

WHY CHINA IS NOT REPLACING AMERICA



Biswasdip TIGELA

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Norwood Gardens, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1J

direct.letter@gmail.com

Author blog: www.biswas.com.np

E-mail: biswasdip@ymail.com

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the memory of my beloved father, Late Mil Bahadur Limbu (21/05/1939-27/03/2016).

He inspired me to be loyal and to work hard.

He was a farmer, a good parent and a real hero.

For several hundred years, the world has seen powerful countries attempting to displace an existing global hegemon, the powerful country that dominated the global world order. This meant that often the world would see a major conflict, and a new global hegemon would emerge if the challenger prevailed to displace the previous global hegemon. After World War II, the US appeared as a global hegemon. The question today in international politics is would China displace the US after nearly a century of the US dominance of the global order? This is the question Biswasdip Tigela delved in his master's thesis. Would the Chinese challenge invite a major global crisis like World Wars? Or, in a more interdependent contemporary world, the future would see a multilateral world, where several global powers, and not a single global hegemon, would influence international politics? Tigela examines this question from the perspective of the Chinese challenge to the US power in this book, a revised version of his master's thesis.

Professor Mahendra Lawoti

PhD, Department of Political Science,

Western Michigan University

19 November 2021

The world will be eager to look at China through this transparent window that Biswas has crafted so perfectly

Govinda Raj Bhattarai, Ph D
Professor of English (Retired) TU

I know that Biswas, already an established writer, had nurtured an indomitable desire for earning higher degrees and learning more. When I saw him in the U K in the year 2018, he had already joined a reputed university there for earning a Masters' degree in political science.

This year I got an opportunity to go through the present book (WHY CHINA IS NOT RELACING AMERICA) which is based on his research study. This tries to present a brief analysis of China's political position in the present-day world.

For most of us, China has remained a closed nation for a long. Its tremendous progress in different areas has led to various guesses speculations therefore people throughout the world are curious to unravel the mystery.

I had an opportunity to visit China twice during the previous decade. Each time it was like a guided tour—from the airport to the program hall or hotel, visits to some historic places, and back home. Linguistic and cultural barriers have left China an isolated identity. The sole aim of Chinese leaders has been material progress that no nation ventures to compare with. Today there is not a single country without one or more China towns or China markets that are thronged always by people for cheaper goods.

Mr. Tigela has very clearly documented the advanced pace of development led by China and has allowed us to see some hurdles and problems that China has been facing. Some of them are like South China Sea dispute, Uyghurs' demands, disputes related to Xinjiang, Taiwan, Tibet, the protests of Hong Kong, etc. All these are interesting facets of the Chinese scenario. Biswas has drawn very heavily from a large number of authentic resource materials, researches, and studies. His reference list shows that the study is so deep, wide and updated at the same time.

Most people hold bias ideas about China. They either praise its high-rise buildings, wide roads, economy, and all-around development or detest it for its authoritarian stand

and being a closed nation. Human rights must have been a mysterious entity there. But Biswas has laid things bare very convincingly taking no side. He is impartial and impassioned researcher. It is a very interesting reading material, a small window to see China's real situation through.

Though Biswas wishes China to lead the world power and replace the US hegemony however he puts in conclusion convincingly that for unknown years this will remain impossible. He sums up in concluding remarks "China is already a big economic power, but hegemony consists of economics, military, foreign policy, and more. Therefore, the US is still a hegemony and will go a bit longer than people predict. China will not replace the US hegemony until there are changes in their foreign policies and have more significant input in globally governed institutions."

November 29, 2021
Tribhuvan University,
Kirtipur, Kathmandu Nepal

Preface

The rise of China is a central discussion point in this book. A few years ago, China was under the list of developing countries, but when Dang Xiaoping changed policy and opened the doors for foreign direct investment, China then later joined the World Trade Organisation, and then the Chinese economy started rocketing. Some global institutions also played a role to support the Chinese economy. China is miraculously producing goods cheaper, and exporting are the strength of China. China's major supply route is the South China Sea which is an area that has been disputed heavily about its ownership and use. Also, China has problems with Uyghurs, Taiwan, Tibet, and Hong Kong. When the US launched their 'pivot to Asia strategy' as retaliation, China revived their Silk Road Initiative. 'People rich first', Xiaoping's idea, is rebranding China as socialism with Chinese characteristics. And China has a communist system in politics whilst the economy is a state control capitalist.

Leader Mao Zedong said 'political power comes from the barrel of a gun.' During his tenure, 20 million Chinese people were killed, and a communist government was established. However, recent Chinese power is gaining from trade, export economy and development infrastructure, not from the 'barrel of the gun'.

Due to globalisation and cosmopolitan concept, the global world order is rapidly changing. Whatever we expected from the US, if we start expecting it from China, then that is a sign that the world order has us changing. China is already an economic power but not yet a hegemony power like the US. China will not replace the US position unless China develops influence in the global governance institutions and changes the foreign policy. But the west is trying to retain hegemony; therefore, it may take longer than expected.

China was not a colonial country like Britain, Dutch, France, Spain and Portugal. China has its own political ideology, belief and practice, so many people believe that China is not a nation-state but a civilisation. Those who only know the western liberal democracy, those people don't understand China. China is a rising superpower country without having attacked another country in the last 40 years. They are expanding Chinese influence through trade exporting and infrastructure development. If China replaced the US position as the hegemony power, the world could be more peaceful and prosperous.

Acknowledgements

During the Covid-19 pandemic, China controlled the spreading of Covid-19 in an exemplary way; also, China was exporting goods at an unbelievably low price globally. Therefore, I was interested in reading about China. In my master's degree lesson, China was an attractive topic, which grabbed my interest in doing my thesis about China.

To choose this topic, I had advice from my lecturer, Dr Soeren Kail. Due to his departure from my university, another lecturer was allocated as my supervisor Dr Laura Cashman. She was the head of the political department when I started my 1st-year degree in 2017. She knows my strengths and weaknesses; that is the reason I felt so comfortable with her. After her guidance, I started to write this dissertation. A few times, I have changed the structures of this research paper because of her guidance and advice. Finally, I have completed it.

I want to thank my wife, Bhojkumari Limbu, daughters Kalpana Limbu, Maliyana Limbu and son Tangnam Limbu who provided me with a learning environment at home. I tried to go to the local town library, but it was not available all the time, and it was not open for long enough. Also, I went to my university library, but it was quite far and closed earlier than usual due to the Covid-19 lockdown, so I could not find a helpful place. I even tried to go study at the park during good weather, but even that was not compatible because of the early closure of toilets and other facilities. I ultimately decided to stay home and re-arranged my study table. Although we were in a lockdown due to COVID-19, and there was no good learning atmosphere, I have completed my research paper on time. Later, I added a few chapters with a few corrections and ultimately converted it into a book.

Additionally, I would like to thank my supervisor Dr Cashman, who gave me an instant reply with guidance and advice; my daughter, Maliyana, who helped me with the grammar of this book and Prof Mahendra Lawoti, who wrote a few words for my book. Finally, I want to thank my literary guardian, Prof Govindaraj Bhattarai, who has helped me with my literature journey for the past two decades and is my inspiration, supporter, and guide.

List of abbreviations

AI	: Artificial Intelligence
B3W	: Build Back Better World
BRI	: Belt and Road initiative
BRICS	: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CCP	: China Communist Party
CGTN	: China Global Television Network
COPHC	: China Overseas Port Holding Company
CPPCC	: Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
CRIP	: China, Russia, Iran and Pakistan
DPP	: Democracy Progressive Party
FDI	: foreign direct investment
GATT	: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IMF	: International Monetary Fund
IMO	: International Maritime Organisation
ISS	: International Space Station

KMT	: Kuomintang
NATO	: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NPC:	National People's Congress
PCA	: Permanent Court of Arbitration
PRC	: People's Republic of China
ROC	: Republic of China
SDR	: Special Drawing Right
UAV:	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UNPKOs	: United Nation Peacekeeping Operations
UPU	: Universal Postal Union
WHO	: World Health Organization
WTO	: World Trade Organisation

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Chapter 1

Introduction

China is rising as a superpower in the world and may overtake the US very soon, or it may have already overtaken the US. China was a low-income country in the 1970s, where per capita income was \$120 a year. Still, economic reform in 1979 led to the World bank recognising China as a lower-middle-income economy by 1997. After 13 years, the bank recognised China as upper-middle-income in 2010 (Ahlstrom, 2020). However, some institutions still list China as a developing country rather than a developed country. There are a few strategic reasons for remaining as a developing country, such as the artificial devaluation of currency and postal fee, transportation privileges, and more. China is number one at exporting goods globally and can produce any items at a low price which is a strength of China.

The US is a world hegemony, and its five eyes' allies and G7 group are key players in global politics. However, in the last two decades, China has been rising as a power economically and militarily. In addition, they have gained more significant influence in global institutions such as the United Nations and departments, the WHO, WTO and more. Similarly, China is encountering against the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), because the US and Western countries dominate these institutions. These are assets that give the US and western countries domination over developing countries.

When the USSR collapsed, then the world power became unipolar. During that period, some middle east countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya had problems. Later, Russia and China rose in power, becoming the check and balance for the US hegemony. According to the war theory: Unipolar power killed more innocent people rather than the bipolar or multipolar.

During the President Trump's administration, the US vs China trade relationship escalated because China devaluated its currency, Yuan, to allow cheap labour in China. If labour is cheap, then the product cost will be cheaper, so they can export to everywhere in the world. This idea to make a product cheaper helped China's economy become successful. Furthermore, their political ideology, which is communism, and state-backed capitalism also helped their economy.

China is putting pressure on changing the global order in the economy, military, and political ideology where we may have to rethink western liberal democracy ideologies. So in 1992, China and Russia agreed to develop a defence system and to make better weapons. This resulted in third world countries buying from them instead of the US, stealing the weapon supply trade from the US. Therefore, China is a huge problematic country for the US and western countries. Russia is advancing in defence technology but not in the economy; therefore, Russia is not a big headache for the US or targets like China.

My research interest is how China improves and rises as an economic power. What are the key ideas to success in trade? Why are the US and its allies placing sanctions against China? Where is the actual position of China at this moment in the global order? Is there any political ideology underpinning success in the economy? How was the Chinese economy and trade before they joined the WTO? Was it fair to distribute trade opportunities? The economic rise and its consequences in China and the military rise and its consequences in the global dominance. An overview of some important international institutions: Such as the UN, and the WTO will be explored. Taiwan, Hong Kong, Uighurs, the South China Sea, including manmade island and Belt Road Initiative (BRI) effects, will be analysed and examined to decide whether the rise of China is changing global order or not.

1. The Rise of China - Overview

China is the most populated country in the world. There are around 1.4 billion people, which means China has the biggest number of workforces globally and is successfully managing cheap food and living standards within China. This means the workforce can work for small wages/salaries. Whatever amount they receive is big enough for them to sustain the home. The Chinese government is carefully maintaining the inflation rate. The most important point for the Chinese currency Yuan is pegging with the US dollar \$1= 6.47 when the Batten wood system collapsed, and the US dollar became the universal currency in the world. Chinese Yuan is pegged with the US dollar, which gives more stability for the Chinese economy. The Chinese economy has been increasing every year for the last four decades, and the annual Chinese government budget is also increasing in high percentage. There is a \$202 billion budget for 2021, which is 6.8% higher than last year budget (McGerty, 2021). China is geographically located in a good zone where all seaports can operate for 12 months in the coastal lines, and Yangtze, Yellow and Pearl rivers play a major role for the Chinese economy (Yangtze and Yellow rivers, 2017).

China is not only better in trade, but they also have different ideologies to run the states. They do not have religion-based political parties in China. However, there is an Uyghur independent militant problem, but that is not a big

problem for the Chinese sovereignty. Nevertheless, China is always experiencing pressure from western countries, and because Russia also experiences something similar, China and Russia have the alliance to develop weapons. They are going to establish the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), which will start in 2026 (Jones, 2021). Russia already declared that they would come out from NASA by 2024 and join the Chinese space project. It will significantly impact China and Russia's power, and this is a big challenge to NASA.

Map 1: China map



Map source: www.caixinglobal.com

China has a multi-party system, but, in practice, there is a one-party system that is controlled by the Chinese Communist Party (CPC). There is the participatory parliamentary system which means no one solely sits on the opposition seats on the parliament. There are almost nine political parties who have to run independently in the election party-wise. However, when they are elected, they have to participate in the government according to the proportion of the gaining vote and seat's proportionality. Therefore, the Chinese government is more stable and stronger.

There are some issues, such as free Tibet, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Uighurs in north-west Xinjiang, Falun Gong's problems which are still ongoing. Press freedom is still limited, the human rights index is low, and according to Amnesty International, roughly 3,000 people were executed in China in 2014. It is a big number in proportion. Although, China is a permanent security council member of the UN. These are the evidence that China is increasing its strength in the international arena.

2. Economic rise and its consequences

China is doing much better in the economy than any other country. If the economy is getting better, then the rest of the political issues become less of a priority and maybe even disappear. During the Corona Virus (Covid-19) pandemic, the authoritarian Chinese government effectively controlled

their situation. Currently, the Reuters poll shows economic growth of 19% in the 1st quarter, which will be 6% in (Harrabin, 2021). Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, China is doing better and better. Also, China creates its own country digital currency (Aredy, 2021). It may establish a major currency globally, and it may affect the US dollar in the future.

Chapter 2

Economic Rising

A. What is power?

Power is owning a respectful recognition and ability to affect others directly or indirectly. According to Herbert and Edward: 'power is the ability to influence the behaviour of others in accordance with one's own end.' Any type of power can change other behaviour, either practical, mental, physical or theoretical behaviour. Without power, it will not be possible to change other behaviour. Hans Morgenthau agrees with Herbert, adding that 'when we speak of power, we mean man's control over the minds and actions of other men' (Williams, 2021). A Chinese Communist leader Mao Zedong said 'political power comes from the barrel of a gun' (McCord, 2018). During his tenure, 20 million Chinese people were killed, and a Communist government was established in China. But Michel Foucault said power

is everywhere because it comes from everywhere (Allen, 2009). As such, the two contradict each other. First, power comes from everywhere, not only just the barrel of a gun. Secondly, recent Chinese power is gaining from export trade economy and infrastructure development, not from the barrel of a gun. However, Zedong's idea is somehow matched with the US scenario because the US has military capacity and power and is threatening on many occasions. If the US pay a big amount for the UN budget and any global governance institutions, it maybe acceptable that they have a large influence. Furthermore, if there is a responsibility, then there should be control as well.

