

China a “Super-Power”?

By Sidney J. Gluck

The news about China’s emergence on the world economic scene has been characterized in the media as the development of a “super-power.”

Much of the public has been reading article after article about China's peaceful rise depicted in such a characterization.

Peaceful rise and super-power contradict each other. The term "super-power" historically describes a nation that dominates a colonial empire or multi-national globalization. The sun never set on the British Empire until its demise in the mid 20th century and US Multi-Nationals dominate Imperialist Globalization, especially since the demise of the Soviet Union by the turn of the century.

To put it simply, a super-power is one that dominates or seeks to dominate underdeveloped and developed countries for its own profit, devastating environments and generating poverty.

This is not true of the role of modern China, which is developing into a World Power of a different kind. It has, with only one rare exception, never sent its military outside of its national boundaries. Its economic policies of trade and investment are based on mutual advantage of all parties. Its regional associations are based on shared benefits (regardless of any specific commodity trade problems where attempts are made to arrive at fair compromises). Even the Chinese are making an error in calling their trade agreements "free" trade, which is a term historically describing regional agreements that tend to benefit the dominant imperialist power one-sidedly. We have, in fact, posted an article titled "Fair Trade vs. Free Trade," submitted to the European Social Forum through the Share the Worlds Resources organization in London last October (copy attached). We did note, last month that Wen Jibao used the term "fair trade" in addressing an Asian regional meeting.

This note is not an exercise in semantics. A description of China's peaceful rise to world power is not on a track to world domination. It is something new that will characterize the 21st century, since it will tend to realign international relations in a direction that ultimately stands as a challenge to imperialist super-power. Psychologically, using the correct expression will strengthen understanding of the political character of changes that are emerging quite rapidly. Witness, for instance, China's considered proposal for a final compromise between the US and North Korea, which it would not alter under pressure, insisting that they "take it or leave it." We are now witnessing detailed negotiations between the US and North Korea.

For those of you who are interested in Marxist theory, this reasoning is not idle. It represents an application of Historical and Dialectical Materialism for an understanding of international relations in the 21st century. The 19th, 20th and 21st centuries have

different experiences and changed interrelationships which are reflected in historical analysis. A clear expression that differentiates relationships is an important factor in growing mass understanding. We can only hope that our friends and associates who are interested in a better world will adopt vocabulary that clarifies conceptual differences.

We also attach an article from www.chinaview.com cross-posted in China Daily titled "70% of Americans See China as an Economic Super Power in 10 Years," which prompted this critique. We are sending this note to China Daily as well, since nowhere in their article do they refer to China's Peaceful Rise to a World Power. Furthermore, we call your attention to two articles in today's Chinese press, copies of which we attach. The People's Daily published Sr. Bush's statement on the front page in the article titled "China's Rise is Conducive to World Peace." China Daily reported from Kyoto, Japan, where former President Bush, at a press conference, reiterated US support of the "One China Policy" and urged Beijing and Taipei to settle their differences peacefully.

New York City
November 18, 2005

70% Americans see China as economic superpower in 10 years

www.chinaview.cn 2005-11-15 16:32:21

BEIJING, Nov. 15 -- A significant number of Americans believe China will be stronger economically than the U.S. in 10 years, according to the latest Harris Interactive poll, and many believe that strength may pose a threat to U.S. interests.

About 70% of U.S. adults say they think China will become an economic superpower in the next 10 years, according to the online poll of 1,822 adults. About 41% think Japan will be as well, followed by the European Union (31%), United Kingdom (25%), India (20%) and Russia (15%).

While just under half of U.S. adults think no countries or regions will be stronger than the U.S. in 10 years, nearly as many U.S. adults (42%) think China will be stronger than the U.S. Only 18% believe Japan will be stronger, and 15% feel the European Union will be.

But the poll indicates Americans are most concerned about the impact China's economic strength may have on the U.S. More than a third of U.S. adults polled say they are very or extremely concerned about China's economic strength and 53% of those polled think China will have a negative effect on the future of the U.S. economy.

Other countries that are perceived to have more of a negative effect than positive effect on the U.S. economy include India (36% vs. 15%) and Russia (25% vs. 13%).

Meanwhile, the poll finds most Americans feel it would be in the best interests of the U.S. if certain other countries or regions are encouraged to grow and prosper. For the traditionally strong U.S. allies, the United Kingdom (47% vs. 7%), Japan (40% vs. 25%) and the European Union (29% vs. 22%) are thought to have more of a potential positive effect than negative effect on the U.S. economy.

