

Subject: "Mishandling the China Challenge"
Date: 8/15/2005 1:54:36 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: [SJGluck](#)
To: comments@fareedzakaria

Dear Mr. Zakaria,

I'm not a regular reader of Newsweek. By happenstance, I read your column on "Mishandling the China Challenge." It is a breath of fresh air, going much further than the Wall Street Journal editorial that criticized right wing politics. Not being familiar with your work (a self criticism), I hasten to check your biography and am elated to find that your views will reach over 25,000,000 worldwide and may help rein in the unilateralism and misleading motivations of our present administration. Quite frankly, it has the scent of a corporate-controlled style of "fascism."

I've been a China watcher for generations and even made a study of their two revolutions from a Marxist point of view, 1949 aping the Russian model, and 1978 launching modernization under the rubric "Socialism With Chinese Characteristics," essentially Marxism coupled with a strong dose of Nationalism and Pragmatism. The do represent a real challenge in a fair competition.

How true your statement, "those who only remember the past are condemned to misread the future." Would you go so far, not necessarily in your public statements, to agree with me that China's economy is different from Western industrialized nations? They have sources of social capital accumulation and capabilities for macro planned growth through control of capital flows to deal with economic cycles and maintain a level and stable development beyond the possibilities of private capitalist economies. We may be moving into a century of transition, from the dominance of capitalism as a world system, to something new that has a broader social content. USA financial dominance may be the last defense against historic change. Notwithstanding the fact that we are witnessing internal upheavals in China, regressive in terms of a new society, like failure to anticipate problems of the workers and peasants who put the regime in power in the first place and seem to have been overlooked in the 1990s haste to modernize and irrevocably integrate China into the world economic integration.

How true also is your exposure of Rumsfeld and the ambivalences of the Bush Administration, since they are often driven by a right wing base which disregards the fact that many US corporate associations and investments have grown in interdependence with China's workshops and markets. Strong supporters of the Republican Party have and are benefiting from this association. Let's not talk about the Democrats who cannot muster a consistent line with regards to China. Perhaps changes in the American Labor Movement might shock the Democrats into recognizing that China did not steal American jobs. Both Parties are guilty of financial discrimination against China, not alone in rejecting a legitimate, profitable, nonpolitical, commercial offer to purchase Unical, even after the IBM deal that was consummated without major negative consequences, and refusal to sell heavy equipment and high-tech that would reduce the lopsided trade balance and the increase of USA indebtedness, a growing cancer that the next generation will have to cure or suffer from the usual consequences.

Many thanks for your honesty. I'm pleased to learn about you and will become an avid reader. As an introduction, I humbly attach three items, a list of activities related to China over many years, a synopsis of an address I will be giving at the 20th National Convention of The US China Peoples Friendship Association in Schenectady, NY in October and a Who's Who bio. Just one more thought, at the New School for Social Research over 20 years in the 70s and 80s, I specialized in a series of courses on various aspects of Classical Marxism and am proud to say that one course, "Comparative Socialism," predated the current developments, which accept the fact that social change in any direction towards socialism would take different steps and have different characteristics in every country as they develop.

I look forward to the possibility of having a face-to-face exchange with you. Be my guest at lunch at the National Arts Club. At 89, I am working on a book on China. I'd be happy to share my views with you. You may reach me by email (sjgluck@aol.com) or at my office (I'm generally in from 11am-6pm) at telephone number 212-929-9850.

Sincerely,

Sidney J. Gluck

Former President of the US China Peoples Friendship Association, NY Chapter

Retired Faculty Member of the New School for Social Research