Machiavelli believed that seeking to exercise power with love and kindness if possible, but if necessary, a strong injury is necessary, which leaves no scope for revenge. The aim of politics is power; as Machiavelli suggests, war is the consequence, and military strength is the way to secure it (Lamus, 2016). Machiavelli's idea looks close to the idea that mankind is human and animal. In anger, humans may lose control and become an animal. Other definitions are also close with the above. For example, George Washington: 'power is capable of imposing ones will go over another by reliance on effective sanctions in case of non-compliance.' Powerful countries are not imposing sanctions only - they invaded regimes such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria (Morgenthau and Thompson, 1978). Therefore, power

study is more important than ever at this moment. Global governance institution powers are more important than ever before. Many people believe the concept of power has occupied a respectable position in the modern discussion of politics since the beginning of the 20th century. We can argue that the beginning of the 20th century had the first World War, the middle of the century had World War II, and the end of the century had the cold war. All these events were all about power clashes.

There are five characterises of power:

1. power is the capacity to influence the behaviour of others.
2. power is situational.
3. power depends on its use.
4. Power is not obsolete.
5. power has two aspects - actual and potential
(*Political Science Tutorials, 2018*).

However, Chinese characteristics have more potential aspects rather than coercive power. Machiavelli argued that military strengthening capacity would make the powerful state (Adekanye, 1985). This is why states maintain a large number of militaries, advanced weapons, UAVs, drones, robots and laser guns, nuclear and space power. Military power is a key power to protect from other nations, but power will not be sustainable without an economy.

The sources of power are knowledge, organisations such as political party, the status of an individual, especially economic status helps to attain power, skills of individual, Faith or belief, authority, mass media and personality- a leader who has charismatic personality - those people have more power.

B. Types of power

There are five types of power:

- 1) Money
 - 2) Military
 - 3) Social status or social hierarchy
 - 4) Numerical strength-election
 - 5) quality of human resources
- (political science tutorial, 2018).*

All these points are essential in political science, and the western liberal societies may meet all these criteria, but what about China? China may need to wait to meet all the criteria. This is a research point.

There are six forms of power: coercive, inductive, reactionary, implemental, attractant, and persuasive. All forms of power are situational; its application depends on the situation. If there is a weapon of mass destruction, they may have to use coercive power, or if they are working for a

future nuclear weapon, then they have to sanction them, such as Iran and North Korea.

Definition of power by Joseph S. Nye

Joseph S. Nye's definition is the most relevant definition of power; it is the ability to affect others to get the result of what he wants. There are three ways to achieve that: 1. coercive or sticks, 2. payment or carrots and 3. persuasion or attraction. Among these three coercive and carrots, powers are forms of hard power. Persuasion or attraction is a form of soft power (Nye, 2016.p3). These three forms of power are essential. Nye's mentioned that only economic or corrective power should not be used to define the American century. The US became the biggest economy in the world at the end of the 19th century but was not a major player in the world because of the US isolation foreign policy and failure to invest over Military recourses. When President Theodore Roosevelt invested in Military capability and changed the country policy isolation to accessibility, the US became a global hegemon power. At that time, China still had isolated foreign policy; therefore, its power was limited. There is the potentiality of power within limited boundaries. China should have reviewed or changed its foreign policy, and it could take time to effect in the cosmopolitan globe.

Joseph's definition is not quite right because China could have these coercive carrots and attractions power at this

moment. However, background or social status is still under developing country or still listed under developing or middle developing country list. Foremost important is Chinese foreign policy and their involvement over the globe for peacekeeping missions. They have no experience of invading any other countries in the last few decades. Knowledge and experiences are the actual key ground of power. Brave and well-reputed history makes the social status and back in the last 3/4 hundred years, China's international status was low. Consequently, China has money and military power. However, in the majority of countries, they will not accept China as a superpower country. This may take some time to convince, and it is somehow related to structuralism, where structures are centric in different locations; therefore, it will take time to change perceptions.

During the cold war, the US vs the Soviet Union had interdependency but not in the economy and society. If we look today, China vs the US, there is half a trillion dollars of trade, 350 thousand students, and almost 3 million Chinese tourists in the US. It is more complex now (Shah, 2020), and it clearly indicates that the Chinese economy is healthier than ever in history.

There is a Hindu myth called Chanakya policy: saam, daam, dand, bhed'; these four points means to persuade, purchase, punish, and exploit the weakness (Kshirsagar, 2019). It comes from a short story where Chanakya went to the

jungle one day with his three guards, and the enemy captured him and told him to surrender. Chanakya answered them, it's ok, no problem to surrender to you, but remember my armies are surrounding this jungle, and you are already in a trap now. But in reality, there were no armies, and Chanakya had just mentally defeated them. This talent is called Chanakya idea or policy, which is widely applied in south-east Asia to exercise power. China may not have these kinds of policies in the international arena; it may take time to develop. It is a matter of language and media power as well. There are almost two hundred countries among them; few countries speak Chinese mandarin, which means whatever China says, just a few people are listening, understanding, and convinced. China has the biggest population in the world, but they are in the majority within China. To have influence and power play, they should use a global language to influence, which is not available for China. The Chinese government realised this language power; therefore, since 2003, Chinese authorities started to teach English in China and established English versions on television. Also, worldwide already they have started to teach the Chinese mandarin language. The results may become visible in a few years' time; then whatever President Jinping says, the world may listen and execute the task, which will help establish Chinese hegemony.

As above mentioned, there are five types of powers: Economy, Military, Numeral number of people, social status

and quality of human resources. Let's analysis over the China position with these types.

1. Money/Economy

China was a developing country with mixed-status not so long ago. Some institutions recognise China as an underdeveloped country, and in some places, China is listed at the middle-developed countries list, but miraculously, China made significant economic progress in the last two decades. This progress was based on Deng Xiaoping's foreign direct investment (FDI) policy, which started in the 1970s. Additionally, the progress is also linked to the full-scale war between the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Kuomintang (KMT) between 1927-1949. This led to the government of the Republic of China. Ultimately, the communist party captured the regime in 1949, the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in 1966-1976, roughly 20 million people were killed and established communist rule over the country, where secularism was established. The state does not have a religion. The revolution was raised because of poverty and famine in China. It was based on the proletariat's movement, so they had a motto; Unite the proletariats and oppress peoples of the world.

It is difficult to find the effect and advantages of China's secular country because it seems like a mono-ethnic country, where 91.11% are Han. Both of these secularities and

mono ethnicity play the role of establishing peace and trust. There is no need to argue or fight back for religious rights and ethnic rights; instead, people invest time in productive activities such as construction and trade. This can be felt at this moment. Many other countries keep fighting for religious and ethnic rights for a long time, and they are not engaging in development and trade, and as a result, they still have problems of famine. If we analyse China, these two things, secularism and mono ethnicity, should not be excluded.

As mentioned in the introduction chapter, China applied some tricks for booming its economy. First, they open the door for foreign direct investment (FDI), 2nd Artificial devaluation of the currency, 3rd Tax exemption privilege for exporting, 4th Universal postal union (UPU) delivery price privilege, 5th The US import tax exemption, 6th Workforce or power of population, 7th Join in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and taking advantages, 8th Indirect subsidies to seller policy and favourable financing terms.

After the death of Mao Zedong in 1976, Xiaoping and his allies' step by step changed the Maoist ideology and the economy. They opened the door for FDI in 1978, which initially started in coastal cities. Xiaoping is recognised as the architect of modern China's economy. The socialist ideology with the free enterprise concept is the Xiaoping theory, which is now 'socialism with Chinese characteristics.'

Many people believe this is a new ideology, but it is actually not. President Xi Jinping just rebranded the idea for modern China. When the FDI policy was implemented then, the Chinese economy gradually stepped up. The current big economy is the consequence of the FDI policy and a few other elements. After the FDI policy, there are many factories, workers and productions. Chinese policymakers knew that any country, anywhere in the world, could produce materials. However, producing materials are not the most important. Instead, lower affordable price is paramount for customers; therefore, the study and apply for artificial devaluation of the currency, which makes them cheaper to produce the goods, is what China has done. They are not only devaluing their own yuan currency but also managing and maintaining the domestic living cost as well. Suppose they survive and save a satisfactory amount. In that case, they do not need the increased material price or increased currency value if the currency is high; obviously, product materials price also high. If the product price is high, then who will buy that? No one buys that; if no one is buying, there is no production and no sell, simply there is no money as well. Therefore, Chinese authorities pegged Yuan to the US dollar $\$1 = 6.47$ (McGerty, 2021). Currently, there is ongoing trade tension between China vs the US. A major cause is the artificial devaluation of the currency. The US president Trump put pressure to increase Yuan value for better everyone, but Chinese authorities did not listen to him in 2019 then started

the trade sanction, and tariffs were placed, Huawei mobile company sanction and many more. What may happen if China did not artificially devalue its Yuan? There should not be trade tension, and all Chinese goods are expensive, which may lead to the decline in Chinese exporting to the globe.

3rd Tax exemption privilege for exporting: If any company produces and exports to another country, that company should not have to pay tax for the Chinese government. It is an encouragement to make production and export. For exporting goods, delivery services play a key role. An organ of the United Nations' Universal postal union (UPU) is a privilege for developing countries, and China used that privilege for quite a long time and is still using it. To send a parcel delivery from any part of China 1 kg will cost 5 dollars, while for exactly the same amount from California to New York will be 20 dollars. This is another reason for booming Chinese businesses and companies. However, this privilege is used by many US companies as well because they make many productions in China. The right opposite policy of China exporting, the US had tax exemption tariff, but since 30 June 2018, up to \$800 are tax-free and 25% tax for up to 50 billion goods from China (Importing from China to the USA: Customs & Duties - China Purchasing Agent, 2021). It's impacting China exporting trade massively. Import tax tariffs are conditional such as clothing 16%,

LED product 3.9% and furniture 1%. The interesting point is that China has just a 13% tax to import items from the US because China is the world 2nd importing country and most of the raw materials they import. If they place a high tax on it, that will make expensive raw materials and goods.

According to a report, the US trade deficit with China was \$283.6 billion in 2020 (Amadeo, 2021). Furthermore, the US national debt is \$27.6 trillion, which is the biggest debt in the world; some Asian countries Japan, China and Singapore, lent a remarkable amount, including the United Kingdom (Lu, 2021). Most of the countries have some national debt; even China has \$7.3 trillion, and one of the small sovereign countries, Brunei, has a very small national debt (US Treasury debt record, 2021). It's all about economic situations that are making worries about the word hegemony the US's future.

In the world bank record, in 2019, China had a 1.398 billion population, and according to the record, there are 750.64 million workforces employed, and the employment rate is 63.48% (Textor, 2021). In comparison with the US, it has just 328.2 million populations, and the employment rate is 59.22%. For a comparison of powerful country population number also play an important role. Also, it is a key strength of China and its workforce. There are many countries struggling to manage enough workforce to run the factories.

President Trump said, 'when China became a member of WTO than, the Chinese economy is rocketing.'. The WTO re-activated on 01 January 1995, and the Chinese Premier Zhu Ronji visited the US in 1998, and a few years later did trade agreement with the US. During that time, President Bill Clinton played a vital role to provide WTO membership for China. And China became a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 2001.

WTO has a general agreement on tariffs and Trade (GATT), which was an economic ladder for the Chinese economy because the door is open for the world market, especially trade started with the world's biggest economy: the US.

When China joined the WTO, they launched talks to rewrite trade rules and update the rules, but it did not happen (Peker, 2018). The Chinese trade volume and the behaviour of China in the WTO is controversial, and debates are ongoing whether opening the gate to China is a mistake of the US (Davis, 2018). After eighteen years of the trade relationship, the US reviewed its policy and agreement and then started the tariff review, tax exemption. For the first time ever, President Trump banned 31 surveillance technology companies in November 2020. The successor of Trump, President Biden, further banned 59 Chinese companies in June, and it came into effect on 02 August 2021 (Davis, 2018). Due to trade tension between the US and China, the

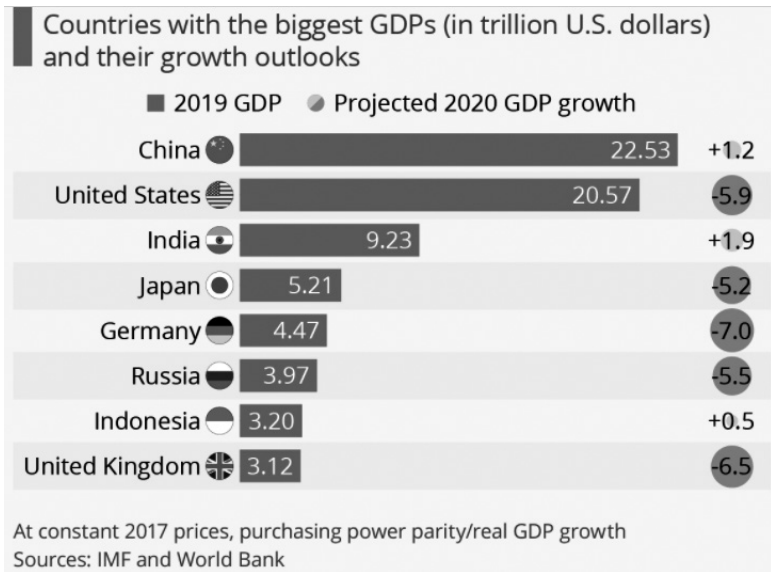
WTO is under enormous pressure to review and rewrite the policy. There are 164 members in the WTO. After the banning, China may have an alternative because China has massive manufacturing and investment in Africa; therefore, could China use its manufacturing goods export from Africa to the US? It's time to discuss and define the WTO rules and clauses.

There are many questions to the US and western countries; when China opened for foreign direct investment (FDI), the US and western countries had the opportunity to influence or manipulate the political awareness in China, but why has that not happened? If we look back at the history of the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989, there were almost 10,000 people killed (Tiananmen Square protest death toll 'was 10,000', 2017) because Chinese authorities believe that western countries backed those protesters. It has been decades, but why are the Chinese people not interested in a western liberal democracy? If we go more back to Chinese political history, they were influenced by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' communism. It is proof that if there is a better political ideology, they accept, but why is neo-liberalism not accepted? That is still a question. Can we question ourselves, is that any better system rather than the parliamentary and congressional parliament system? What is the participatory parliament system? If China practices a communist system in politics and a state-backed

capitalism system in the economy, are these fusion systems better than solo capitalists? Is China challenging political ideology too?

