

Chekhov's Gun

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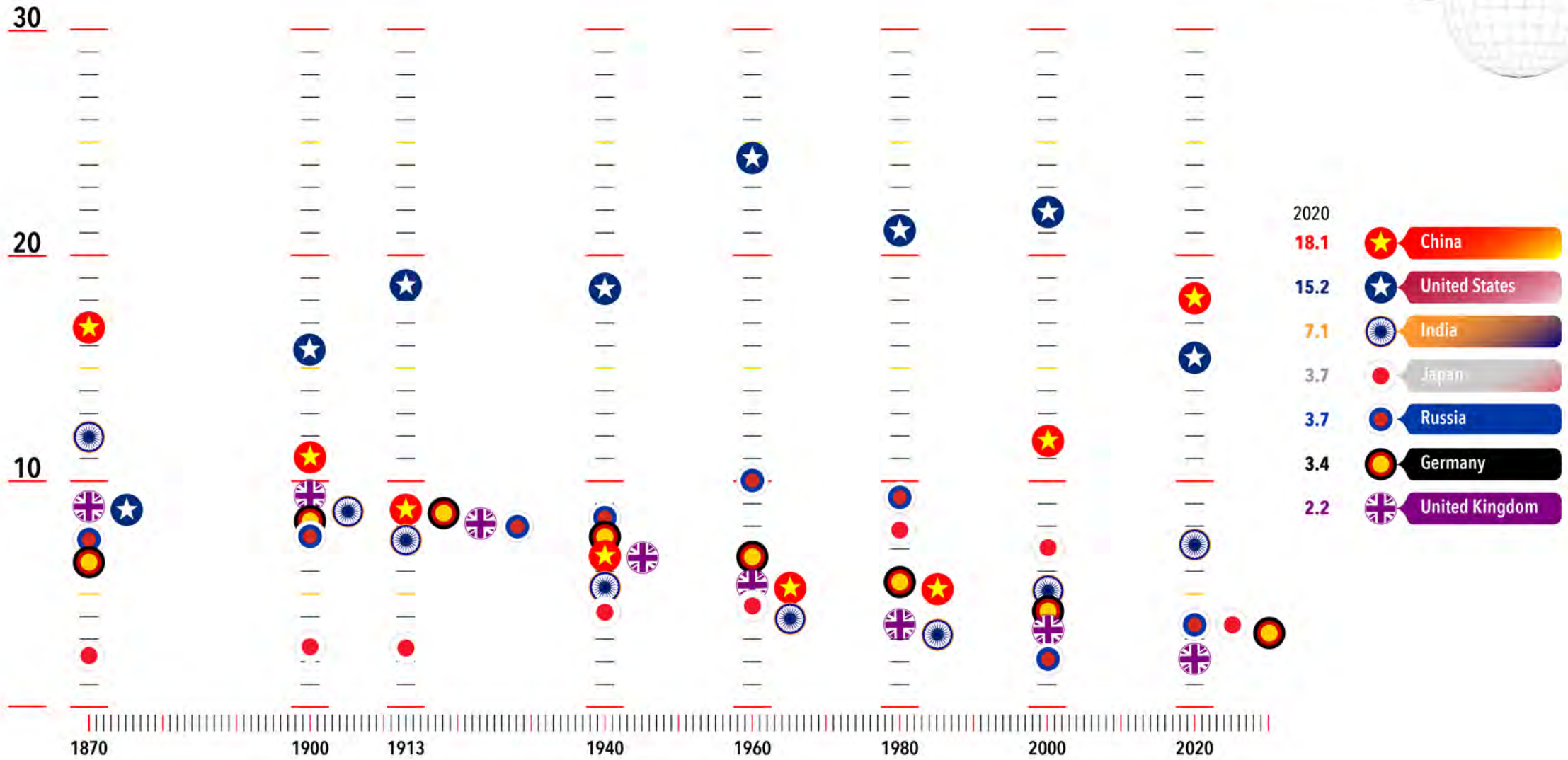
If a gun is placed on the mantle in the first act, it must be fired in the third.

