

John Mearsheimer Quotes

Powerful, Europe, World, Army, Military, Strategy, States, Rivals, War, United States, Way, Fighting, International, Population, Kind, Behavior, Most Powerful, Roots, Self, Would Be

In the anarchic world of international politics, it is better to be Godzilla than Bambi.

~John Mearsheimer

States care about relative wealth, because economic might is the foundation of military might.

~John Mearsheimer

The sad fact is that international politics has always been a ruthless and dangerous business, and it is likely to remain that way.

~John Mearsheimer

Simply put, the most powerful state is the one that prevails in a dispute.

~John Mearsheimer

A state's potential power is based on the size of its population and the level of its wealth.

~John Mearsheimer

Offensive realism predicts that the United States will send its army across the Atlantic when there is a potential hegemon in Europe that the local great powers cannot contain by themselves.

~John Mearsheimer

Decapitation is a fanciful strategy.

~John Mearsheimer

China, in short has the potential to be considerably more powerful than even the United States.

~John Mearsheimer

States have two kinds of power: latent power and military power.

~John Mearsheimer

Bandwagoning is a strategy for the weak.

~John Mearsheimer

Great powers must be forever vigilant and never subordinate survival to any other goal, including prosperity.

~John Mearsheimer

The ideal situation for any state is to experience sharp economic growth while its rivals' economies grow slowly or hardly at all.

~John Mearsheimer

The German air offensives against British cities in World Wars I and II not only failed to coerce the United Kingdom to surrender, but Germany also lost both wars.

~John Mearsheimer

The Soviet Union and its empire disappeared in large part because its smokestack economy could no longer keep up with the technological progress of the world's major economic powers.

~John Mearsheimer

I believe that the existing power structures in Europe and Northeast Asia are not sustainable through 2020.

~John Mearsheimer

In an ideal world, where there are only good states, power would be largely irrelevant.

~John Mearsheimer

Important benefits often accrue to states that behave in an unexpected way.

~John Mearsheimer

When World War II started on September 1, 1939, the German army

contained 3.74 million soldiers and 103 divisions.

~John Mearsheimer

The most dangerous states in the international system are continental powers with large armies.

~John Mearsheimer

This self-defeating behavior, so the argument goes, must be the result of warped domestic politics.

~John Mearsheimer

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