(Source: China Daily/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ONLINE)

Bush: US supports 'one-China' policy
(Reuters/chinadaily.com.cn)
Updated: 2005-11-16 11:37

KYOTO, Japan - US President George W. Bush reiterated on Wednesday that Washington supported a "one-China policy" and said that Beijing and Taipei should settle their differences peacefully.

US President George W. Bush gestures during a joint news conference with Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at the Kyoto State Guest House November 16, 2005. [Reuters]

Bush is on a week-long, four-nation Asian tour that will also take him to China, South Korea and Mongolia.

He made the remarks at a joint news conference with his close ally, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, following talks with the Japanese leader.

He said the one-China policy remains unchanged. "It is based on the three communiques, the Taiwan Relations Act and our belief that there should be no unilateral attempts to change the status quo by either side."

Bush said the US will continue to stress the need for a dialogue between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan "that leads to a peaceful resolution of their differences."

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in her meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing in Busan, South Korea, also said that the US will adhere to the "one-China" policy, stressing that the policy will not change, according to a Xinhua report.

She said China, as a rising power, is playing an increasing important role in the world affairs.

The US cherishes its relations with China, and hopes to maintain a high-level contact with China. Rice said Bush is looking forward to his upcoming China visit.

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said recent China-US relations have grown steadily, and that the two countries' mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields are fruitful.

Li said properly handling the Taiwan issue is a key to ensuring a steady growth of China-US ties.

He said China appreciates the United States' repeated reiteration that it sticks to the "one China" policy, abides by the three China-US joint communiques, and opposes "Taiwan independence."

Li said China hopes the United States will work together with China to oppose and contain "Taiwan independence" and safeguard the peace of the Taiwan Strait and the China-US relations which are of overall importance.

Trade and currency

Bush urged China on Wednesday to act to bring more flexibility to its currency system and to rein in the yawning US-China trade imbalance.

He said that China's access to American markets had played an important role in its development as an economic power and he noted that the United States had supported China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

In return, he said, "China needs to provide a level playing field for American businesses seeking access to China's market."

Amid growing complaints by US politicians, manufacturers and workers about the trade deficit with China and the Chinese currency, Bush faces pressure to take a tough line such issues.

Bush said China had made a "good beginning" on trade with the July revaluation of its currency and with statements made by Chinese President Hu Jintao promising to address the bilateral trade gap and to crack down on the counterfeiting of US music, software and other goods.

But he added: "China needs to take action to ensure that these goals are implemented."

In July, after some two years of intense speculation in financial markets of a currency adjustment, China revalued the yuan by 2.1 percent, scrapped an 11-year-old peg to the dollar and said it would allow its currency to appreciate as much as 0.3 percent per day against the dollar.

But since then the yuan has moved little, rising a total of about 0.3 percent against the US dollar over three months.

Chinese officials have repeatedly said they will allow greater yuan flexibility but only gradually.

Senior Bush: China's rise is conducive to world peace

I didn't expect that Sino-US relations could have developed so well and so fast when I lived in China in 1974 and 1975. Chinese leaders have formulated very constructive policies for the development of bilateral ties, which have brought China-US relationship into the best period in history. My elder son, that is, the present US President would come to China very soon, he also cherishes very good feeling for China. He attaches great importance to developing China-US ties and he agrees that the bilateral relationship is in the best period in history, there is great room for improvement of Sino-US relations.

Bilateral ties between China and the [United States](#) have undergone tremendous change in recent years. Our two sides share the view that China-US relationship is one of the most important bilateral ties in the world. In my opinion, America hopes to see a stable, prosperous China. China's peace and maintenance of friendly and good-neighborly relations conform to the interests of China and the United States. We are very happy to see that China has played an exceedingly vital role in the [six-party talks](#) on the Korean Peninsula nuke issue. We all know that China has experienced enormous change in the past decades. At present, China is playing a positive role in international affairs. [Beijing](#) and Washington are carrying out very close cooperation in such areas as the prevention of nuclear proliferation, counter-terrorism and coping with the warming up of global climate and the prevention and treatment of avian influenza. There exist a multitude of common interests between us. We both hope to promote the development of human rights and free trade. Advancing cooperation in these aspects can help promote the development of bilateral relations. The further development of relations between our two countries is not only beneficial to the interests of the peoples of China and the United States, but is also advantageous to the peace and stability of Asia and the world at large.

