What matters in the structural dynamics of any political or economic system is the contradiction between absolute and relative trends. The "single dynamic" of power and role, of state and system (or firm and industry), encodes the "perspective of statecraft" (of strategic planning and implementation) in the trends and shifting trends of relative share. These "tides of history" shift counter-intuitively, creating enormous uncertainty, inverting future expectations about role and security (the trend of future profits), disrupting the normal stability of statecraft. These critical points (structural shifts) on the power cycle are causally related to alliance behavior and to the most massive wars in history. Complementarity and competitiveness lead to productive interaction and to the evolution of industry or international system.