

Geopolitics During a Pandemic



In this month's InSTEP, a Chamber International Affairs Division (IAD) event series, Executive Vice President and Head of IAD Myron Brilliant hosted Eurasia Group founder and president Ian Bremmer for a conversation on geopolitical risk and the Biden administration's approach to foreign policy.

Top takeaways:

- **China & vaccine diplomacy:** Global allies and partners are calling on the U.S. to expedite COVID-19 vaccine exports to developing countries. While that may be “the right thing to do, after we ensure that our most vulnerable populations are vaccinated in the US,” Bremmer suggested that domestic politics will outweigh geopolitical considerations. But in prioritizing Americans, the U.S. may be ceding the stage to China's aggressive [vaccine diplomacy](#).
- **More friction ahead for the U.S. and EU:** The U.S. foreign policy establishment increasingly agrees that China is by far the most important national security challenge, but allies in Europe are still hedging their bets. This lack of alignment on China also reflects a broader and growing divergence between the U.S. and some of our key allies on a host of issues including tech regulation, data privacy, intellectual property, taxation, and more.
- **A K-shaped recovery for globalization?** While global trade in some sectors saw a quick rebound, we're likely to see more protectionism around “anything with a chip, or that involves data,” splintering the global market. The open question: does a hybrid

globalization environment become more or less capable of responding to global challenges?

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