

Submitted: *Distance's Tyranny: the Loss of Strength, Interests, and Information*

This article argues that the tyranny of distance has three distinct deleterious effects on power. While much of the focus in power-projection theory has been on overcoming a loss-of-strength gradient, there also exist concurrent loss-of-interest and loss-of-information gradients. After demonstrating the logic of these headwinds in classical warfare, the article argues these logics still apply to the United States in the postwar period. Contrary to arguments that distance means less in a world with ICBM's, nuclear weapons, and the internet, it produces empirical support for the assertion that U.S. performance in conflict decreased with distance in the postwar period. It then concludes with a discussion of the effect of the tyranny of distance on the power projection abilities of the United States in the western Pacific today.