— Anton Chekhov

Rise and Fall

GREAT POWERS AND THE WORLD ECONOMY

Share of National GDP in the World GDP
%

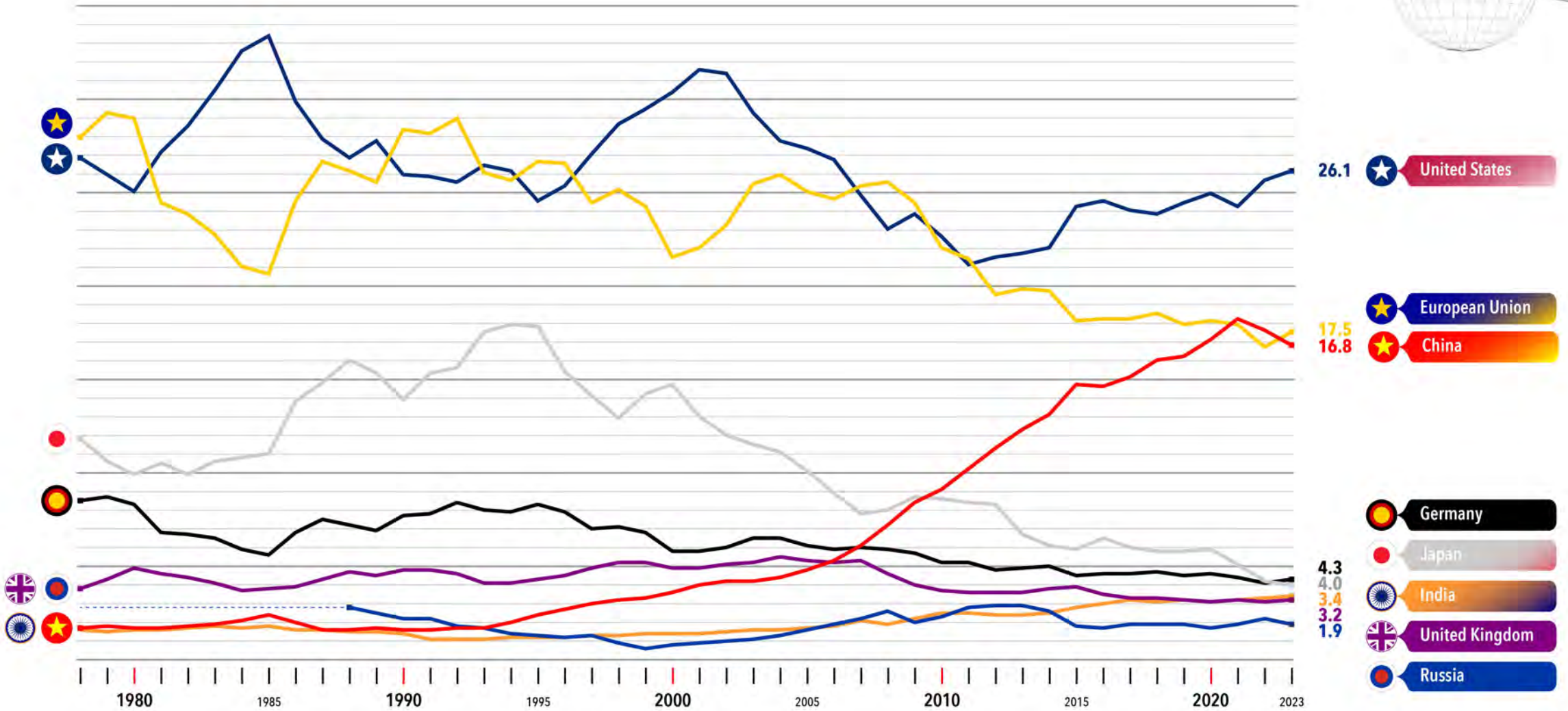


Source: Calculated based on data from *The Maddison-Project* and "World Development Indicators," *The World Bank*, accessed in December of 2024.

Note: Underlying GDP figures are expert estimates adjusted to reflect purchasing power parity.

Share of National GDP in the World GDP %

GREAT POWERS AND THE WORLD ECONOMY



Source: Calculated based on data from "World Development Indicators," *The World Bank*, accessed in December of 2024.

Note: Underlying GDP data reflect current U.S. dollars.

Borders and Borderland

Treaty of Pereiaslav 1654



Mikhail Khmelko, *Eternally Together* (1951)

The Second Partition of Poland 1793-1795



Wojciech Kossak, *After the Battle of Zielence* (1898)

Western Ukraine 1939



ОБРАНИЦІ ТРУДОВОГО НАРОДУ!

ГОЛОСУЙТЕ

за входження Західної України до складу Радянської України, за єдину, вільну і квітучу Українську Радянську Соціалістичну Республіку!

Назавжди знищимо кордони між Західною і Радянською Україною!
Хай живе Українська Радянська Соціалістична Республіка!

Повідомлення газети Політуправління Українського Фронту "Дніпро України"

Художник Л. Сенишин

Mates

The famous game

fortunate Mate.

The Mate given on the side of the field, a foolish Mate.

A blinde Mate, a shamefull mate.

The Stale, a dishonourable mate.

Endgames

The current generation now sees everything clearly; it marvels at the errors and laughs at the folly of its ancestors...

Kyiv 1943

not seeing that this chronicle is all overscored
by divine fire, that every letter of it cries out

Yalta 1945

that from everywhere the piercing finger is pointed at it, at this current generation



Cuba 1962

but the current generation laughs and presumptuously,
proudly begins a new series of errors



...at which their descendants will also laugh afterwards.

—Nikolai Gogol, *Dead Souls*