As humankind has entered into the 21st century, we should have more lofty ideals. It is my persistent view that Sino-US relations remain the most important bilateral ties in the world and are exerting a vitally important role in the world security situation. China's rise is an irresistible historical trend, I believe that China's rise should be beneficial to world peace. Fifty years ago, China was in a relatively closed state, mutual understandings between China and the United States were exceedingly limited. Today the situation is quite different. As everybody knows, my son is coming to China for a visit very soon, here I may say a few words on behalf of him and that is, let's concert our efforts to make up the many opportunities for mutual understandings which we had lost over the past decades. We are also aware that there are still some people in the

United States who are not so acquainted with China's present situation, it is hoped that they would have opportunities to know the changes that have taken place in China.

There have emerged many episodes and twists and turns in the course of the development of Sino-US relations, but the future is bright for ties between the two countries. Our efforts would defuse misunderstanding, and we both believe that bilateral relations would definitely have a very broad prospect. History also tells us that China and America should not become foes, but rather should be friends. Because our two nations have the common desire, both hoping that our descendants would have a beautiful future, and are expecting world peace and prosperity, and we hope that the friendly relationship featuring mutually beneficial cooperation between China and America will continue to develop.

The article by former US President George Bush is published on the front page of People's Daily Overseas Edition, Nov. 16 and translated by People's Daily Online

[People's Daily Online -- Senior Bush: China's rise is conducive to world peace](#)

THE PRINCIPLE OF SHARING WEALTH

“FAIR TRADE” vs. “FREE TRADE”

Capitalism from its beginning, when it first fought against Feudalist restrictions of trade, inaugurated the slogan "Free-Trade" which then became the shibboleth of capitalist expansion from proletarianization of the peasantry to form a wage working class in its primitive accumulation drive followed by a number of stages of industrialization and imperialism to the present stage of "single super-power imperialism" of the U.S.A., the prime progenitor of "Free Trade" today. Witness U.S. driven Globalization in the current (and hopefully last) stage of imperialism and domination of economic integration through the WTO, IMF, and the World Bank in their present modes.

Opposition to this highest form of imperialism is evident in resistance from many directions, not alone from developing countries that seek a share for their own people in economic growth, but also among capitalist countries defending themselves against unbridle US competition and empire building. Resistance is also evident in mass movements around the world against the imperialist content of WTO driven Globalization, augmented by world-wide mass anti-war movements against occupation of Iraq under questionable motivations and misrepresentations.

There appears to be a growing demand to counter "Free Trade" with a 21st-century

challenge to systemic capitalist world domination. There has emerged a movement for "Fair Trade" among liberal and reform minded elements around the world, including groups in the U.S.A. and EU. What gives impetus to a "Fair Trade" movement is the maturing of the modernized segment of China in its Eastern and Southeastern areas as distinct from Central and Western under-developed regions which, for historic and geographic reasons, will take a good deal of time to integrate through new infrastructure, enterprise, land improvement through fertilization and water supply and encouragement of entrepreneurship, conquering unevenness and achieving the benefits of overall development and modernization.

It is China as a trading and investment partner in high tech and scientific means of production and distribution, a new major player advocating "Fair Trade," that extends the opportunity for mutual development in the chain of world economic integration. Ironically, it was Lenin in 1924, before his death from the bullet wound that incapacitated him after the end of the Civil War, who regretted that world capitalism turned down the offer to invest in Russia under his New Economic Policy with the remark that "World integration will inevitably force them to come to us". Following the demise of the Soviet Union which never did integrate into the world economy, the success of modernization in ¼ of China which emerged as a consequence of fundamental structural change from a rice-bowl economy to planned inclusion of market mechanisms and opening to the west for a surge of technology and capital investment, establishing world economic relations. This has bolstered the possibility of making "Fair Trade" a growing reality in world development. The new "fair trade" slogan will become a more and more acceptable principle until it grows to dominate relations among many nations, reflecting an underlying concept of the United Nations and making possible consensual arrangements as nations move forward to a higher level of economic and political interplay, each in its own way and pace, into an era that moves away from single superpower domination.

If in fact this is so, we are entering another phase in the march to a new system of social relations. It will take time and struggle against the established wealth, controlled by ultra-conservatism. Nonetheless we must be confident that mass forces will achieve the extension of economic democracy. Hail the possibility and the struggle to create a new "Fair Trade" epoch.

December 1, 2003

New York City

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