and the UK are so much is to strengthen and enhance the diplomatic benefits of each other, which contains practical strategic thinking.

### **2.2 Democracy and peace**

In 1795, Immanuel Kant pioneered the idea of democratic peace in his permanent Peace Theory,

which quickly gained widespread recognition and spread after the end of the Cold War. The idea suggests two core ideas: first, democratic countries rarely (or rarely) have wars with other democratic countries; second, they rarely use violence because such actions are illegal. If explained in this theory, the smooth and violent transmission of power between Britain and the United States in the end is mainly due to the similarity in the political systems of the two countries. Given that the adoption of democracy, key decisions have to be formally approved by the house of parliament (parliament), democratic countries do not choose the means of war, but will replace "power" through harmonious means, which conforms to the basic benefits of the people of both countries.

However, the "democracy and peace" is not convincing to explain the smooth shift of power between Britain and America. On the one hand, Britain actually had an "alliance" with the United States. Due to the support provided by the United States during and after the Second World War, Britain no longer had a "confrontational competitor" position on the United States. In view of the deterrent power of the "Soviet crisis", there is a more urgent need for the "capitalist alliance". So, the elements of the global system play a key role in the "peaceful transfer of power". On the other hand, the "democratic peace theory" does not provide a convincing explanation of the armed conflict between Britain and the United States during the eight years of American independence, the subsequent poor war in 1812, and the manufacture of warships for the South during the Civil War. Whether Clinton or George w. Bush, they are through the "diffusion democracy" strategy to promote the international policy strategy showed great enthusiasm, even with the war of the extreme means to "spread democracy" (this is a new conservative signature), for the theory of "democracy brings peace" is undoubtedly a great irony. The "democratic peace theory" had a profound impact on the power of the United States and Britain at the end of World War II and its position in the international landscape, which also weakened the effectiveness of its interpretation.

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1 Long-term and phased nature of strategy implementation

In the early stage, due to the disparity between the powers of the two countries, Britain intervened in the independence movement, westward expansion and the civil war of the United States many times. However, in the face of the growing power of the United States and the change of the strategic environment in Europe, Britain finally changed its policy stance towards the United States. The bilateral ties between the United States and Britain have gone through the evolution of "opposition-mitigation-re-opposition-collaboration", lasting nearly a century from the founding of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Great Britain recognized its dominance in the Americas. Clearly, the rise of a country and the recognition of the world, especially by the dominant countries today, is a long journey across generations. Especially when a powerful country is emerging rapidly emerging, and another leading country is gradually in decline, the latter is entirely likely to use rich resources to surround and block the former, so the former needs to wait for opportunities in low-key development and observing the situation. The study of the initial foreign relations strategy of the United States has far-reaching reference value for the diplomatic process of British-American economic relations, based on the long-term and phased analysis of the implementation of the strategy, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Long-term and phased analysis of strategy implementation

Economic relations between Britain and the United States	The long-term and stage-oriented strategy implementation	
	The long-term nature of the strategy implementation	The stage of the strategy implementation
The British side	1215.2152	1324.2562
America	1201.1546	1309.2151

In fact, the increasing influence of the United States on the global stage has gone through several periods of development. In generally speaking, it is the evolution of regional power status, world power status and eventually a superpower with worldwide influence. In these different stages of

development, its foreign policy ideas are different. In the development period of "regional power", adhere to pragmatic foreign policy; in the transition period of "world power", we strive to improve both cultural attraction and military power; in the stage of "world leader", the strategy is crucial.

### 3.2 Take advantage of the complexity of the international environment

In the course of its rise, the United States has more successfully used the complex world situation. For example, during the Revolutionary War, the United States of America managed to win additional international aid through the conflicts between England and other countries, such as France, Iberia, Ross, and the Netherlands, and the "Monroe Doctrine" coincided with the exhaustion of the United States, taking the role of "against colonial rulers". The economic relations between Britain and the United States are complicated, which is not in a "non-interference" situation. The core reason for the increasingly severe international relations atmosphere facing the People's Republic is that the United States of America regards them as potential adversaries, implements strategic blockade and restriction measures, and more fully demonstrates the complexity and risks of the international environment, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Complexity of the international environment in british-american economicrelations

Economic relations between Britain and the United States	International environmental complexity	The risk nature of the national environment
British economic relations	1243.76	1322.7
American economic relations	14.86	15.24
UK-US partnership	182.74	175.23
Effects of other countries	1321.64	1392.7

Today, the Obama administration's announcement of "the focus shift to the Asia-Pacific" (or "strategic adjustment in the Asia-Pacific region") is partly designed to limit the rise of economic relations between Britain and the United States. The angrius economic relations strategy has at least two entry points: the first is the flaws inherent in the US strategy. For example, the strategic focus of the decline of the United States. Countries can actively promote the deepening of exchanges and cooperation with countries in Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and other places, and obtain the endorsement of the international community. Countries to the United States is trying to support the asia-pacific neighbors, need to promote "Shared prosperity and mutual benefit" strategy, jointly promote the regional economic growth and stability, let these countries understand "peace in the Asia-Pacific region", because external forces may exist "create chaos without consequences" risk. In the final analysis, even if the international relations are complex, they can become an opportunity for us to use them. Therefore, we need to make good use of the complexity and risks of the international environment, as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 Comparative analysis of the complexity of the international environment of british - american economic relations

### 3.3 The diplomatic strategy of a rising country requires a process of learning

The rise of the Western world has inspired many atrocities and disputes. Since the 16th century, the prosperity of Western countries has been mainly based on the first and second industrial revolutions, and United States is the result of United Kingdom post-industrial colonization, so there is an essentially economic relationship between Britain and the United States. However, United Kingdom and United States, as economic giants in Europe and Latin America, have constant

economic and trade frictions between the two, so the economic relationship between Britain and the United States is cooperative and antagonistic, and on this basis, the economic and trade structure is deepened. "Development is inevitably accompanied by disputes," which largely reflects the reality of their own historical process. As shown in Figure 2.

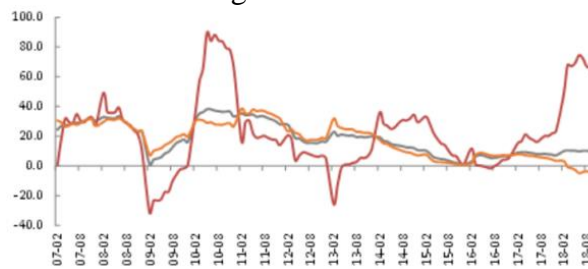


Figure 2 The process of diplomatic strategy change in british-american economic relations

However, the rise of the economic relations between Britain and the United States should not deviate from the path of peace. In seeking harmonious coexistence, promoting peaceful coexistence among all ethnic groups in the world and making the concept of "peaceful development" more penetrating and convincing, this requires scholars from the field of British and American international relations circles and strategy.

#### 4. Conclusion

As the dominant power in the world today, the United States imposed prevention and restraint on those emerging powers similar to Britain in the 18th and 19th centuries, entirely because of its position and the situation at that time. There are no invariable antagonistic rules between different countries in the world, and the policy interaction between different countries has a key impact on the process of bilateral relations. Only by having a thorough understanding of the historical facts of the rise of foreign powers and their diplomatic exchanges can we effectively control the volatile world politics, thus enhance our voice and interpretation ability in the global field, and smoothly promote our own peaceful rise.

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