

## **Should Americans Be Concerned About US China Policy?**

### **Mainstream and Organic Views**

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On the issue of US-China relation, I have always been puzzled by the question why the two nations have become adversaries. Historically, China was a victim to the Western imperialism. When China was defeated by the 'eight nations' united forces to "force open" China's ports for trade and to remove tariff, the United States was one of that Eight. However, the U.S. did return some of the Chinese war reparation funds and paid back to her by means of scholarships supporting Chinese students to study in the United States. This early U.S. China policy despite of other discriminatory diplomatic practice against Chinese had won many Chinese people's respect for the U.S., in contrast to their resentful feelings towards the other invaders especially, the UK, Russia, and Japan. The founding father of modern China, Dr. Sun Yat San, educated in Hawaii, had many American friends supporting his revolution. During the WW II, the U.S. and China were true allies fighting the fascist Germany and Imperial Japan; again the Chinese people were more grateful perhaps than other people in the world to the U.S. involvement in the Asia Pacific front of the WW II. Even with communism being brewed in China and eventually helped establishing the People's Republic of China, it was clear that the Chinese people held higher regard towards Americans than towards Russians.

Now as the U.S. is apparently targeting China as an adversary, especially from the national defense and national security perspective, my puzzle really bloated. Sun Tze, the world famous war strategist, had taught us that, people's will not ruler's authority eventually sets the score of war and holds justice in the end. Why don't the US-China policy makers understand that the affinity between the Chinese and American people and their intrinsic dislike of violence and wars are the treasure and foundation of their national relationship? Yes, there were two major wars, the Korean War and the Vietnam War that the two nations engaged in as adversaries not allies. Hindsight analysis actually shows that the U.S. and China might have been allies regarding Korea since the Chinese and Americans had the same goal, i.e. to have a genuine independent Korea as China's neighbor. Whether or not the Korean people would walk through communism and democracy in a 'convoluted' way to develop their country, a united Korea would be better off than having had the bloody Korean War keeping the country divided as the North and the South Korea. The innocent Americans and Chinese soldiers died in the Korean war were the direct result of the two nations' ill-formed foreign policies ignorant of the Americans, Chinese and Korean people's will. Today, China seems to try making remedy by improving relationship with South Korea and encouraging dialogue between the North and the South Korea.

The Vietnam War was even a better example to demonstrate that policy makers ignoring people's will would always make grave mistakes. The Chinese might have been very sympathetic to the communist Vietnam in helping them to gain independence. Soon, China parted ways with the Soviet Union and disgusted with the expansionist

behavior that Communist Vietnam exhibited in attacking and occupying Cambodia (1978-1989). The U.S. was essentially fighting the Soviet not China in Vietnam. The war ended with Vietnam united under its communist party control. Vietnam had long standing border conflicts with China, treated Chinese immigrants unfairly and exhibited territorial ambition in the South China Sea challenging China's claim (for example, the Paracel and Spratly Islands). In 1974, a naval battle took place between Vietnam and China, the end result was China gained control over all Paracel Islands. The remote islands had little value militarily, but diplomatically they represent the protection of power. This confrontation caused China to be more aware that she must strengthen her navy in order to protect her ocean sovereignty and maritime freedom which is so vital to her trades with the rest of the world. The United States was fully aware of the history between Vietnam and China. During the above Vietnam-China naval battle, the losing Vietnam navy had requested the assistance from the U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> fleet, but the request was rejected. Why is the U.S. now adopting a foreign policy wooing an old time enemy, Vietnam, against China in their island disputes ignoring the affinity between the American and Chinese people? It is hard for American citizens to accept that such hostile policy is based on the U.S. national security argument.

Unfortunately, between great nations, foreign policies tend to be driven by defense strategy hence the Pentagon seems to define the strategy more than the White House. The White House leaders and staff come and go but the military establishment can hold onto their legacy. American citizens can only vote for the President, the Commander-In-Chief, but not the defense and national security strategists. Shouldn't we be more concerned about how our national defense and military policies are formulated? We must ask do American and Chinese people have reasons to target each other as enemy? If so, what are the reasons? If not, why do we promote an adversary US -China relation? National defense and military plans are top national secrets that ordinary people are not privileged to have access to, however, today with rich public communication and organic media, there is enough information to raise citizens' concern. We will present some relevant information here to raise citizens' awareness on why the U.S. and China should not be adversaries!

The U.S. is accusing China having a significant defense budget, but she spends far less than the U.S. does. The U.S. apparently encourages Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, even Taiwan to increase military spending, even though, history tell us, arms race could only lead to wars. China surrounded by aggressive neighbors almost by survival right must have a decent defense. Her Naval force is feeble compared to the mighty US fleets, even vulnerable to the Japanese Navy. China announced her intention to defend her tens of thousands miles of coastline by building more ships in the same time reducing 300,000 army personnel. China is advocating a defense oriented military strength by enhancing her own defense sites (not foreign bases as the U.S. has) and transforming her military to a smaller but more technology equipped defense forces, whereas the U.S. is transforming her far advanced military from traditional four forces to six adding Sky Force (Space) and Net Force (Information Network) with the objective that when the U.S. wages a war she will win a total victory within one hour - an extremely aggressive and threatening strategy. This strategic attitude seems to be

inherited from the nuclear-detente philosophy to instill a fear factor. However, history shows that a threatening strategy only encourages arms race, many countries still pursue nuclear weaponry despite of the expenses and the objection of the U.S. Racing and maintaining a superior military power is not an effective guarantee of world peace.

In today's world, collaboration between intrinsically non-violent great nations is a better and safer way to keep the world in peace. The recent provocative military actions that the U.S. is taking against China (as well described in the article, *Could American Spooks Provoke War with Beijing*, James Bamford, *Foreign Policy*, 12/8/2015) does cause Americans to be concerned. Is the U.S. leading the world to destruction by transforming her foreign policies from a 'Monroe Doctrine' to a 'Hegemony Doctrine'?!