
The U.S.A.-China Summit

Shaping the 21st Century for the betterment of mankind

by Helga Zepp LaRouche

What is at stake in the upcoming summit between President William Clinton and President Jiang Zemin is much more, than the future of relations between the country which is presently the world's only superpower, and the world's largest country in terms of population, which soon will be a superpower. This meeting represents a crossroads for the 21st Century, which will be either a world of chaos, hunger, wars, and epidemics, in which only mafias, armed gangs, and private armies have any degree of control in a world otherwise ruled by barbarism, or will see the greatest economic boom in the history of all mankind, with the blooming of renaissances of many cultures around the world, in the sense in which John Quincy Adams thought of a community of principle among the nations of this planet. The nature of relations between the United States and China, which can be established beginning with this summit, is the key to which way things go.

The good thing is, that both the Chinese government and President Clinton want to establish a positive relationship between the two countries, and both sides are keenly aware, that stability and peace in the world are impossible without it. The danger is, that what could become a great turning point in the history of mankind, will be diluted by a poisoning of the atmosphere. There is presently a whole barrage of anti-Chinese campaigns under way, which have absolutely nothing to do with the realities of China, but are an expression of the same geopolitical thinking that has already caused two world wars in this century. The campaigns include the five anti-China bills which have been introduced into Congress, and the hysterical campaign around Tibet, involving three (!) Hollywood movies, and rallies and demonstrations in many U.S. cities.

Myth vs. reality

The problem is, that most Americans, long affected by neo-isolationist tendencies, know very little about the rest of the world, and China in particular. The reality is, that China is not a "yellow peril," and it is not an enemy of the United States. It does not have an aggressive posture, and it does not plan to take over the world. On the contrary, China is presently

virtually the only country in the world that is progressing economically, and, by comparison, it is doing more for the improvement of the human rights of its citizens than any other country in the world, by liberating an ever-greater percentage of its citizens from oppressing poverty — an aspect which became painfully clear to me, when I recently travelled from China to India, where the situation for the 50% of the people living below the poverty level, has not improved in the last 15 years, but worsened.

The idea that China would soon represent a military danger, is absurd. It is practically impossible that China would attack Taiwan within the next 25 years, since that would require total domination of air and sea, a capability which China is far from having, since it has just started the modernization of its Air Force, and also its Navy is so far not impressive. Taiwan, on the other hand, profitted from President George Bush's clearing of the sale of 150 F-16 fighters and 12 anti-submarine helicopters, followed by France selling 60 Mirage 2000 aircraft. The assessment of Adm. Richard Macke, that China does not represent a threat either now or in the medium-term future, was on the mark.

On the other hand, provided that mankind does not slide into a new catastrophe, China will be a new economic and political superpower at the beginning of the next century, anywhere between the years 2010 and 2020, and nobody can or should deny China the right of any sovereign country to develop military capabilities which will be adequate to the size of its population. Also, the thinking behind the bill introduced by Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), which threatens to punish Chinese sales of Silkworm missiles to Iran, is a relic of the evil Webster doctrine, which assumes de facto One World Government control. Why should the sovereign country China not sell a tactical weapon system to another sovereign country? Such a sale only concerns the jurisdiction of the two countries involved.

The security threat

If one eliminates all mythologies and prejudices, a rather surprising reality comes to the fore, namely that the actual



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security threat facing the United States and China is pretty much the same.

The only actual dangers to China are presently twofold. First, a major disturbance of the international financial system, let alone a total collapse of this system, would have very serious effects on the performance of the Chinese economy, and, without the kind of reform Lyndon LaRouche has suggested, any prolonged disturbance of Chinese economic production could indeed lead to very significant domestic destabilizations.

It is not hard to see, that the effect of such a financial collapse on the United States would be comparable. If the majority of Americans were to lose either their stocks, mutual funds, or pensions, Albanian-type conditions, as they developed after the collapse of the so-called pyramid schemes, are quite thinkable inside the United States, especially in light of the fact that 51% of the eligible voters did not participate in the last Presidential election, which represented a growing sign of disenchantment with the government and the political process.

The second immediate security danger is equally common to China and the United States—as well as the rest of the world, for that matter. If Russia were to disintegrate, collapse into regional chaos, and different parts of the military or the mafia were to get ahold of various weapon systems, including nuclear capabilities, the world could literally go to hell very rapidly.

One could name a number of other dangers touching upon the national security interest of both countries, such as a secure energy and raw materials supply, for which, obviously, stability and peace in Central Asia is one of the relevant questions.

But the point to be made here, is that apart from the perceived national interest of each country and the so-called bilateral agenda emanating from it, the more fundamental reality is, that mankind is really sitting in one boat, and China and the United States are simply the two strongest oarsmen, who could move it out of the maelstrom.

A policy in the interest of both nations

China has engaged in the policy to build the Eurasian Land-Bridge, which is not only supposed to bring the economic development of the coastal and southern parts of China into the inner regions, but also to connect all of Eurasia through infrastructure, and in this way to bring economic development to all previously underdeveloped areas, not only on the Eurasian continent, but eventually also in Africa and Ibero-America.

This program is the only way to overcome the two biggest and common security threats to both the United States and China, since it represents the only way that Russia can be saved from the abyss, and that the international financial system can be reorganized away from its present speculative bubble, back to the production of physical goods.