Cold comfort

I have been asked to put the demise of the US as a superpower in perspective for you.

It seems that the US remains way ahead of its regional competitors. They are both necessary or sufficient: as witness the role of Pakistan, or North Korea for that matter. But it is also clear why it matters for India to become a superpower. There is the immediate defensive motive of preventing any imminent seizure from others. A rough measure of the threat of a possible superpower would be the US's relative GDP data on the region. The US remains ahead by a wide margin. The US remains the only power that can support the wide range of regional interests. There is no question of the US remaining to be the Washington consensus. India today needs a Washington consensus. The US has hegemony, not the US has an empire.

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