U.S.A. vs. China & Russia: Zero-Sum or Win-Win?

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BY: FRITZ POINTER

Let China sleep, for when she wakes she will shake the world.
Napoleon Bonaparte

Russians are as much Asiatics as European. The mistake of our policy for the past two centuries has been to make the people of Europe believe that we are true Europeans. We have served Europe too well, we have taken too great a part in her domestic quarrels…We have bowed ourselves like slaves before the Europeans and have only gained their hatred and contempt. It is time to turn away from ungrateful Europe. Our future is in Asia.
Fyodor Dostoevsky

China lives and has been transformed and marches on. She is not ignored by the United States. She ignores the United States and leaps forward.
W.E.B. DuBois

China has awakened and Russia has turned toward Asia. It would, in this writer's opinion, be equally wise for Africa and India to heed the *suggestion*, the *recommendation o*f Dostoevsky and realize, "*It is time to turn away from ungrateful Europe (and America)".* In this context, I must recommend *The Asian Aspiration: Why and How Africa Should Emulate Asia – and What it Should Avoid* (Mills, Obasanjo, Desalegn and van der Merwe, 2020).

Conflict, and surely war, or nuclear war, with China and Russia, which the United States seems to be fomenting, provoking and seeking, in every way short of outright military invasion, and *everybody and every living thing* – as in *every child, every pet, every woman and man, our children and grandchildren* and everything created by them – art and literature, technology, architecture, we all

lose, humanity loses, and the earth loses. Being locked-down due to Covid-19 will be nothing like being locked-down due to nuclear radiation and nuclear winter. There will be no emerging (review the film, *On the Beach*, with Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner, Fred Astaire and Anthony Perkins) coming to grips with the fact that due to nuclear war **all life** will be destroyed in a matter of months…and they must live out the short life they have left in a submarine (now, the rich think some million-dollar bunker will serve this short-term purpose for them).

Cooperation, mutual respect and learning from each other and everybody as in *every child, woman and* man, humanity and the earth wins. A win for humanity and a win for planet earth. On the other hand, an anti-Asian foreign policy gets translated by a lot of not very smart Americans into anti-Asian-American thinking, and we see things like the horrific murders in Georgia, and the tremendous spike in anti-Asian-American hate crimes, as part and parcel of a policy of looking at China and treating China and talking about China as the enemy.

Let us keep clearly in mind that of Asia's nearly 5 billion people, 3.5 billion are *not* Chinese. Dr. Parag Khanna author of *The Future Is Asian* (2019) observes: "The full picture is this: China has only one-third of Asia's population, [and] less than half of Asia's GDP… Asia is therefore much more than just 'China plus'" (19). The "Asian Century" is even bigger than we imagine. Unlike the U.S., China wants foreign resources and markets, not foreign colonies. China has repeatedly declared its explicit desire for a "multipolar" world and "win-win" cooperation, in contrast with a US preference for "unilateralism" and "zero-sum games" (We win, You lose).

Far greater than just China, the new Asian system taking shape is a multicivilizational order spanning Saudi Arabia to Japan, Russia to Australia, Turkey to Indonesia, India to Africa, and reaching out to South and Central America – linking 5 billion (plus) people, with its Belt and Road Initiative, through trade, finance, infrastructure, and diplomatic networks that together represent 40 percent of global GDP.

And US/NATO is doing what? Linking countries militarily? For example, just last week (April 2021), U.S. Representative Ron Paul exposed that Washington is sending weapons to Ukraine: "Some 300 tons of new weapons have arrived in the past weeks and more is on the way." Paul continues: "As could be expected, Moscow has responded to (Ukraine's President) Zelensky's decree (to take back Crimea from Russia) and to the increasingly bellicose rhetoric in Kiev and Washington by re-positioning troops and other military assets closer to its border with Ukraine. Does anyone doubt that if the US were in the same situation – for example, if China installed a hostile and aggressive government in Mexico – the Pentagon might move troops in a similar manner?" *The situation in Ukraine has become particularly troublesome, to say the least, with President Biden dispatching two US warships into the Black Sea and Putin responding by authorizing the use of nuclear weapons to protect Russia.*

By contrast to a U.S. foreign policy emphasizing militarism, materialism and racism, China has adopted a "Win-Win" focus with its Silk Road initiative. China is not asking for or seeking permission but has taken a lead in building the new Silk Road across Asia, but it will not lead it alone. Rather, according to Khanna, "Asia is rapidly returning to the centuries-old patterns of commerce, conflict and cultural exchange that thrived long before European colonialism and American

dominance." Asians will determine their own future – and as they collectively assert their interests around the world, they will, like it or not, determine ours as well. Asia is not ignored by the United States. She ignores the United States and leaps forward.