As shown in the record of the world economic forum, there are \$86 trillion world economy in 2019, and among them, the US has 23.89%, and China has 15.86%, which was very close, and some believe that China is already overtaking the US (Desgardins and Desjardins, 2019).

Chart 1: The Biggest Economies in the World



According to this chart, China is already overtaking, but this is a projection chart; therefore, it may not happen. If that is the case, it's neck and neck now, and ultimately, China will overtake.

In the last few years, the US authority changed its policy: always American first (Trumpism), so they are always focused on empowering self and neutralising the rising Chinese power. The US is a major economic power with \$393.6 billion in trades annually.

Each and every country is aware that it is required to produce goods and export to the globe for sustainable development and economic prosperity. Every country is willing to produce better and cheaper items and export to other countries if not possible to export. They want to be self-dependent on their own product. Globally producing goods are tough competitions and challenging. Many countries can make productions; however, finding a market and delivering goods is a burden, but China has a very interesting technique to subsidise the Chinese production company. Normally, the **vendor orders** goods and the production company will send goods to the vendor, but the vendor does not have to pay money directly to the sender, they have to pay at the bank, and that government bank will pay to the sender company. There is a privilege to pay at the comfort of their own time. This is the reason Chinese goods are everywhere in the world.

There are ten thousand FDI companies, and Greenfield Investments is a collection of them in China. According to the 2020 world investment report, there are 835 Greenfield Investments in China, 765 in 2017 and 871 in 2018 (UNCTD,

2021). This data shows the massive increase in FDI numbers within a few years. For this increase, there are a number of reasons; government privileges such as if any company wanted to be an established manufacturer in China, then the Chinese system will make them the infrastructure and facilities they need, which is a huge advantage. They have no tax for exporting items, cheap labour in an always political stable and effective place. Furthermore, the Chinese system is trustworthy and is a safe delivery system for reaching all over the globe. If we compare FDI in 2020, the US has 156 billion, and China has 149 billion. It is very close to each other. According to UN figures released, China has overtaken the world's top destination for foreign direct investment in January 2021 (China takes new foreign investment top spot from the US, 2021). Chinese authorities are working hard to attract more FDI. They scrapped or amended almost 7 thousand laws. This is a piece of evidence of how sincerely and hardly working the Chinese government is to invite and retain FDI.

2. Military

(Space, stealing weapon trade, and increasing its military capability)

Military tendencies are shifting to hyper technology; therefore, we cannot traditionally judge a country's military ability. However, traditionally, China has the largest number

of military than any other country in the world. And the US has the biggest defence budget. But army numbers and budget are not actual power because there is the robot soldier instead of a physical soldier. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) drone is more effective and in the process of replacing missiles launcher and bombardier aircraft. UAV do not need many soldiers to operate it. Just a few people can control from a hidden place through a computer. And fiber-laser (Ray) guns will replace traditional gunpowder rifles because laser guns can fire much further than any other rifle, and it will be silent, and there is no need to carry ammunition.

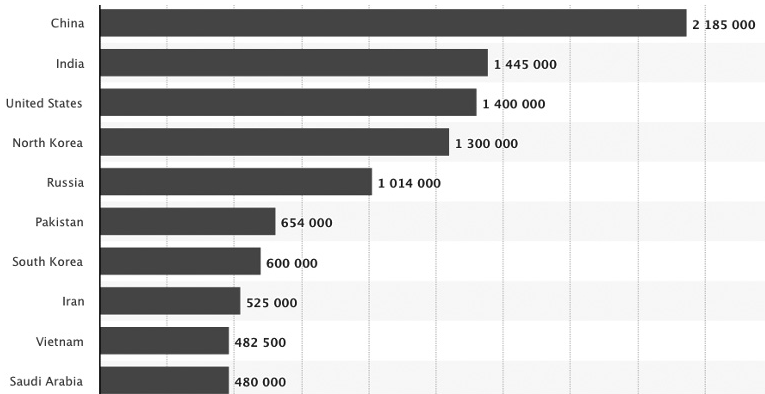
China is one of the major countries to supply UAVs to other countries. The US has a large number of Robot soldiers, and the United Kingdom is going to replace one-third of the army with robot soldiers by 2030. China is another major robot soldier producing country. Before, China was not strong enough as a global power. Only when China developed technology and started working as an alliance with Russia in 1992, China become a much more sophisticated war arsenal power.

When we discuss military power, the key part is Space power. When war is triggered, that will start from space because military actives are dependent on satellites. There are roughly 3,372 actives and dead satellites in space. China tested destroying a satellite using a missile from the earth in 2007, which was successful (China confirms anti-satellite

missile test, 2007). The international space station (ISS) is just 408 kilometres above the earth and weighs 4.2 tonnes. This means that tons of nuclear weapons could be stored just above our heads on the ISS or another satellite of the same distance. We can imagine now if space capable countries do not obey the treaty or are not bound by 'the 1967 Outer Space treaty,' they may use space to store nuclear weapons of any size. China has all this capability. Furthermore, China has its own private Space Station and 13.6% satellites (2020) among all total (China Advancing its Space Launch Capabilities, 2020).

Traditionally, the Chinese have a 2,185,000 personnel army, the biggest number of soldiers, and they have the world's strongest navy. Army, Navy, Space and hyper-tech UAV, Robot, and Ray's indicate that China is much stronger than ever. On top of that, China has a close alliance with Russia. Additionally, close relations with Iran and Pakistan (CRIP - China, Russian, Iran and Pakistan) is in the process of forming. Chinese armies' locations are just in Djibouti and Gwadar, Pakistan and are not comparable with the US because the US has 800 locations (VINE, 2015). If another world war is, the US is already in a comfortable position with 14,45,000 armies' personals.

Chart 2: The biggest armies in the world ranked by active military personnel in 2021



Source: © Statista 2021

The US defence budget has to be distributed among its many locations, including the countries they invaded, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and more. The US defence budget is \$703.7 billion, and just a limited amount goes to new innovations and technology. On the other hand, materials and labours cost is high in comparison to China (The Department of Defence 2022 Defence Budget, 2021). The Chinese defence budget is \$209.4 billion, which is the second biggest budget globally (Grevatt and MacDonald, 2021). But this budget may work more for China because they have fewer locations to distribute the budget than the US. China has just two small army bases overseas but overall has great military strengths. They spend most of their budget on military innovations and technology. They have a small budget but make more innovations. As I mentioned above,

due to the UAV intercontinental missiles system, there is no longer a need for many grounds bases like the US does, but few are essential.

The US's major income source is to sell defence technology and weapons to the third world, but recently, many third countries bought UAVs and other weapons from China rather than the US. This means China also overtook the weapon trades from the US and the UK. China is a nuclear-capable country; it has a space programme, including a successful 'Mars's mission'. China has 30 years of UN peacekeeping experience with 25 missions. Additionally, it is a permanent member of the UN security council. It's all self-explained how China is strong institutionally and militarily.

3. Social states or social hierarchy

In our societies, higher social status depends on gender, class, caste and clan. These factors can limit a person's will. Person and groups desire to be high on the social hierarchy to enjoy the privileges of power play. We can see that the head of state's international summit, the US president is always at the centre and central attraction because, in the country hierarchy, the US is at the top. According to status should be all heads of state and the US president also a head of state. Everyone should be equal, but among them, someone is special, which is detected by social influence and domination

power or source of power. To gain this recognition, China has to involve with an exceptional contribution towards global governance organisations. They also require a new vision for the world.

4. Numerical strength-election

Numerical strength means the minority should listen to the majority. People's opinions may change in due course, which can be seen during elections as it shows whose team is the winning party. Democracy is a rule of by the people, for the people. In a liberal democracy, numerical strength plays the key decision. Also, people's numbers play a vital role because people are powerful. If there are many young, skilled people, that country is recognised as a powerful country. The workforce is essential, and China has 1.398 billion (2019), four times bigger than the US. And this number is the strength of China.

5. Quality of human resources

Knowledge is power. If people are educated, there will be more understanding. Educated, committed, and loyal human resources are the strength of the nation. Corrupt human resources, uneducated people are liable over the national resources. Skills and loyalty for a nation's people are key human resources, which will add to the strength of the community and nations. China is sending millions of

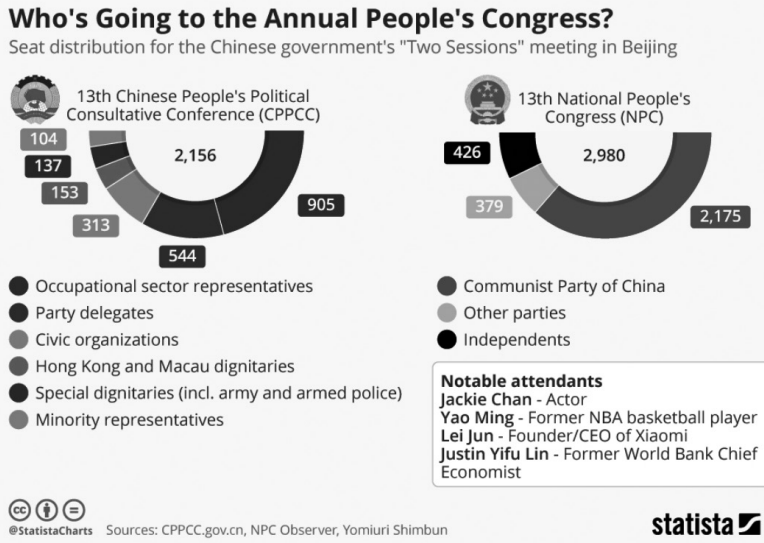
students to study abroad for making good human resources. Chinese politics are not based on religion; therefore, Chinese people are loyal to the nation rather than religion. If there is a lack of human resources, this could lead the nation to uncertainty and could be disbanded or dissolved the nation. This quality and human resources sounds minor but plays a vital role.

6. Political stability: Chinese legislature

To make China powerful, the legislature system has a pivotal role. There are two top legislatures body: 1. the National People's Congress (NPC) and 2. The Chinese people's political consultative conference (CPPCC). There are 2,980 NPC members, including 11 Taiwanese, and in the CPPCC there are 2,156 members, including 15 Taiwanese representatives. CPPCC is an advisory body that does not make any laws, but they advise almost a thousand laws every year. Occupational experts, ethnic minorities representatives, army and police, Civic organisations, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan dignitaries, political parties' delegates are involved in the CPPCC. Once a year, there are two-week sessions held in the Great Hall in Beijing.

Sometimes CPPCC invites notable guests such as actor Jackie Chan, Yao Ming- former NBA basketball player, Justin Yifu Lin- former world bank chief economist, to attend the session (Buchholz, 2019).

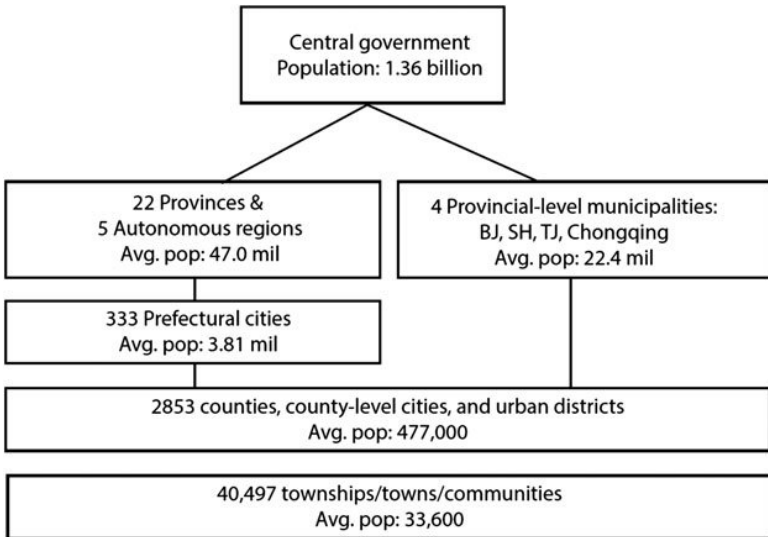
Chart 3: Who's going to the annual people congress?



The National People's Congress is a top legislatures body for 5 years tenure. In congress' when 1/5 of the members agree, they can propose to change China's constitution, and when there is a 2/3 majority, the constitution can be changed. Most of the Laws are passed by the NPC's standing committee, which has 175 members. Notable point - there is no opposition bench in the National People's Congress, and the nature of NPC's is called participatory congress. Normally, in the parliamentary system, there is an opposition bench.

China has five levels of government: 1 Central government, 23 provinces and five autonomous regions, four provincial-level municipalities, 333 Prefectural cities, 2853 counties, county-level cities and urban districts.

Chart 4: Chinese government levels and population



Source: Christine Wong, researchgate.net

Within all levels of governments, there are 155 ethnic autonomous, 5 autonomous regions, 30 autonomous prefectures, and 120 autonomous countries. There are 55 ethnic minorities groups. Among them, 44 groups have their own ethnic autonomous area (Jing, 2009). China is recognised as a communist country in the world. Communism philosophy is concerning only the social class, and they don't care about ethnic identity and religion, but a communist party of China gives priority and high recognition, rights and privileges to ethnic groups. This is a must for a strong national unity and trust and confidence with the Chinese government. Many countries are struggling to manage ethnic conflict because

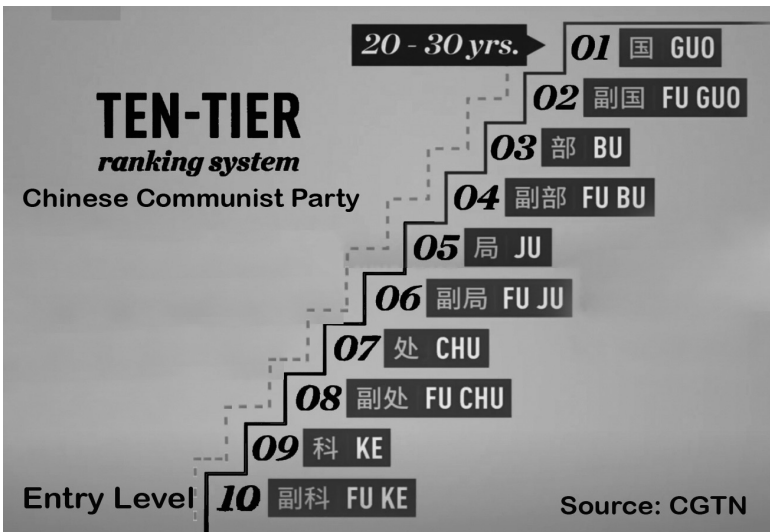
of not recognising the ethnic nations and first nations. Also, China doesn't have religion-based politics. The Chinese government not only recognised ethnic identities, but 339 heritages are preserved and belong to the ethnic minorities. The Chinese government has the National Ethnic Affairs Commission as a cabinet ministry, suggesting how sincere the Chinese government are over ethnicity, culture, mutual respect, and harmony.

