

# Power

**By astronomical margins, would-be migrants would rather move to the US than to China. That hasn't stopped the one losing relative influence to the other over recent decades. Ultimately, if a country grows from 5 per cent of world output to 18 per cent, as China has since 1980, there is a limit to what the soft power of others can do to counteract it.**

**That kind of economic weight buys too much military hardware.**

**It spawns too many bilateral dependants in trade and investment.**

**It demands an answer in material power.**

**Janan Ganesh,  
Financial Times, April 26, 2023**