In the meantime, as noted by Kishore Mahbubani, Singapore's ambassador to the UN for ten years, in *Has China Won? The Chinese Challenge to American Primacy* (2020): "America has been deeply wounded, internally and externally, by its involvements in unnecessary conflicts in the Islamic world. If the strategic priority for America is to focus on China, it should logically and rationally decide to walk away from most, if not all, its involvements in the Islamic world. The biggest geopolitical advantage America has is that it is physically far away from the Islamic world. Both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans separate America from both ends of the Islamic arc, from Morocco to Indonesia" (115). Again, we must confront the reality that American "stability" has more to do with its location, its geography, than its glorious institutions or Constitution.

The time has come for America to get out of the Middle East. "America," Mahbubani notes, "is the only major world power that can afford to detach itself from this existential struggle of the Islamic world. Instead, unwisely, America has decided to meddle, directly or indirectly, in many Islamic conflicts…[and] by spending millions of dollars daily to station American forces in the Gulf, the only country America is helping is China, as it is protecting oil supplies to China" (116).

The contradictions are enormous with the slightest critical thinking. Consider that US corporations have spent three-plus decades outsourcing U.S. military production to China. This clearly illustrates the not-well-thought-outness of economic liberalism with respect to so-called national interests. While most of

the anti-China rhetoric in the U.S. is for domestic political consumption, the idea that the U.S. would launch a military conflict against China while it is dependent on military production from China illustrates the shallow logic of American elites.

The last thing on earth American corporations want is to get shut out of the Chinese market, which to many big American companies is even more valuable than the American market is right now, and of course, the global supply chains. Of the 15 largest military arms manufacturers in the world, five are now Chinese. "So," in the words of Medea Benjamin, "the Chinese military industrial complex loves all this too…the American arms manufacturers have a very willing dance partner on the other side." Of course, China, like all nations, wants to become strong, a more powerful nation, but it does not inexorably follow that they desire world domination.

So, here we are in the midst of another arms race – the U.S. plans to build 14 Ford class aircraft carriers at 13 or 14 billion per aircraft carrier – at a time when the American people can clearly see that the real threats that face us are not things that have military solutions: rather the issues, right now are health care, the climate, race, the myth of white supremacy and massive inequality.

There is a solution, *The Earth Constitution for the Federation of Earth.* A design for a "New United Nations," – it provides a "Win/Win" for all nations rather than the Zero-Sum military game of "I Win, You Lose." Of the more than one hundred contributors to this *Constitution*, from every continent, a leading advocate, Dr. Glen Martin says: "Capitalism also thrives on racism, and/or on nationalism, on anything that divides human beings from one another and leads them to blame someone else for their situation of scarcity and misery. Capitalism generates a ruling class whose wealth and power makes them feel

superior to the rest of the population. However, rather than have the majority in difficulty target this ruling class for political action and change, capitalism is happy to fan the flames of racism or nationalism (both endemic to the Nazi ideology) in order to distract people from the real cause of their problems, which is the capitalist system itself."

China does not believe that it has a "universal" mission to promote Chinese civilization, language and culture, and encourage everyone else in humanity to emulate it. "Americans fundamentally believe that they should stand for universal values and sincerely believe that the world would be a better place if the rest of humanity absorbed and implemented American values…the Chinese believe the opposite. They believe that only Chinese can be Chinese in culture, values, and aesthetics" (89). The people don't mind the government "doing for them" for all of them, for everybody, they are all 'deserving'.

By way of conclusion, China has managed to both find a sustainable cure for terrorism without destroying a single nation, while providing a foundation for extending the Belt and Road into the Middle East via Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and beyond. And NATO?

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