Chinese electoral systems are a little bit concerning because only in the village level congress is directly elected by the people. The elected village-level congressman then will vote for the next level and so on. China is a social-democratic country, and the legislature system is stable, but the separation of power is not in balance. In the past, Mao Zedong was the head of three top powers 1. President of the people's republic of china, 2. Chairman of the central military commission, and 3. General Secretary of the Communist Party of China and killed millions of people because of the Chinese cultural revolution during his tenure. Coincidentally current President of Xi Jinping is also a leader of the top three powers. Therefore, people know that he is the most powerful leader in China. How insightful is Jinping and whether China is a Liberal Democracy or not? They are different parts, but institutionally, Chinese legislatures and leadership are stable.

When we talk about the election system of China, it is important to understand the Chinese Communist Party

hierarchy and promotion system because the party produce the majorities country leaders. Political party contributions are voluntary for the nation, but they have the test system in the Chinese Communist Party. It's called the Chinese civil service exam. This exam is almost 5 hours long, and there are mathematic, general knowledge, logic and verbal skills. In this exam, the social rank will not count or pass the exam as we know that CCP promotions are a merit base. When they pass the exam, then they are on the ladder. The ten-tier ranking system is as follows: Fu Ke, Ke, Fu Chu, Chu, Gu Ju, Ju, Fu Bu, Bu Gu Guo, and Guo.

Chart 5: Chinese Communist Party promotion ladders



To complete all these stages will take up to 20 to 30 years. The party top rank is the General Secretary, and this exam

holds during Party Congress in 5 years intervals (CGTN, 2017). In other parliamentary democracy countries, leaders are elected through their popularity or how they manage their panels or supports. The party leader electoral system is fundamentally different in authoritarian vs parliamentary democracy.

Chapter 3

Chinese foreign policy, initiatives and involvement

A. Chinese Foreign policy

China has certain guiding principles of Chinese foreign policy. There are five main points: 1. Mutual respect, territorial integrity and sovereignty, 2. No interference to internal affairs, 3. Mutual non-aggregation, 4. Equal and mutual benefit, and 5. peaceful co-existing. These principles were stated in the Sino-India agreement in 1954.

There are many border disputes between China and India. There were 20 Indian troops killed in the Ladakh clash (India-China clash: 20 killed in the fighting, 2020). It was at the border, and within two kilometres of the border on either side, they were not allowed to carry weapons from the actual boundary point (Dutta, 2020). If they allow the carrying of a

weapon, that situation maybe very dangerous because both sides of border patrol are aggressive on many occasions. In this context, Chinese foreign policy is better for themselves and their neighbouring countries. Chinese foreign policy is too centric on China itself; it looks like a self-isolated policy. As a result, Western countries are playing over Chinese domestic affairs. As mentioned above, the Chinese foreign policy was amended in 2006, reviewed and again amended in 2011, but there is still a need to change the Chinese foreign policy as a new world order's requirement. Also, on many occasions, foreign guiding principles and practical behaviour are controversial.

Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party (President) of China, Xi Jinping, warns that China won't be bullied anymore during the Chinese communist party's 100-year celebration in Tiananmen Square in Beijing on 01 July 2021. He delivered his speech in front of 70,000 crowds. Jinping stressed that China being bullied era has been gone forever. He said that China will not accept sanctimonious preaching from those who think they have the right to tell China and that China has never bullied, oppressed or subjugated other countries and never will. Additionally, he said China would never allow anyone to bully, oppress or subjugate. If anyone tries to do this to China, they will meet a steel wall foraged of the 1.4 billion people in China and their force (Davidson, 2021). Jinping's speech is a strong message to the world, and there is a mirror of Chinese foreign policy as well. Jinping

said we don't touch other countries, which means Chinese foreign policy is still self-centric.

China redefined China's national interest back in 2006, and it was after the door opened for foreign direct investment policy in 1978. On top-up economic development, security and sovereignty are also explicitly mentioned as the ultimate goal of the Chinese foreign policy. The second time a major change was made in the Chinese foreign policy was in 2011, which was called the China pivot west and south. The same year the US announced that the 'pivot to Asia Policy' should not be new for the US but in the eyes of the Chinese authority, they understood that it is planning to prevent emerging Chinese power. Therefore, China adopted a new strategy to pivot west to the south, also called the new Silk Road initiative (Brookings Institution, 2021). The New Silk Road initiative is also known as Belt and Road initiative (BRI). Normally, its plan is to one belt one road, which was unveiled in 2013 by President Jinping in Kazakhstan (Belt and Road Initiative, 2021). The reason to establish BRI is a counter-attack against the US policy and to enhance exporting/supply effectiveness. If supply and connection is better Chinese influence and economy will be better in the long term. This project involves 71 countries and is highly criticised. This project will be completed by 2049. This is the world's biggest project; it is estimated to cost \$4-8 trillion, with roughly \$50 billion per year. This project will connect with the south-east, east-south including Europe and Africa (Belt and Road Initiative, 2021).

This BRI project is a part of the Chinese foreign policy and Chinese characterise ideology.

A high-level talk took place in Alaska between 18-19th March 2021. It's known as Alaska talks between the US and China. From both the US and China, high-level diplomats were involved. The Secretary of state Mr Antony Blinken, and the national security advisor Jake Sullivan attended from the US side. From China's side, a member of politburo Yang Jiechi and foreign minister Wang Yi. It was a highly anticipated talk, but sadly it did not start in a good manner. In the opening talk, Mr Blinken asked the questions, not in the diplomat manner. It looked like questions were being asked to a criminal to prove them guilty. Suddenly Chinese delegates were left the talk table having denounced each other to the media. That was blatant bullying and oppressing (US and China angry words in Alaska, 2021).

China has an international retaliation policy as well. At the same time, Australia called for an international inquiry into the origins of Covid-19. China imposed up to 218% tariffs on Australian wines in 2020, and Australia is prepared to file a formal complaint with the World Trade Organisation (Australia takes wine dispute with China to WTO, 2021). China said it was a malpractice problem, and they started to import wines from New Zealand. Consequently, New Zealand is not agreed to the five eyes stance (US, Canada, UK, Australia and New Zealand) against China (Philp and Lagan, 2021). This is a sign of Chinese geopolitics power. China

is not only a world factory; it is also an uprising economic hegemon. Countries are making policies to taking benefit from the Chinese economy. New Zealand and Australia's event was an example of that. Another retaliation example: The UK government agency Ofcom revoked the TV licence to broadcast China Global Television Network (CGTN) on 04 February 2021 because the Chinese communist party controls this TV. The broadcast authority in the UK said it is not legal because the states back CGTN, and there were possibilities of breaching privacy (Ofcom revokes CGTN's licence in the UK, 2021). After almost two years of being Broadcasted in the UK, the channel CGTN was banned. In retaliation, China banned the airing of BBC services in China (Buckley and Kwai, 2021). This announcement was right after a week after Ofcom revoked the CGTN licence. These developing events show that Chinese retaliation is immediate and harsh.

Some people believe that China took over Africa from the US. It means China has so much influence over Africa. African countries will not be ready to go against the alliance with China, the soft international power of China. One reason for this is that the US is not supporting the development of Africa whilst China is building Africa quickly. Some media and people argued that Africa is a debt trap, but African countries are self-benefiting to improve the economy.

Last March, a high-level talk in Alaska created more tension between the US and China. I believe that kind of

talk would never happen in history. There was no diplomatic procedure, and it was not acceptable to remain sitting on the table talking. Therefore, Chinese officials left the talk table harshly, and the Chinese foreign office released the press immediately what was wrong and right. According to video footage on social media and tv news, secretary Blinkin's question manner was not diplomatic, and they did not solve the ongoing tension, which brought more tension than was resolved. However, both countries agreed to continue the talk, and as a result, they held another official talk on 26 July 2021 in Tianjin city, China, where the US deputy secretary of state Wendy Sherman and Chinese vice foreign minister Xie Feng led the delegates. In this talk, China was strict. They expressed their concerns, and minister Feng urged, 'the US have to change the misguided mindset and dangerous policy' (high-level talks begin in Tianjin, 2021). The previous Alaska talk was unpredictable because of the new US administration and how they approached China. That was the first talk after the Biden administration, but this time China looks clear, concise and is ready for any result; hence, they brought their real concerns. Minister Xie accused the US of behaving with a superior attitude and of adding pressure to other countries. China is not accepting any countries as superior. If the US has not learned how to treat other courtiers respectfully and equally, then China and the international community have to teach them, he added on Phoenix TV.

There are many ongoing issues, such as a diplomatic visa, almost a hundred thousand Chinese student visas, and trade matter tension remains the same. Both countries are having difficulties with their trade, which is affecting both sides now; export bans are bad for China and the US. It is possible to produce their own goods in the US, but product cost is more expensive and cannot compete with the Chinese product. There is an undeclared conflict between English speaking countries (five eyes) vs non-English speaking countries or involving Sinophobia issues. It looks like Caucasoid vs Mongoloid power struggle at this moment because China demanded in the Tianjin talk: the US has to stop the attack on Asians in the US, and no one has the right to talk about China's domestic issues. It's means now China is looking ready for any consequences. The Tianjin talk aims to keep engaging on talk and most probably try to arrange a meeting between Biden and Chinese president Jinping in October during the G-20 summit in Rome (high-level talks begin in Tianjin, 2021). The coming summit maybe fruitful if both presidents directly sit and talk, if both are calm and comfortable and if the US already realises that China is stronger than expected. Due to the US policy and activity, China and Russia are closer than ever before. They started the combined military exercise in 2018, and recently they have done some military exercises in Northwest China in the last 2nd week of August in 2021 (Xuanzun, 2021). They calibrated the military technology and combat drill; it is also

meaningful because the US and Japan military exercise at the South China Sea was just a month ago, whose central target was China (Mitchell, 2021).

Chinese foreign policy remains the same, but due to the threat of the US, China is also stepping up in the diplomat strategy. Such as Chinese government official Wang Yi met Taliban representatives Mullah Abdul Ghani, who was a political chief of Taliban and his nine delegates on 28 July 2021 at Tianjin. Two days later, the US and China talk in the same city (Chinese officials and Taliban meeting, 2021).

According to the guiding principles of the Chinese foreign policy, some practical involvements don't match, such as the above mentioned. Chinese official meets Taliban representative and occupying the south China sea. According to the guiding principle, meeting Taliban leader/representative interferes with Afghanistan government domestic matter, and forcefully occupying the south China sea is not ethical.

However, the Chinese demand or offer to review or readjust for international institutions such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, World Trade Organisation, etc. That shows China has a vision for the world. A writer Martin Jacques argues that: China is not a nation-state; it is a civilisation because it has its own culture, custom, practice, own curriculum, own medicine

and political ideology. China never became a western liberal country. Western countries wish to export their political ideology over the world, but China doesn't want to export and exploit others (Jacques, 2008). But against the China alliance quad (India, Japan, Australia and the US) recently, China proposed another quad alliance China, Russia, Iran and Pakistan (CRIP), which is part of the Chinese foreign policy and engaged with IMF. In contrast, China proposed a universal currency to use rather than the US dollars. Still, no one was ready to do that; hence China managed to form New Development Bank, also called BRICS Development Bank, in 2014 (Whistleblowing - New Development Bank, n.d.). Also, China is moving forward to understand the international communities, societies, and clubs at the ground level, such as teaching English in Chinese schools since 2003. Communication or language is the biggest weapon globally; as I mentioned above, millions of Chinese students in the US, the UK, western countries, and the rest of the world are studying and collecting knowledge and skills. Chinese involvement in the international arena is remarkable and looks aggressive. But it is unclear if those overseas studies may bring a good thing for China or Western liberal democracy, which may change the Chinese norms and values. An overall Chinese foreign policy is somehow distinct but in majority indirect—lots are ongoing at this moment.

B. Initiative, involvement and responsibility:
(BRI/"going out" strategies, South China Sea, Xinjiang Uyghurs dispute, Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong, Alliance of China and Russia)

Belt and Road Initiative/"going out" strategies

Rising China is a key target of the US. During President Obama's Tenure, he visited Australia, Honolulu, and Indonesia for a series of meeting for the diplomatic, economic, and military strategy for the Indian subcontinent through Northeast Asia. The reason to make this plan is to bring in the shape and size of China. The US unveiled the strategy of 'Pivot to Asia', which was declared in November 2011 (Lieberthal, 2011). When China knew this plan, a new Emperor Wu of Han was born, whose name is Xi Jinping. Emperor Han formally established the previous silk road in 130 BCE during the Han Dynasty of China (Mark, 2018). And it has remained in use until 1453 AD. And in exactly the same purpose, same pride of nation again triggered 'New Silk Road' initiative in 2013, called one belt one road or Belt and Road initiative (BRI). It is a recounter project of the US Pivot to Asia. Old Silk Road and New Silk Road's nature and purpose have two distinct differences. First in the New BRI has road and maritime routes; second, it has trade purposes and power politics. The US is keeping its influencing and dominations over the world, and it wants to keep in size to China, but China is rising rapidly without war, without dirty hands, and New BRI is a part of the influence and soft power or

source of power China uses because it will give strength and trade enhancement. Trades are underpinned in export and import; if there is a direct and fast route, then the trade will be better; if a trade is better, the state's economy is better and sustainable.

BRI initiative is not a new concept and not a new legacy of China. Previous Silk Road was 6,400 kilometres long, spanning all the way from far east Chinese city Shanghai to the Mediterranean Sea.

Later it gradually was lost to Roman territory in Asia and raised Arabian in power in the Levant; then Silk Road became unsafe and not suitable to travel. However, in the 13th and 14th centuries, unused routes were revived under the Mongols, and some roads still exist, from Uygur Xinjiang China to Pakistan (McKenna, 2021).

