

The US and China: One Side is Losing, the Other is Winning

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Introduction:

Asian capitalism, notably China and South Korea are competing with the US for global power. Asian global power is driven by *dynamic economic growth*, while the US pursues a strategy of *military-driven empire building*.

One Day's Read of the Financial Times

Even a cursory read of a single issue of the *Financial Times* (December 28, 2009) illustrates the divergent strategies toward empire building. On page one, the lead article on the US is on its expanding military conflicts and its 'war on terror', entitled "*Obama Demands Review of Terror List*". In contrast, there are two page-one articles on China, which describe China's launching of the world's fastest long-distance passenger train service and China's decision to maintain its currency pegged to the US dollar as a mechanism to promote its robust export sector. While Obama turns the US focus on a fourth battle front (Yemen) in the 'war on terror' (after Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan), the *Financial Times* reports on the same page that a South Korean consortium has won a \$20.4 billion dollar contract to develop civilian nuclear power plants for the United Arab Emirates, beating its US and European competitors.

On page two of the FT there is a longer article elaborating on the new Chinese rail system, highlighting its superiority over the US rail service: The Chinese ultra-modern train takes passengers between two major cities, *1,100 kilometers, in less than 3 hours* whereas the US Amtrack 'Express' takes *3 ½ hours to cover 300 kilometers* between Boston and New York. While the US passenger rail system deteriorates from lack of investment and maintenance, China has spent \$17 billion dollars constructing its express line. China plans to construct 18,000 kilometers of new track for its ultra-modern system by 2012, while the US will spend an equivalent amount in financing its '*military surge*' in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as opening a new war front in Yemen.

China builds a transport system *linking producers and labor markets* from the interior provinces with the manufacturing centers and ports on the coast, while on page 4 the *Financial Times* describes how the US is welded to its *policy of confronting* the 'Islamist threat' with an endless 'war on terror'. The decades-long wars and occupations of Moslem countries have diverted hundreds of billions of dollars of *public funds to a militarist policy* with no benefit to the US, while China *modernizes its civilian economy*. While the White House and Congress subsidize and pander to the militarist-colonial state of Israel with its insignificant resource base and market, alienating 1.5 billion Moslems (Financial Times -

page 7), China's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 10 fold over the past 26 years (FT – page 9). While the US allocated over \$1.4 *trillion* dollars to Wall Street and the military, increasing the fiscal and current account deficits, *doubling unemployment and perpetuating the recession* (FT – page 12), the Chinese government releases a *stimulus package directed at its domestic manufacturing and construction sectors*, leading to an 8% growth in GDP, a significant reduction of unemployment and '*re-igniting linked economies*' in Asia, Latin America and Africa (also on page 12).

While the US was spending time, resources and personnel in running 'elections' for its *corrupt clients* in Afghanistan and Iraq, and participating in *pointless mediations* between its intransigent Israeli partner and its impotent Palestinian client, the South Korean government backed a consortium headed by the Korea Electric Power Corporation in *its successful bid on the \$20.4 billion dollar nuclear power deal*, opening the way for other billion-dollar contracts in the region (FT – page 13).

While the US was spending over \$60 billion dollars on internal policing and multiplying the number and size of its '*homeland*' security agencies in pursuit of potential 'terrorists', China was investing \$25 billion dollars in '*cementing its energy trading relations*' with Russia (FT – page 3).

The story told by the articles and headlines in a single day's issue of the *Financial Times* reflects a deeper reality, one that illustrates the great divide in the world today. The Asian countries, led by China, are reaching *world power status on the basis of their massive domestic and foreign investments* in manufacturing, transportation, technology and mining and mineral processing. In contrast, the *US is a declining world power* with a deteriorating society resulting from its *military-driven empire building* and its financial-speculative centered economy:

