

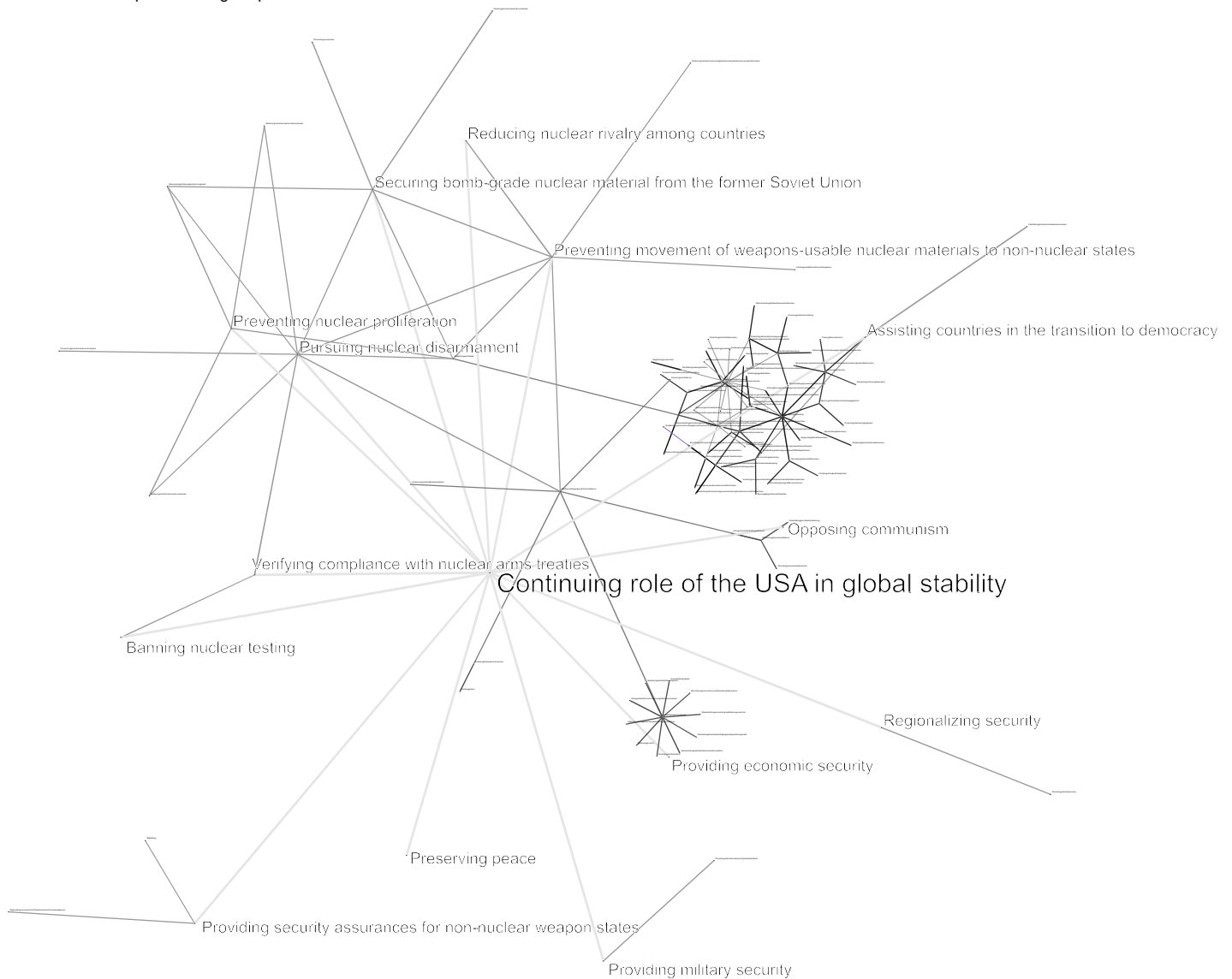
## Figure 10.3.14. Continuing role of the USA in global stability

Database: Global Strategies and Solutions

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**Counter-claim:** The benefit that the world receives from US influence depends significantly on the extent to which the USA's own security and economic interests coincide with the world's interests in general. Thus, global prosperity and stability are facilitated when the USA supports democratic development and promotes fair trade/market systems. But how often is this the case? Clearly, the interests and stability of peoples, nations, and the world are not always served by the actions of the USA to serve its own interests, and also what it perceives the world needs (some peoples simply adhere to different cultural values). Most notably, in fighting communism during the Cold War, numerous factions and regimes which were not democratic but authoritarian, ruthless and oppressive, but because they too were anti-communist, were actively supported. Furthermore, since the USA is a capitalist democracy, the USA can be tempted, and has and will be known to put economic interests before human rights, before the very principles written in her Constitution. Such double standard doctrines based on "a lesser of two evils", "an enemy of my enemy is my friend", "a friend of my enemy is my enemy" (as in security interests) or "putting money before human rights" (as in economic interests) obviously do not necessarily and have not necessarily promoted the welfare of people and nations around the world. The problem for US foreign policy is choosing between democracy and stability (in its various forms). Sometimes stability does not include supporting democracy. A big question of our time is to what extent the USA's global role (micro to macro scale) has been beneficial, detrimental, and then can be justified to the world community. Moreover, as the USA continues its relationship with the global community, to what extent will the USA recognize and learn from its wrongdoings and to what extent will the USA undertake necessary policy adjustments? In the post-Cold War era, the USA would serve herself and the world best by providing leadership in sustainable development, and then through international consensus (the UN). But the USA's capability to effectively adjust and respond to a new global reality is handicapped by her own enormous unsustainable resource requirements, her own military-industrial complex, her own state secrecy and intelligence structure, and her own societal problems. Clearly, reform from within (without abandoning the world altogether) may therefore be the most effective remedy to help herself and the world, as a priority.