New Silk Road has four directions: East Asia will cover China and Mongolia, Central Asia will cover Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and that part, Europe will cover Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, and South Asia will cover Afghanistan, Bhutan and Bangladesh; covering in total 11,800 kilometres long and over 30 countries.

The belt and Road Initiative, the new economy belt to accelerate policy communication, improve and enhance transport connectivity, trade, and enhance circulation, was announced by President Jinping (President Xi's statements on the Belt and Road Initiative, 2017). President Jinping first

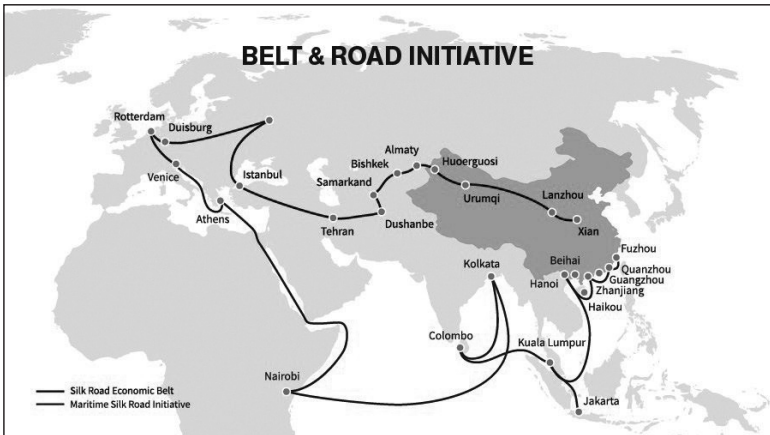
announced this BRI initiative at the Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 07 September 2013. Almost a month later, he announced it in the house of Representatives of Indonesia on 03 October 2013.

Photo 1: Chairman Jinping's first announcement for Belt and Road Initiative in Kazakhstan



His speech clearly stresses that communication for policy and enhancing the understanding related to 'pivot Asia' policy; therefore, BRI is a part of the retaliation of the US policy. BRI sounds good because it follows the US strategy. Ultimately, they will use sale weapons and create wars internal and external, but if followed to China, they are building the roads, ports, hydropower station etc., excellent infrastructure. However, the Chinese BRI project has an indirect and invisible interest. Let's see the Deng Xiaoping formula 'hide your strength and bide your time' (Heydarian, 2014). China has been following this formula for a long time, and BRI is another new project. This Belt and Road Initiative is widely discussed and critiques as a Chinese 'going out' policy (Wang, 2016). However, some scholars are arguing that instead of 'going out' policy to 'going global' is more suitable because of Chinese influence.

Map 2: Belt and Road Initiative



Source: www.silkroadbriefing.com

There are many critiques and arguments about the BRI. There were some projects already completed, and many projects are ongoing at this moment. Many people are arguing that this BRI dream will not succeed because of the huge cost. But many people never realise that China specialises in construction and infrastructure. Surprisingly China builds 1500 rooms hospital within five days for Covid-19 patients near Beijing (Coronavirus: China builds hospital in 5 days, 2021). China builds more than 1400 kilometres long canal from the Yangtze River (Chinese grand canal brings water to north - China, 2014). This canal project is a giant project and was about to be completed, so these projects gave the confidence to declare BRI initiatives. There are many unbelievable infrastructures built by China, which is the strength of China. They have knowledge, skills, workforce, materials, instruments, and discipline; therefore, building roads, ports, hydropower, and railway service is common for China. They may build these BRI projects at a cheaper cost than expected.

There are BRI projects in Africa (Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda), Europe (Poland, Greece, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Russia and the Eurasian Economic Union), Asia (Central Asia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Laos, Maldives, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey), Americas, Panama, Argentina, Barbados, Jamaica, Venezuela and Russia and

the Eurasian Economic Union. There are more than 32 countries' projects, and some of them are already completed, such as Djibouti and Kenya. In Kenya upgrading fast trains, Mombasa to Nairobi built Naivasha to Nairobi railway service increased 1.5 GDP (Africa, 2015), which means BRI projects are good for people and state. Some people are commenting negatively, and they argue it is a debt trap; it looks like a debt trap. Meanwhile, BRI focuses on projects that are essential to developing human needs, such as road, railway service, hydropower and ports. If states are not building these at this moment, they have to build in the future, so it maybe debt but essential and pivotal to developing the national economy. China is not colonial power such as the British, Dutch, and Portuguese, so there is no need to worry about colonisation. However, power influence is not avoidable, and Djibouti has a Chinese Navy camp for piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden and Arabian sea. Also, China built a railway league to connect Djibouti and Ethiopia. Chinese Navy-based Djibouti is 1,525 nautical distance from Gwadar, Pakistan port, where the Chinese army existed; therefore, India, Iran, and the US are more worried (Panda, 2017). Gwadar port is operating by China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) since 2016.

BRI initiatives projects are to be mixed. Most projects can be hugely successful, and few may withdraw or be unsuccessful because of many negative provocations, anti-

current alliances, and misunderstandings. However, we have to wait until 2049, which is BRI's finishing date. According to the media, there are eight countries affected by BRI debt: Djibouti, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Maldives, Magnolia, Pakistan, Montenegro (Jones and Hameiri, 2020), but it's all depended on perception and security interest.

BRI's infrastructure idea is meaningful and looks successful because the G7 summit launched build back a better world (B3W) partnership strategy on 11-13 June 2021 (G7 Official Documents, 2021). This strategy aims to deliver democracy for the people, meet the world's biggest challenges, and demonstrate the value of our shares. And the main purpose is inter-regional connectivity and promote economic development. This B3W focuses on helping build tremendous infrastructure for lower and middle-income countries, and the budget could be narrowed to the \$40 plus trillion (G7 Leaders Launch Build Back Better World (B3W) Partnership, 2021). B3W strategy is good to have for the low income and middle-income countries and the world. B3W's plan is almost similar to BRI; in fact, B3W is designed to counter China's strategic BRI.

BRI initiative is a game-changer strategy of the world. Also, it is evidence the nation choice is infrastructure rather than a weapon. If this kind of strategy was 20 years ago, the current world might be different than this, and after 20 years world civilisation stage will be different, and the world order

will be different. BRI's few projects could be withdrawing due to clash B3W. After world war II, the US Marshall plan was effectively implemented, and the effect still existed in new forms such as European Union (EU), so on BRI effect is already in the feel (Marshall Plan, 2009).

There were two choices: The US or China. If the US is chosen, it will encourage situations where we need to buy weapons. If China is chosen, they will encourage them to buy construction and materials. Therefore, China is much better than the US, but since the last G7 summit 2021 scenario has been changed, they announced B3W. Fortunately, now there is a choice of BRI or B3W, which is good for the world because both focus on infrastructure development.

South China Sea Disputes

South China sea is an important location at this moment. The name itself explains where it is located. Many people predict the third world war may start in this location, and there is ongoing tension. Let me explain why it's important for China and the rest of the world. When did it start a confrontation, and why? Does China have the legitimacy to claim the whole China Sea? What is the underpinning to claim? And what the international law about the maritime border is will be explained.

For a long time, this area was peaceful and isolated, but when the Chinese exporting economy boomed, this isolated

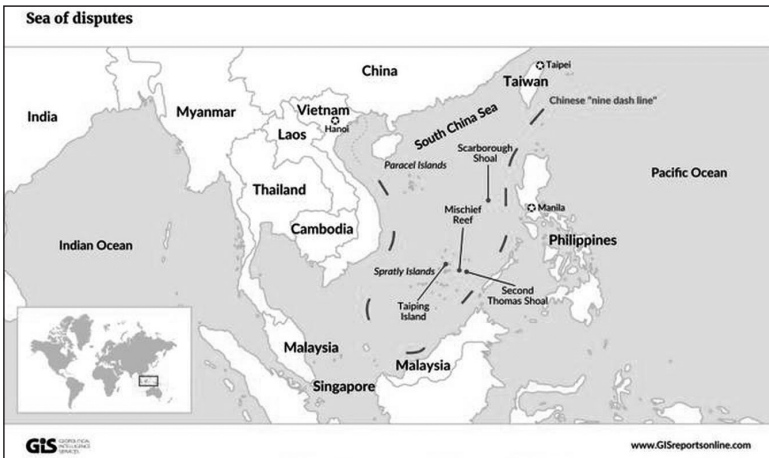
area became an important export and import route for China, and the Chinese moved towards threatening western hegemony. This trading route contributed to China becoming the world's top energy consumer in 2010 (Timeline: China's Maritime Disputes, 2020). China knew that its traditional foe Japan and India were next door and that the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, and Taiwan could be used at any time by the western to obstruct them. China claimed the South China sea before any other country. The reason behind this is western fear. This location is a key route of exporting Chinese goods for the globe. If this area is blocked for Chinese exporting, its economy and connectivity will collapse. Through this south China sea, 40% of natural world liquified natural gas passes through, which is one-third of the world, and in 2016, 4.7 trillion cubic feet was transported (Barden, Mehmedovic and Jones, 2017). Furthermore, China knows it has to somehow secure this area for its economic spinal cord. China knows that it is violating the United Nations charter law and Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) arbitrator verdict of 2016 and knew that any country coastal lines or Island surrounding up to 200 aeronautical areas must be owned by that country or island government.

Meanwhile, China maybe doubtful about their neighbouring country's politics which are guided by the west. Therefore, China may forcefully occupy the south China sea. Western countries, especially five eyes' countries,

are working full scale against rising China. They are step by step advancing to prevent the rise of the Chinese economy; however, they are struggling to do that because of no more unipolar hegemony since the Syrian conflict 2011. Previously, China was just a land-based power country, but China developed the world's top navy power due to the south china sea conflict.

China is claiming the south China sea because of 9 dash line map, which was made by Nationalist Kuomintang (also known as the Chinese Nationalist Party) government before world war II (Kaplan, 2015).

Map 3: The South China Sea 9 dash line



Vietnam and Malaysia filed a joint submission to the UN in 2009, claiming 200 nautical miles from their coastline, which was a big hurdle and wakeup to China (Timeline:

China's Maritime Disputes, 2020). And, later in 2013, China added the 10th dash to claim Taiwan (Siqi, 2016). This is the underpinning to China's claim at this moment. However, this area has been in dispute for a long time, such as during the Sino-Japanese War in 1995 (Timeline: China's Maritime Disputes, 2020). China has had a history with the South China Sea for a long time, with the name of the sea being evidence itself.

Before World War II maps were marked, on the 6th of March 1948, International Maritime Organisation (IMO) was formed under the United Nations. However, the IMO may not have jurisdiction over the previous conflict of the south china sea as it was a newly formed organisation. Nonetheless, it seems to affect China with the new provision and the United Nations Convention on the law of the Sea 1982 (IMO in the United Nations, 2019).

There are few countries that are tacit in this matter, such as Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, because these are pro-China and anti-western countries. However, Laos doesn't have a coastal line, whilst Cambodia and Vietnam don't have many islands such as the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei.

China occupying and claiming the South China sea is looks like China is overtaking other countries' boundaries, behaving badly and ignoring neighbours. But it maybe China is just defending itself from western power and protecting its economic spinal cord. Western power will not harm Malaysia,

the Philippines, Brunei or Taiwan because they are pro-western countries, and they do not have a big chunk of goods to export, so they are only claiming back their territory. But China's situation is different from any other country. China is facing a Quad alliance threat, which involves four countries: India, the US, Australia and Japan. This Quad is a military alliance that is full of packages against China rising further, a strategy for rebalancing Asia Pacific (2011), which is more dangerous than the 'Pivot Asia' strategy. The quad alliance was also President Obama's priority strategy against China. For a long time, the Indo-Pacific strategy included security contracts by the US, such as Taiwan (Republic of China), Japan and other small countries (Strangio, 2021). Taiwan had a security contract in 1954.

Similarly, the British had a national security contract over Brunei, Singapore, where the US and the UK used to sell or push necessary weapons to them. Those countries are sources of income. Therefore, there are some critiques of western countries wanting to keep the problem rather than solve it. If it is solved, there will be no role and no income, and Chinese power will rise rapidly, so national security contract trades maybe at risk.

Chinese military power is never tested, and China used to always be quiet in international affairs and other countries' domestic affairs. Still, there is a roman saying, 'if you want peace, prepare for war'. Almost exactly in the same way as

the saying China is having this kind of challenge. However, Chinese authorities themselves are violating international law over the South China Sea. China signed on the Maritime law but are not following or obeying the law, which is a matter of concern. Due to the Scarborough Shoal dispute, the Philippines filed the case at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in 2013 at the Hague Netherlands, and the ICJ verdict was that the Island belongs to the Philippines and there is no right of China. Unfortunately, China does not fully back the verdict.

In the south China sea, there are not only water border disputes but also a few islands and artificial islands disputes too. There is Parcel's Island which is 15,000-kilometre area and 7.75 km land surface, almost 130 small coral islands, a population of over 1000 Chinese ethnic are inhabitants, and another is Spratly island which has 490 acres of area, and it is claimed by six neighbouring countries: Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. There are almost 19 islands, and among them, reefs, cays, and shoals are occupied by the military force of Malaysia, Taiwan (ROC), China (PRC), the Philippines and Vietnam. Fiery Cross Reef is a part of the Spratly, and China started to build on the Reef back in 2015. They made it ten times bigger than the actual size, and now more than 2 km² of the Island is artificial (Chen, 2020). This is also called Yongshu Reef in the Nansha Islands/Spratly Islands.

Photo 2: Man-made island on Fiery Cross Reef in the South China Sea.



Source: People's Daily

Currently, there are many ongoing military exercises from either side. Just this (August 2021) month, the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth sailed through the South China Sea to Japan. The British Royal Navy was on an exercise with the Singaporean Navy; the aim was the freedom of navigation exercise through the South China Sea (Gardner, 2021). Similarly, the Quad alliance also conducted many exercises close to the South China Sea.