1. Washington pursues *minor* military clients in Asia; while China expands its trading and investment agreements with *major* economic partners – Russia, Japan, South Korea and elsewhere.
2. Washington *drains* the domestic economy to finance overseas wars. China extracts minerals and energy resources to *create* its domestic job market in manufacturing.
3. The US invests in *military technology* to target local insurgents challenging US client regimes; China invests in *civilian technology* to create competitive exports.
4. China begins to *restructure its economy* toward developing the country's interior and allocates greater social spending to redress its gross imbalances and inequalities while the US *rescues and reinforces the parasitical financial sector*, which plundered industries (strips assets via mergers and acquisitions) and speculates on financial objectives with no impact on employment, productivity or competitiveness.
5. The US *multiplies wars and troop build-ups* in the Middle East, South Asia, the Horn of Africa and Caribbean; China *provides investments and loans* of over \$25 billion dollars in building infrastructure, mineral extraction, energy production and assembly plants in Africa.
6. China signs *multi-billion dollar trade and investment agreements* with Iran, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Bolivia, *securing access to strategic energy, mineral and agricultural resources*; Washington provides \$6 billion in *military aid* to Colombia, *secures*

seven military bases from President Uribe (to threaten Venezuela), *backs a military coup* in tiny Honduras and denounces Brazil and Bolivia for diversifying its economic ties with Iran.

7. China increases economic relations with *dynamic* Latin American economies, incorporating over 80% of the continent's population; the US partners with the *failed state* of Mexico, which has the worst economic performance in the hemisphere and where powerful drug cartels control wide regions and penetrate deep into the state apparatus.

Conclusion

China is *not an exceptional* capitalist country. Under Chinese capitalism, labor is exploited; inequalities in wealth and access to services are rampant; peasant-farmers are displaced by mega-dam projects and Chinese companies recklessly extract minerals and other natural resources in the Third World. However, China has created scores of millions of manufacturing jobs, reduced poverty faster and for more people in the shortest time span in history. Its banks mostly finance production. China doesn't bomb, invade or ravage other countries. In contrast, US capitalism has been harnessed to a monstrous global military machine that drains the domestic economy and lowers the domestic standard of living in order to fund its never-ending foreign wars. Finance, real estate and commercial capital undermine the manufacturing sector, drawing profits from speculation and cheap imports.

China *invests* in petroleum-rich countries; the US *attacks* them. China *sells* plates and bowls for Afghan wedding feasts; US drone aircraft *bomb* the celebrations. China *invests* in extractive industries, but, unlike European colonialists, it *builds* railroads, ports, airfields and *provides* easy credit. China *does not finance and arm ethnic wars* and 'color rebellions' like the US CIA. China *self-finances* its own growth, trade and transportation system; the US *sinks under a multi trillion dollar debt* to finance its endless wars, bail out its Wall Street banks and prop up other non-productive sectors while many millions remain without jobs.

China will grow and exercise power *through the market*; the US will engage in *endless wars on its road to bankruptcy* and internal decay. China's *diversified growth* is linked to dynamic economic partners; US *militarism* has tied itself to narco-states, warlord regimes, the overseers of banana republics and the last and worst bona fide racist colonial regime, Israel.

China *entices* the world's consumers. US global wars *provoke terrorists* here and abroad.

China may encounter crises and even workers rebellions, but it has the *economic resources* to accommodate them. The US is in crisis and may face domestic rebellion, but it has *depleted its credit* and its factories are all abroad and its overseas bases and military installations are liabilities, not assets. There are fewer factories in the US to re-employ its desperate workers: A social upheaval could see the American workers occupying the empty shells of its former factories.

To become a '*normal state*' we have to start all over: Close all investment banks and military bases abroad and return to America. We have to begin the long march toward rebuilding industry to serve our *domestic needs*, to living within *our own natural environment* and forsake empire building in favor of *constructing a democratic socialist republic*.

When will we pick up the *Financial Times* or any other daily and read about our own high-speed rail line carrying American passengers from New York to Boston in less than one hour? When will our own factories supply our hardware stores? When will we build wind, solar and ocean-based energy generators? When will we abandon our military bases and let the world's warlords, drug traffickers and terrorists face the justice of their own people?

Will we ever read about these in the *Financial Times*?

In China, it all started with a *revolution*...

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