

World War 3 Is Already Underway: The Battle for the World Order

By Nick Giambruno - Doug Casey International Man

Yuval Harari is a key advisor to Klaus Schwab, founder of the World Economic Forum (WEF). He recently stated that if Trump were to become president again, it "is likely to be the kind of death blow to what remains of the global order."

While I have a deep philosophical disagreement (to say the least) with globalists like Harari and Schwab, understanding their perspective offers valuable insight.

Indeed, the world order is undergoing a profound transformation. I'll delve into that shortly, but first, some crucial context. It's important to recognize that world orders are nothing new. World orders have long been the frameworks through which major global powers set the rules of the game. They define the structure of international political relations.

Thinking in terms of world orders requires zooming out entirely—taking the geopolitical view from 40,000 feet. On a smaller scale, it's similar to how the most powerful criminal organizations in a city—such as mafias and street gangs—form agreements to divide their activities and territories among themselves. Eventually, though, these arrangements always break down, leading to violent power struggles until a new agreement is reached, reflecting the shifting balance of power.

A similar dynamic is at play with the most powerful countries, world orders, and world wars. You can think of World orders as epochs—distinct historical periods marked by evolving global power structures.

Peace of Westphalia (1648 to 1803)

This agreement ended the Thirty Years' War and established a framework for European international relations for over two centuries by maintaining a balance of power among major European states. The Peace of Westphalia involved the Holy Roman Empire, Spain, France, Sweden, the Dutch Republic, and various German territories.

This world order persisted until the Napoleonic Wars disrupted the balance, necessitating a new international arrangement.

Congress of Vienna (1814 to 1914)

The military defeat of Napoleon I led to this world order, which cemented Britain as the dominant global power. The Congress of Vienna set the foundation for European politics until the onset of World War 1 in 1914.

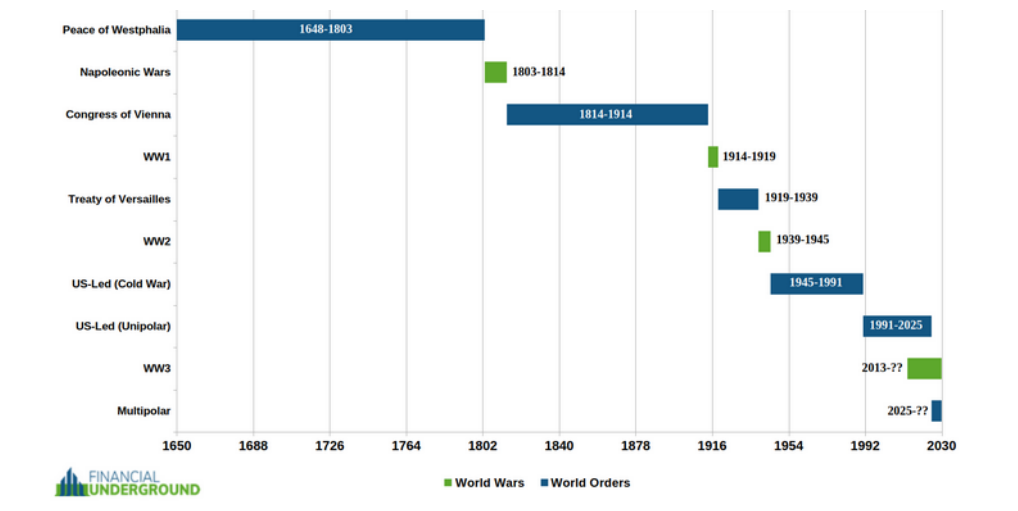
Treaty of Versailles (1919 to 1939)

The victors of World War 1 established this world order, introducing institutions like the League of Nations. However, it collapsed when Germany, Italy, and Japan sought to overturn it and impose their own world order during World War 2.

The Current US-Led World Order (1945 to Today)

The victors of World War 2 created the current world order with the US as its leader. This system includes institutions like the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund—all headquartered in the US.

This world order has largely been unipolar, with the US exerting significant influence over international policies and decision-making. The graphic below (click to enlarge) maps out the timeline of recent world orders and world wars, offering a clearer perspective on their evolution—and where we may be headed next.



World War 3

Total war between the world's largest powers has historically reshaped the international order, defining past world wars. In that sense, the Napoleonic Wars could be considered a world war before the term was even coined. However, with the advent of nuclear weapons, total war between today's largest powers—Russia, China, and the US—would mean nuclear Armageddon, where there are no winners, only losers.

That scenario remains a possibility, even if no one wants it, but it is not the most likely outcome. World War 3 is unlikely to take the form of a direct, kinetic war between the US, Russia, and China. Instead, the conflict is playing out on different levels—proxy wars, economic wars, financial wars, cyber wars, biological warfare, deniable sabotage, and information warfare.

In that sense, World War 3 is already well underway, though most fail to recognize it.

Russia, China, and their allies are seeking to reshape the US-led world order that has been in place since the end of World War 2. While they resent US dominance, both Russia and China hold a position—albeit a subordinate one—within the current system. They have permanent seats on the UN Security Council and are members of key international institutions like the IMF, World Bank, and WTO.

Unlike Germany and Japan in World War 2, Russia and China do not appear intent on completely overturning the current world order. Doing so could invite nuclear Armageddon. Instead, they aim to shift the balance from a unipolar US-dominated system to a multipolar world where they wield greater influence. The conflict is playing out just below the threshold of direct military conflict. Nevertheless, it is a high-stakes struggle among the world's major powers to determine the future world order—just as in previous world wars.

This is World War 3. It's happening right now and unfolding rapidly.

In fact, World War 3 has been on-going for over a decade.

While WW3 lacks an official starting date, two pivotal events in 2013 and 2014 signaled the beginning of this global struggle between Russia, China, and the US to reshape the world order. The first was the rise of Xi Jinping in March 2013. It quickly became evident that China was no longer content with being a junior member of the US-led system. Instead, Beijing sought a role commensurate with its power—at minimum, equal to the US, if not the world's dominant force. The second was the US-backed coup in Kiev in February 2014, which led to the violent overthrow of Ukraine's pro-Russian government and its replacement by a pro-US administration.

Ukraine is Russia's most vital neighbour—both culturally and strategically. Slavic nations, including Russia, trace their heritage to the Kievan Rus', a federation of tribes centered in present-day Ukraine that existed from the late 800s to the early 1200s. Ukraine is also of immense geopolitical value. For years, US strategists have pursued the idea of integrating Ukraine into NATO, a move that would significantly weaken Russia's military position and further isolate Moscow—an appealing prospect for those favoring a unipolar world.

After the 2014 coup, Moscow became convinced that the US was determined to bring Russia under its control. In response, Russia saw no choice but to push back—primarily by aligning with China and other nations to shift the world order from unipolar to multipolar. I believe these two events marked the beginning of a global struggle among the most powerful nations to reshape the international order—World War 3. Since then, the conflict has only escalated and may soon reach a tipping point that changes everything.

Most People Won't See It Coming—But You Can

The biggest economic and geopolitical crisis in a century is unfolding right now. World-shaping conflicts have always caught the unprepared off guard, costing them their wealth—or worse.