The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said bullying in the South China Sea had a serious consequence for security and commerce in the second week of the 21st of August because of a bad rebuke from China (Nichols, 2021). This means conflicts are ongoing at this moment in the disrupted

area. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said, 'us is indeed a troublemaker that undermines regional peace and stability (Spokesperson Lijian's Press Conference, 2021). Sea is always calm and quiet, but the South China Sea has for a long-time been in tension. Both power poles are about to lose control, which is a concerning situation. It is crucial for China to protect its economy, fishing, offshore reserved gas and oil, and space launching stations in Wenchang, Hainan, which is very near to the disputed islands. This station is in the middle of the sea and near the equator. The launching station should be close to the equator or close to the north pole/ northern hemisphere. It is more secure and successful to fly the rocket because of earth gravitation; this is another reason the south China sea is more important to China. It looks like China is fully prepared for anything to come across; meanwhile, the Chinese plan is to form an alliance with Russia, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey to counter Quad in the Indo-pacific (Mazhari, 2021).

Uyghur, Xinjiang Disputes

According to Human Rights Watch, China was number one in Human rights abusers in 2020. (Top 10 Human Rights Abusers, 2020). UN Watch organisation said almost 1 million Uyghurs are in Camp which China claims to be Vocational education and training centres. Many human rights activists in jail, including Dr Li Wenliang, who sounded the alarm on Cornoavirus (Covid-19), the journalist of citizen Zhang

Zhan, and the banning over freedom of Hong Kong, make China the number one at worst human rights violation. This is evidence there are human rights violations ongoing over Uyghur's people.

Xinjiang's previous name is East Turkistan. It was taken over by Qing China in 1884. The Xinhai revolution overthrew the Qing Dynasty in 1912. Yuan Dahua, the last Qing governor, fled from Xinjiang, and one of his subordinates, Yang Zengxin, took control and established Xinjian as a province of China the same year in March. This East Turkestan state was briefly declared independent in 1949, but later the same year it became part of Communist China on the 22nd of December 1949 (Why tension between China and Uighurs, 2014). This was after World war II; during that time, Uyghurs were in the majority but later brought/ arrived other migrants. Today Uyghurs are 45.84% of the population, followed by Han 40.48%, Kazakh 6.50%, Hui 4.51% and others 2.67%. There are approximately 40 million people in Xinjian, and the Uyghurs follow Islam, Sunni. They do have good communication with neighbours such as Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan. Islam network is a major power, and their race is Caucasian. It maybe a big problem because of the short independent history; religious preached militant and Chinese oppression as it may burst in the future. The East Turkistan (Xinjiang) Islam Government also formed-in-Exile in Washington, DC on the 14th of

September 2004 (East Turkistan Government in Exile, n.d.). A Tibetan exiled king Dalai Lama in India, who was king in Tibet, but the East Turkistan government formed abroad. It is an indication of more revolt in Xinjiang. Among the 23 provinces in China, Xinjiang could be a major problem. According to Reuters, there were 5,000 fighters in Syria for establishing the Islamic State, and they went to Syria via Turkey and Southeast Asian countries. A Chinese hostage was killed in 2015 in Syria behind the hand of Uighurs (Blanchard, 2017). The East Turkistan (Xinjiang) Islam Government's president is Ghulam Osman Yaghma, who lives in Canada and Prime Minister Salih Hudayar, who lives in the US. Likewise, other ministers are from France, Switzerland, Japan, Norway and Germany (East Turkistan Government in Exile, 2021). It looked like back in 2001, Afghanistan's newly formed administration came from another country. One day, if Xinjiang becomes independent, then this exile government may take over, but no one knows what will happen in the future.

Let's look at a few chronologies of Xinjiang; in July 2014, some Xinjiang government banned Muslim civil servants from fasting during Ramadhan, which increased more extremists. Back in the 1990s and 2008 during the Olympics, Uighurs protested in the streets of Beijing, and the next year there was regional capital Urumqi unrest where 200 Han Chinese were killed. Uighurs tried to hijack a

plane from Hotan to Urumqi in 2012. After the attack in the Shanshan county government building, police opened fire and killed 27 people in April 2013. Uighurs made an attack by explosive carried by two cars which crashed through Urumqi market and killed 31 people in 2014. A knife gang attacked the police station, and on that violence, 96 people were killed in July 2014. In the same years, outside of the police station at Luntai 50 people were killed in a blast. The East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) is fighting to establish an Independent East Turkestan. The Chinese government often blamed ETIM for inspiring violent incidents in Xinjiang and beyond. And Turkistan Islamic Party seems to be working closely with ETIM (Why tension between China and Uighurs, 2014). These are some problems in Xinijing with Uyghurs.

All the above problems are related to religion, extremist and separatist activities. The separatist activities are criminal offences of any country, which is the same in China as well. In social politics, education is the bigger weapon than any other. Therefore, China has built 380 an internment camps in Xinjiang since 2017 (Graham-Harrison, 2020). China calls it vocational education and training centres and is a big area. Many places and China's government argue that local people are voluntarily signing for vocational education and training. Chinese media have provided images and videos showing their camp full of facilities, teaching camp,

vocational training camp, and forced labour camp. It's a little early to speak about vocational education and training centres because it has only been 4 years. They might be a good product for the economy for self and Xinjiang, and they may mitigate the religious extremist. If stopping to produce Islamic extremists or converting to normal, that is good for the US and western countries as well.

There is a concern for the Uighur people in Xinjiang. Before, there was a Uighur majority; however, now, the Uighur population is just 45.84% because of more migration. They are now in the minority overall. Because Chinese government policy is to retain Xinjiang forever in China, there should not be a Uighur majority. Therefore, they open for migration and ultimately, there are many ethnic groups; among them, Han has almost the same population as Uighur. Normally authorities play this kind of game. For example, Jammu and Kashmir are states of India with a large Kashmiri population. Recently, the Indian government made a policy for settling rights, encouraging Indians from other states, who are most likely not Kashmiri, to move into those states. This puts Kashmiris in the minority in Jammu and Kashmir. China is not isolating Xinjiang; it will be a big financial hub because the Silk Road is a base in Xinjiang under the BRI project. If internment camps are capable of producing any entrepreneurs, the Silk Road maybe the door for opportunities.

There are many internment camps and many people, among the million people, few people should be distractive and against the administration, which is normal; however, they have to respect his human rights.

Photo 3: Uighurs people in internment camp



Photo source: Human Rights Watch, www.hrw.org

There are many critiques about the internment camps. Therefore, the Chinese government must show transparency: how many people are in the study, vocational training, forced labour, and punishment? Similarly, how many males, females, and how many mothers are separated from their children? When will people finish that internment camps tour, and how many are already back in society? If those camps are vocational education and training centres, why not allow a journalist to visit as the government claims to be? This is a big question. Why do children get separated from their

families? Is the Chinese government following the Stolen Generations formula? In Australia, between 1910 to 1970s, many ethnic community children were forcibly removed from their families; as a result, children lost continuity with their community faith and belief (The Stolen Generation, 2021). Suppose the Chinese government is applying The Stolen Generation formula. That is also against human rights.

Every individual has the right to have freedom and liberty. It would be good to hear that some people graduated from vocational education and training centres. Interestingly, when I became a member of the China Communist party, the mosque, Church and Temple or any god prayer at home was not allowed. There are some banned religious or spiritual groups as well, such as Falun Gong, the Church of Almighty God (Eastern Lighting) and a quasi-Christin group (China: Religion and Chinese Law, 2018). However, many mosques have been built, Christianity has been rapidly increasing in China, which may change the socio-politics in the future.

Whatever China is doing, it looks better for Xinjiang, but the outcome is overwhelmingly criticising. Xinjian is in a very vulnerable state as more than five thousand Uighurs Islamic state fighters are fighting in Syria, and they might return, which would be a challenge for Xinjiang. Furthermore, the exiled East Turkistan government may also return, which would be another challenge too. Additionally,

International human rights and western provocation are the main challenges for China.

Taiwan Disputes

The China and Taiwan conflict is always in the media. What kind of country is Taiwan? Who wants to separate from China, and why have they never been separated? Does the US have any role? And what is the actual position of Taiwan in the globe? Let's find out below.

Taiwan's official name is the Republic of China. Let's briefly describe mainland China and Chinese Taipei, which will make it easy to understand this issue. At the end of the 19th century, the Qing dynasty governed China, Mongolia and Taiwan. There was a Sino-Japanese war that took place in Taiwan and Korea, and after one year in 1895, Japan won the war, and Taiwan came under the Japanese empire. The Korean Joseon dynasty ended, and the Japanese empire annexed the Korean peninsula in 1910. The Chinese imperial monarchy was overthrown in 1912. Then, the Republic of China was established. Sun Yat-sen was the provisional president in Nanjing in China, but Yuan Shikai had already had power in Beijing because he was a commander of the Beiyang Army. To avoid conflict Sun accepted Shikai as president, but later, he abused power, and Sun fled to Japan as president Shikai dissolved the Chinese Nationalist Party in 1915. He declared himself Emperor of China; he attempted

to restore the monarchy. Unfortunately, he died one year later and started the Warlord Era in China, where power was divided. Ultimately, Yat-sen returned from Japan and established the Republic of China in 1917. And he revived his national party under the name of Kuomintang. Yet-sen did not get support from the west, but assistance came from the Soviet Union and made allies with the small Communist Party of China and became the Kuomintang party. After the death of Yat-sen in 1925, Kuomintang divided into leftist and rightist. Leftists (Communist) moved to Wuhan, and Kuomintang moved to Nanjing.

Thousands of Communists were executed in Shanghai in April 1927 by nationalist forces. And Leftist Kuomintang again divided and collapsed, which ended the connection with the Soviet Union. Later, the Chinese civil war began, and Mao Zedong reformed and led the Communist Party, and his opponent was Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of the Nationalists, which was in August 1927. Zedong was commander in chief of the Red Army. Chinese civil war was still ongoing in 1931, and Japan took opportunities to occupy Manchukuo and Nanjing. There was common demand for an alliance with communists to defend Japan's common enemy, but nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek refused. He wanted to continue to fight with communists rather than the external enemy, Japan. Ultimately, Chiang-Jai-Shek was kidnapped by one of his commanders in 1936. The second Sino-Japanese

war escalated, and World War II was triggered. Finally, the US used two bombs in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, then Japan surrendered and returned to Taiwan. Another civil war began in China: the Soviet Union supported communists, and the US-supported Nationalists, which resulted in the Cold War (WonderWhy, 2016). Over the Civil war, Communists won over Nationalists (Kuomintang government), and the nationalists were sent to Taiwan for exile in 1949. That was the end of the civil war, but there weren't any treaties, and later the same year, Chinese communists declared China as the 'People's Republic of China,' and Taiwan called 'The Republic of China.'

Both are China, but one has 'People', and the other does not. During the Olympics, they used Chinese Taipei for Taiwan's name. This Island previously was named Formosa, and Austronesian are the indigenous peoples. The UN general assembly resolution 2758 declared the People's Republic of China is the legitimate government of China. However, there are 15 countries that recognised Taiwan as an independent sovereign country, but the US does not recognise it (Countries That Recognise Taiwan, 2021). Being long out of connection, China opened purpose to Taiwan with three links: postal, transportation, and Trade, but Taiwan rejected with 'three Noes' policies, 1. No contact, 2. no compromise and 3. no negotiation in 1979. But this policy had been revised because a Chinese pilot hijacked aircraft 747 to Guangdong, forcing

communication between the two in 1986. The consensus is that both sides adhere to the One China Policy in 1992, which means the current situation is temporary, and 'one China' is the ultimate goal. This one-China policy agreement is the pivotal point at this moment (Jue, 2006). The first Taiwanese presidential election was in 1996; before that, Kuomintang had been in power. Later, the Democracy Progressive Party (DPP) was elected in government in 2000, then DPP rejected that One China Policy and rejected the 1992 consensus. DPP believes Taiwan is already an independent country, and many countries have de facto diplomat offices. In the majority, the young generation of Taiwanese is more pro-independent. There are almost 70 thousand US people/ troops in Taiwan; it is a weapon asset client and a good income source for the US. If Taiwan remains the same provision, it's easy to use Taiwan's land to fight over China if it occurs, so who doesn't want independence for Taiwan?

The US economy and defence power are declining, and China is about to close the superpower. In that scenario, will the Taiwanese people still demand independence? Will the US weapon business remain the same? There are many questions.

The US and Taiwan (Republic of China) had a mutual defence treaty from 1954 to 1979 due to an established relationship with the People's Republic of China, but President Carter terminated that treaty (Bush, 2016). During

the mutual defence treaty, how much money did they have to pay the US? The provisions are not clear yet, but Taiwan and the US became close allies when the treaty was terminated. Taiwan had to buy weapons and defence equipment from the US.

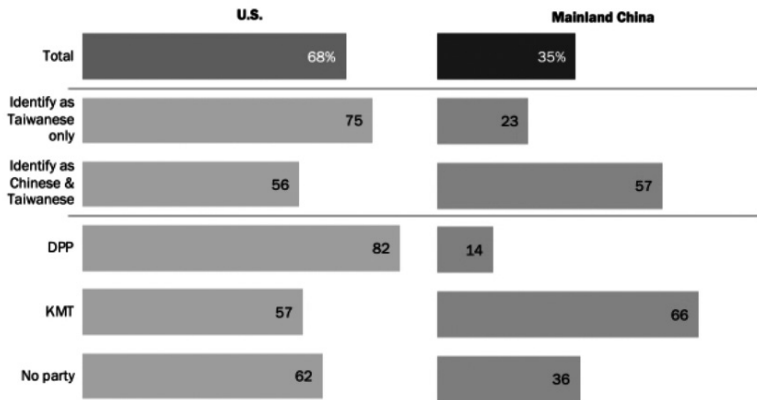
Taiwan's government declared an air defence identification zone in September 2016. And, the Taiwanese government passed the Taiwan Travel Act 2018, which allows and encourages the visit of the US security official to Taiwan and more authorities to defend from China. This Act gives legal rights to the US to delay, degrade and defend Taiwan. On top of that, Taiwan bought 66 units of advanced F-16V Fighters from the US for \$8 billion (Carpenter, 2021). If Taiwan always lives in threat from China, the US can sell heavy defence equipment and weapons. Therefore, some people argue that the US doesn't want to make Taiwan independent. In the same year, China suspended diplomatic contact with Taiwan in July 2016 (Hernández, 2016). China is requesting and threatening too because the de facto state of Taiwan is a good base for the US or any anti-allies if they need to assault over the mainland of China. The US forces and their presence away from Taiwan are important than one country policy execution. Suppose without the US backup, Taiwan wishes to practice fully autonomous or de facto independence. In that case, that maybe acceptable for China, but they may never accept to provide the US military base

in Taiwan because it maybe more dangerous than any other place.

According to Pew research centre's survey of 2019, Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), 82% supporters want to separate from mainland China, and Kuomintang (KMT) party's and 66% wants to unite with mainland China (DEVLIN and HUANG, 2020).

Chart 6: DPP supporters more positive toward the US than mainland China

% who have a favorable view of ...



Source: Survey of adults in Taiwan conducted Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 2019. QT1a-b. "In Taiwan, Views of Mainland China Mostly Negative"

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In the majority of the youth generation, there is pride in Taiwanese identities. Still, many people believe that the same history, pride, name, and many relatives live in mainland China. Therefore, they want to remain with China. According to 2016 to October 2019, Taiwan trading partners

records show China is the first, and second, the US, with Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Germany, Vietnam, and Australia being the top 10 trade partners (Shattuck, 2020). Therefore, being away from mainland China is not worth it, harmful and shameful for Taiwan.

As I mentioned above, during the 1930s ongoing civil war, Japan attacked China. People were asking for an alliance to fight back with the external enemy, Japan, rather than fight each other, but the Nationalist Party leader Chiang Kai-shek refused. He wanted to continue to fight with communists. Ultimately, he was kidnapped by one of his own commanders in 1936. That history may repeat. Whatever the problem between mainland China vs Taiwan, China's external competitor will be the US. President Tsai Ing-wen may not be Kai-shek. Global world order is going to change in a few years; then, the movement of the Taiwanese separator could be stopped or disappear.

Tibet Disputes

Jampa Yeshe, a Tibetan young guy, was running in a ball of flames for some 50 meters in the streets of Delhi in India and collapsed in front of journalists and protesters. It was near India's parliament; it was early afternoon on the 26th of March 2012. All around the world, people were shocked, saddened by the videos and photos of the event and asked what was happening? It was a demand to free Tibet. This

was just an incident, but many people were sacrificed for their rights and freedom of Tibet. Tibet was a peaceful and happy country before the Chinese Communists invaded in 1949. Let's go back to a brief history of Tibet and the current Tibetan phenomenon.

Photo 4: Jampa Yeshi was running in a ball of flames for demand free Tibet



Source: The Times of India daily

Songtsen Gampo united the Yarlung River valley and created the Tibetan empire in 618 CE.

Tibet was an independent Buddhist nation until 1949, and Buddhism was brought from Nepal in 780 EC because of Gampo's wife, Princess Bhrikuti, from Nepal. In Buddhism, each family's 3rd son should be a monk for family pride.

There were many monks, among them a monk who self-declared as the Dalai Lama in 1642 CE. Dalai Lama means leader of Tibet and has power in politics and spirituality. Where people of religious significance control the land, that is called **Theocracy**, and it counts as a government. The current Dalai Lama is the 14th, and when he was exiled to India, he was just 24 years. When the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China (**PRC**) invaded in 1950, that led to turmoil and threw the Tibetan government. This resulted in the exile of the Dalai Lama along with 100,000 Tibetans in 1959-63. Since then, millions of people have been killed, and with the Chinese policy of resettlement of Chinese to Tibet, Tibetan became a minority in their own land after that policy implementation. Chinese communist claims to be an atheist society, so they destroyed almost 6,000 monasteries and shrines (Praag, 1887) and killed 87,000 Tibetan only in the Lhasa region.

China went through a civil war and a communist revolution. The Chinese communist government killed 1.2 million out of 6 million Tibetans. The New People's Republic of China (communist) came to Tibet to negotiate with the 14th Dalai Lama, which called for a 17 points agreement, which was an unwanted agreement through pressure and threat.

Seventeen Point Agreement for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet:

1. The Tibetan people shall unite and drive out aggressive imperialist forces from Tibet; the Tibetan people shall return to the family of the Motherland, the PRC.
2. The local government of Tibet shall actively assist the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to enter Tibet and consolidate the national defences.
3. In accordance with the policy towards nationalities laid down in the Common Program of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the Tibetan people have the right to exercise national, regional autonomy under the unified leadership of the Central People's Government (CPG) of the PRC.
4. The central authorities will not alter the existing political system in Tibet. The central authorities also will not alter the established status, functions and powers of the Dalai Lama. Officials of various ranks shall continue to hold office.
5. The established status, functions and powers of the Panchen Ngoerhtehni shall be maintained.
6. By the established status, functions and powers of the Dalai Lama and of the Panchen Ngoerhtehni are meant the status, functions and powers of the thirteenth Dalai Lama and the ninth Panchen

Ngoerhte hni when they had friendly and amicable relations with each other.

7. The policy of freedom of religious belief as laid down in the common program shall be carried out. The religious beliefs, customs and habits of the Tibetan people shall be respected, and lama monasteries shall be protected. The central authorities will not effect a change in the income of the monasteries.
8. Tibetan troops shall be gradually reorganised into the PLA, and become a part of the PRC's defence force.
9. The spoken and written language and education system of the Tibetan nationality shall be developed step by step in accordance with the actual conditions in Tibet.
10. Tibetan agriculture, livestock raising, industry, and commerce shall be developed step by step, and the people's livelihood shall be improved step by step in accordance with the actual conditions in Tibet.
11. In matters relating to various reforms in Tibet, there will be no compulsion on the part of the central authorities. The local government of Tibet shall carry out reforms of its own accord, and when the people raise demands for reform, they shall be settled by means of consultation with the leading personnel of Tibet.

12. In so far as former pro-imperialists and pro-Kuomintang (KMT) officials resolutely sever relations with imperialism and the KMT and do not engage in sabotage or resistance, they may continue to hold office irrespective of their past.
13. The PLA entering Tibet shall abide by all the aforementioned policies, and shall also be fair in all commerce, and shall not arbitrarily take a needle or thread from the people.
14. The CPG shall have centralised handling of all Tibetan external affairs; there will be peaceful coexistence with neighbouring countries as well as establishment and development of fair commercial and trading relations with them on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, and mutual respect for territory and sovereignty.
15. In order to ensure the implementation of this agreement, the CPG shall set up a Military and Administrative Committee and a Military Area headquarter in Tibet and – apart from the personnel sent there by the CPG – shall absorb as many local Tibetan personnel as possible to take part in the work. Local Tibetan personnel taking part in the Military and Administrative Committee may include patriotic elements from the local government of Tibet, various districts and various principal monasteries; the name list shall be set forth after consultation between the

representatives designated by the CPG and various quarters concerned and shall be submitted to the CPG for the appointment.

16. Funds needed by the military and Administrative Committee, the Military Area HQ and the PLA entering Tibet shall be provided by the CPG. The local government of Tibet should assist the PLA in the purchase and transport of food, fodder and other daily necessities.

17. This agreement shall come into force immediately after signature and seals are affixed to it.

These agreements started on the 23rd of May 1951. Later Chinese authority pressured the 14th Dalai Lama to Exile in India because of no freedom of speech, liberty, no religious freedom, no press freedom, and arbitrary dissidents, which are continuing today (Tethong, 2001). There are massive human rights abuses such as forced abortion, sterilisation of Tibetan women, attacks on Tibetan culture, bringing new settlers in Tibet, and sending Tibetans to other provinces concerned about Tibet. However, there are many protests all around the world, especially in western countries and neighbouring India. Before Dalai Lama was exiled to India, China and India had a very good relationship, but at this moment, there is not such a good relationship. Some people argue once the Dalai Lama passes away, the relationship may be restored.

Meanwhile, India and China have many borders dispute, and India is a member of the Quad alliance, which works against the Chinese movement. China and India are neighbour countries, but remarkably, they do not have any language, culture, and political-cultural exchange. India is a completely new planet for Chinese people and vice versa, which is an absence of a good relationship.

The ruler of Tibet (Dalai Lama) is in exile in Dharamshala, India. Even they have a Central Tibetan Administration (government) formed on the 28th of April 1959, and the current President is Penpa Tsering, who was democratically elected on the 27th of May 2021. For religious matters, the supreme leader is the remaining Dalai Lama.

Campaigns for Tibet independence are going on and have lasted for six decades. It has been highlighted on the news all over the world. 100,000 Tibetan refugees live in India (Tibetan refugees in Nepal, 2013). It must be a concerning matter of the international community. They want to return to Tibet and enjoy the independence of their land. There are many supporters and tacit supporters because of the one-China policy and Chinese government domination.

For Tibet to be recognised Tibet as independent and free, the Tibet Bill in the US Congress was passed in 2020. A Republican US lawmaker Scott Perry had introduced that bill, and also for Hong Kong. Both bills have been forwarded

to the US house committee on foreign affairs (Bill in US Congress to recognise Free Tibet, 2020). These bills have to be approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate to become law. However, that is still not yet finalised. Many international communities put pressure on China, but China is also forcing everyone against Tibet. Nepal is upholding restrictions on Tibetan national uprising day and the birth celebration of Dalai Lama because the Nepal government has agreed to one china policy. More than 20 thousand Tibetan refugees live in Nepal (Nepal upholds restrictions on Tibetans, 2020). Nepal and India both are land borders countries. Therefore, at least we have to look after them as we are all humans.

Independent Tibet's movement is ongoing globally, and fortunately, it discovered large mineral deposits in Tibet in 2007, worth 128 billion dollars. Minerals such as Copper, iron, lead, zinc, oil and many more were found in 600 sites (Huge mineral resources found in Tibet, 2007). It will be a big enough source, and it may sustain an independent government in Tibet.

Let's be familiar with basic Chinese characteristics of political authorities and division in Tibet: the Chinese government calls Tibet the 'Tibet Autonomous Region' or Xizang Autonomous Region. The legislature is called the 'Tibet Autonomous Region People's Congress.' China Communist Party (CCP) Tibet is Wu Yingije. In this

autonomous region, there are eight districts and 66 countries' administrative divisions. According to records there are 75.5% Tibetan Buddhism, 12.5% Bon, 8.58% Chinese folk religion, 0.4% Islam and 0.02% Christianity.

A traditional governing body, 'Kashag' is the governing council of Tibet during the Qing dynasty until the 1950s, which was created in 1721. That traditional system was discontinued during Zhou Enlai's premiership in 1959. Normal 'Kashag' consists of three temporal officials and a monk, which means a four-member team makes the top government. Instead of 'Kashag' exiled Tibetans, however, use 'Dalai Lama'. This is also a top body of government or ruler. According to the 'Tibet Autonomous Region' system, all ministries are two representatives: one temporal and one monastic, except the finance minister has three lay officials. The Chinese characteristics administration system is unique, they do have priority to finance, and they are good in the economy at this moment. To find the Tibet government online, we have to type 'xizang.gov.cn'. It means the Chinese government is slowly replacing Xizang (xizang.gov.cn, 2021), which may overlap with the Tibet legacy. Some people argue that China is not only just a country but also is a long history of civilisation, but they do also have a different political system rather than neo-liberal or western liberal democracy.

Every year, especially an occasion of the anniversary of the Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule, many places

demonstrate for separation of Tibet or Independence of Tibet (Macfie and Fernandez, 2017). This type of demonstration continues every year. And, western countries are provoking Chinese human rights, including Tibet human rights. In Tibetan history, Tibet has seen itself lose the battle during invasions. In this perspective, it is questionable how legitimate it is to campaign for independence. However, the Tibet China 17 points agreements, the inter-province provision and the foreign policy are looking fairly good and balanced. But in practice, the Chinese government responses are very concerning, especially human rights violations and media. **They threaten India and Nepal's media via Embassy (Giri and Pradhan, 2020).** And they treat Tibetan refugees in a barbaric way, badly violating Human Rights. Why is there not another negotiation to return back safely and re-settle a hundred thousand Tibetans in Tibet? Tibet needs more skill and a non-skill workforce. Tibet is already an autonomous region, so it should be acceptable for Tibetan who were exiled. In this cosmopolitan world, none of the states is fully independent; they are somehow bound with other nations or international organisations. Mainland China is your country or a neighbouring country, and they are facing tremendous problems and pressure from the international community. Without options of the solution, and only protesting is never going to solve the problem. Compromise is the key formula of solving the problem.

Hong Kong Protests

Hong Kong is an amazing city and place in the world; this is an example place to see how we can develop a coastal hill area. Compared with Hong Kong's tallest building, we cannot see anything similar in Europe. Hong Kong is a beautiful and world business hub as well. It was a British colony and was handed back to China in 1997. It was a colony for 100 years. During that time, there was a provision of One country two systems. There is no doubt Hong Kong belongs to China, but there is also an agreement that Hong Kong remains as it is for a further 50 years until 1947 (Pomfret and Torode, 2019). After its return to China, the British still has the legitimacy to make a voice for Hong Kong people's human rights, press, and freedom of expression; therefore, the British voice is always in priority.

photo 5: A protester holding a play card for free Hong Kong



Source: indianexpress.com

Hong Kong was for a long time peaceful. Suddenly, there was a jump into riots and violations of human rights in 2019. What triggered the riot's story is genuine and interesting, which started in Taiwan. Two Hongkongers went on holiday to Taiwan in 2018, and sadly Poon Hiu-wing was murdered by her boyfriend, Chan Tong-kai, in Taiwan. To arrest and bring him to justice in Hong Kong, they have to receive his criminal case file from Taiwan. However, there was no treaty with Taiwan because Taiwan is a de facto country, not recognised as a country. If Taiwan was recognised as a sovereign country, Interpol could help to assist, but that was no option. Therefore, the HK administration proposed to amend the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, which may open the door to establishing to transfer the cases. The extradition bill was proposed in April 2019.

Some people argued that bills would give mainland China more power and maybe be misused over activists and journalists in Hong Kong, which triggered the protests. Almost hundreds of thousands of people were involved in the protest. After a week of protests, leader Carrie Lam agreed to be suspended indefinitely, and protesters continued to demand the bill to be withdrawn altogether.

Police and protests become violent frequently. Ultimately, the Hong Kong authority withdrew that proposed bill in September, but protesters said it was too late. During

the celebrations of the 70th years of Communist Party rule in Hong Kong, it was chaotic and became violent. Protesters were fought with poles and petrol bombs, and an 18-year boy was shot in his chest with a live bullet. Furthermore, the Hong Kong government banned wearing face masks. In the first week of November, a pro-china lawmaker was stabbed by an unknown man in the streets. Then next week, a protester who was trying to block the road was shot by a police officer. In the same month, there was a standoff at polytechnic university's campus. Later that month, there was a local council election, and the pro-democracy alliance won 17 seats out of 18 (The Hong Kong protests explained, 2019). Those results clearly indicated that overall, Hong Kong people are not in favour of pro-Beijing.

The Hong Kong protest support movement has spread all over the globe. Rallies took place in France, the UK, Canada, and Australia, showing that it is big news. When the protest took place in the west, President Xi Jinping warned they must not try to divide China (The Hong Kong protests explained, 2019). It looks like Chinese authorities have a western phobia. If anything happens that reflects the influence of the west, China has always responded harshly. For example, in history, the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 happened because they believed the west backed the protesters. If they find any western support evidence, then Chinese authorities may act barbarically.

Hong Kong has its own judiciary and legal system rather than the mainland of China. There is guaranteed freedom of assembly and freedom of speech, but the Basic Law will expire in 2047; after that, Hong Kong's status will not be clear.

The Murder of Poon Hiu-wing is still not under arrest. Due to the absence of law, the Hong Kong government is on the crackdown on events and have passed a series of law: the Hong Kong national security law in June 2020 disqualified 12 pro-democratic candidates in the election, imposed executive order in August 2020 and suspended the extradition treaties with the UK, Germany, the US, Canada and New Zealand. So far, two protesters have been killed and injured, with roughly 2,600 people and property damaged by riots worth US \$755 million. As I mentioned above, Hong Kong is a business hub for the world, and obviously, this protest hugely damaged the Hong Kong economy.

Due to unrest in Hong Kong, the UK government announced that over 1 million Hong Kong people could immigrate to the UK who have British National Overseas (BNO) passports (Grierson, 2020). If they enter the UK that could boost the UK economy by \$2.9 billion, but when the UK government launched this scheme within 1 hour, China responded and announced that there is no more recognised BNO passport from the 31st of January 2021 (Hale, 2021). This announcement will stop the majority of people from

coming to the UK. However, some people may come because they feel freedom is bigger than anything. Many people do not want to stay with the oppressed in Hong Kong. On the other hand, Hong Kong is no longer Hong Kong like before because the trade hub is transferred to Shenzhen near the city.

How China is dealing with people, freedom, and liberty are hugely concerning. Force and threats are not the solutions to win hearts. The mind is better and goes longer. Every year China releases the US Human rights report, which looks like retaliation of western influence (China issues report on US human rights violations, 2021). Each country is violating human rights, but differences are a high or low number. Western liberal countries are more democratic than any country of totalitarian or autocracy. Chinese characteristic government system seems more autocratic, and human rights violation is very high. It's an alarming situation. Therefore, US lawmakers are pressuring the UN to step up for China's human rights. Senator Jeff Merkley, Representative Jim McGovern, and 50 human rights advocates wrote a letter to the Secretary-General. They said if there is no action, the UN has to provide a basis for the failure to act (Flatley, 2021).

China is a rising power; therefore, it must improve the human rights matter in Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Tibet. China has to spend a budget on education rather than defence, so human rights awareness is improved.

Alliance of China and Russia

China and Russia have a very special relationship at this moment. Geographically both countries are happy too because, at the middle, Mongolia is playing a role as the border for China and Russia, so just a few parts of the land share borders. During the Soviet Union, the relationship was not so good. In 1989, both countries were feeling the threat from the US and its alliance. As a result, Russia and China reapproached each other in 1992. If we look back in history, Russian communists supported China during the Civil war in the 1930s. That was the point of exporting communist ideology to China. Both countries have shared. Therefore, they had a relationship since the Qing dynasty in the 17th century and older. However, China is under top pressure from the US and its alliance at this moment, and at the same time, China and Russia acknowledge they are strong allies at this moment. They both know that if a tiger bites and eats China, the same Tiger will bite and eat Russia. While Royal Navy aircraft carrier Queen Elizabeth entered the South China Sea, a Russian naval vessel immediately entered the English Channel (Boratyn and Smith, 2021). It maybe coincidental but may not be because China and Russia have close ties, especially in defence.

Both countries signed a Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation in 2001, leading to a good relationship. They are already in an alliance against western domination institutions, and they established Brazil, Russia,

India, China and South Africa (BRIC) group in 2010 and Russia also in the BRI project. In a TV interview, President Vladimir Putin said we do have a very good relationship with China (NBC News, 2021). The strong relationship between Russia and China made both countries stronger. Currently, we have bipolar power: one being the west and the other being Russian and China.

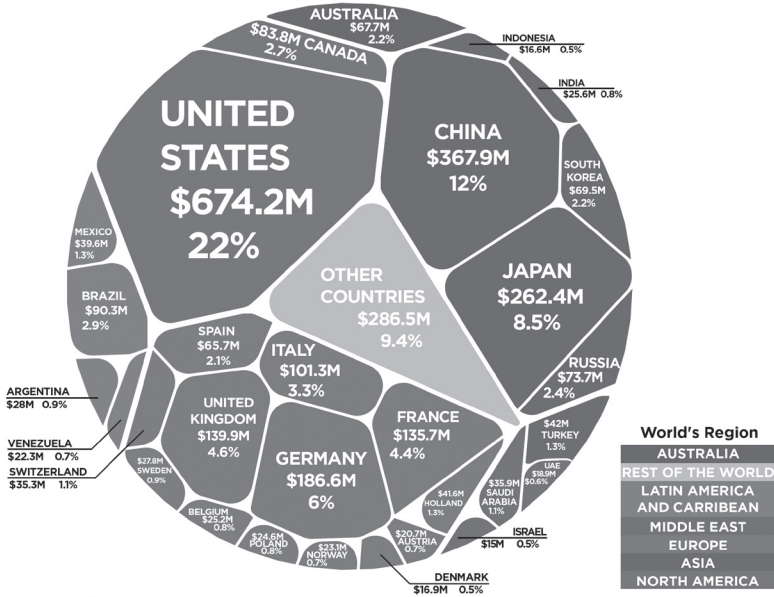
C. Chinese role in the global dominance organisations

(The UN, WTO, IMF and World Bank, BRICS New Development Bank and ICC)

China is taking so many advantages of globalisation. Therefore, China has to give back some amount to the global benefit. China has been a permanent member of the UN security council since it was established. Occasionally China had played a role in a few special events. Morphet wrote that China handled its role as a permanent member of the UN in 1971, replacing Taiwan's name and claiming it to be part of China in UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 (MORPHET, 2000). China used its permanent member power to make Taiwan no longer be recognised as an independent country. There were many events, but China seems tacit because of its foreign policy and capability. Still, China is currently playing an active role over the UN, and China contributed 12% of the UN budget in 2019 (Visualise the World's Funding for the UN, 2019).

Chart 7: United Nations budget contributions by country

Gross Contribution & Percentage Share



Article and Sources:

<https://howmuch.net/articles/united-nations-budget-contributions-by-country-2019>
 UN-<https://undocs.org/en/ST/ADM/SER.B/992>

howmuch.net

The Chinese Army celebrated 30 years of United Nations peacekeeping operations in 2020. This means China started to contribute Chinese Army for UN peacekeeping operations (UNPKOs) mission as military observers to UNTSO in 1990. The Chinese Army has already participated in 25 UN missions, and some missions are still ongoing. So far, 16 army personals have died during different peacekeeping missions. In total, 40,000 Chinese personals contributed to peacekeeping missions, the biggest among five permanent

security council members (Huaxia, 2020). Also, the China-UN peace and development fund has provided for 80 projects' amounting to \$67.7 million. It was all about the peacekeeping mission President Jinping announced in 2015 (Borah, 2020). It looks like huge contributions towards global governance, which is good news for the international community. When the Chinese economy rocketed, Chinese influence in the UN also increased.

China is a founder member and co-founder of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1945, with 34 other countries. However, China established a formal relationship with the IMF in April 1980. China realised that Europe always influenced the IMF, and the World Bank was influenced by the US because of currency and bureaucracy. Therefore, China proposed a universal currency in the IMF in 2009, but it did not go through. However, the Chinese currency was recognised as used in the special drawing right (SDR) basket in the IMF in 2016. Every five years, the heads of government gather and promise contributions, and they agree on the amount in the special drawing rights. This is a replacement system of 1-ounce gold to \$35 dollars, Bretton Woods' system which collapsed in 1971. China and many other countries realised that if it is not possible to amend the IMF and World Bank system, it may not be possible to improve their own country's economy or rise as power because of institutional exploitations of the west. As a result, they agreed to form

BRICS New Development Bank in 2014, where Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa are involved, and \$100 billion was set up for BRICS.

Another notable point is the International Criminal Court (ICC) in Hague. It is an important global governance organisation which Rome Statute adopted on the 17th of July 1998 and came into force on the 1st of July 2002. This ICC aims to stop genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes of aggression. Therefore, this ICC is somehow more important than the UN. According to aims and jurisdictions, the US and the UK are already liable for a court case due to Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and other wars, but the US and China were against these ICC statutes. Before the ICC was declared, there was a vote for a treaty that 120 countries agreed to, and seven opposed. One hundred twenty-three countries are members of the ICC, and it has a significant effect in Africa. Many African leaders are in Hague's prison because of their involvement in genocide or crimes. The US is threatening to disband the ICC and place sanctions against the ICC officials (International Criminal Court officials sanctioned by US, 2020). But, Chinese policy seems to stay quiet about the ICC.

D. Chinese Covid Diplomacy

China sent Covid-19 vaccines to more than 80 countries for emergency use and market purposes. It was free for 53

developing countries, including Africa and strategically important Asian countries such as Pakistan and the Philippines. 27 Middle-income countries paid for doses. President Jinping pledged that Chinese Covid-19 vaccines would be provided as a global public good, but not many would be available. Beijing's vaccine diplomacy is changing the Chinese government's perceptions as generous and responsible (Zhao, 2021).

Councillor of foreign relations Yanzhong Huang argued that 'China wants to send Covid vaccines to achieve multiple foreign policies. First, China wants to show the world that they are the best and capable. Second, show that China is responsible for great power and third, market sale, which will link further trade' (FRANCE 24 English FRANCE 24 English, 2021). Vaccine's diplomacy will support the giant project of BRI and the worldwide influence of China. Some countries are reluctant, and most countries buy Chinese vaccines because they do not have access to Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca. President Jinping prioritised Africa and denied Canada vaccines as Africa is pro-China whilst Canada is pro-US. It looks like a game of allies.

In the last outbreak of protests in Hong Kong, international communities were divided. Some countries support the protester's side and have asked not to violate human rights, and some countries support China, according to DW News who has signed on the BRI. Four out of five countries

have been supporting China because of BRI influence and diplomacy. Similarly, China has already donated 350 million Covid-19 vaccines and later announced the donation of 1 billion vaccines to vulnerable, poor, and underdeveloped countries by 2021 helps build their influence and diplomacy. This diplomacy maybe more important for China for three reasons: First, to control the narrative that the virus originated from a laboratory in Wuhan and to remove the idea that China should be punished, although most countries would not agree to punish China. Secondly, China has already shown that it is much more capable of controlling the outbreak than liberal western countries. Thirdly, China made money from exporting covid protection equipment and vaccine during this Covid-19 pandemic.

Nobody knows whether the virus transferred from any animal or if there was an accidental spillage from level 4, Wuhan laboratory, one of the world's most sophisticated laboratories. The laboratory used to work with the Galveston National Laboratory in the University of Texas, Canada Institutes and other laboratories (Wuhan Institute of Virology, 2021). If you have already watched the film 'Contagion', which was released in 2011, you will probably say this virus is human-made. Former President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad wrote a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in March 2020. He clearly stated that it is a Lab produced virus but has not yet been verified.

Eleven countries have developed Covid vaccines until today. These include Russia, China, the US, UK, Germany, India, Netherland, Cuba, Iran, Taiwan and Kazakhstan. Among them, China developed seven types of vaccines: 1. Sinopharm, 2. Sinovac, 3. Convidecla, 4. SARS-CoV-2, 5. Subunit, 6. Vero cell and 7. Covidful SARS-CoV-2,

The issue of where the virus originated was disputed between the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the US. President Trump made an announcement to withdraw from the WHO and no longer contribute in July 2020. The following week China pledged \$30 million to WHO (Shih, 2020). China is taking over the position of the US due to President Trump administration stepping back from many multilateral organisations, which were established after and before world war II. China is massively benefitting from expanding Beijing's sway (Hinshaw, O'Keeffe and Trofimov, 2020). China self-developed Covid-19 vaccines and vaccinated almost 79% of their population. The US, however, has two types of vaccines, and fewer of their people are vaccinated. Overall, the Chinese vaccines diplomacy is looking more successful.

E. Current world order

When what is expected from the US is now shifting to China; this is a sign of the world order changing. However, it's too early to say whether it has been changed already. A

change maybe suggested because the Chinese economy is rising, but foreign policy and engagement still need work. China never bombarded any country in the last 40 years to become a world power. That atmosphere may make a big difference (Columbia SIPA, 2018). If we look back to the US history without them having used coercive power, there would be no recognition of the US as a power state. Currently, it is a big debate about geopolitics. Many people are predicting it will be changed soon. However, at the same time, the hegemony of the western world has lasted for a long time, and they will fight to retain and continue their world hegemony. The last 2021 G7 summit is evidence of that. They spent most of their time discussing against rising China, especially when they initiated a counter plan over the Chinese One belt one Road initiative (Belt and Road Initiative/new silk road). President Biden proposed the Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative (G7 attempt to rival China with infrastructure, 2021). They discussed stopping the increasing rise of Chinese power, and the US was aggressively against the Chinese authority regarding their behaviour towards Uighurs.

There are many predictions about today's world order. A researcher, Seth Jones, argued that the world would be multipolarity by 2025-30. The US, China, Russia, and the European Union will be indifferent poles. But in the background, there will be an alliance between the US and

Europe; another alliance is between Russia and China (Brannen, 2020). Some researchers predict that if stranger leaders take over the US political leadership, they may withdraw from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and pull back from global leadership. Then other actors in Iran, China, Russia, and Islamic states, will be in a vital position. These are hypothetical assumptions in the academic field.

A retired member of the Policy Planning Staff at the State Department, Mr Edward Fishman, argues that the World order is dead and shares his idea of how it would be possible to make a new order after the coronavirus era. Old order or existing order will collapse, and humanity is left with a vacuum. He believes that, during this coronavirus time, new orders are born with new norms, treaties and organisations (Fishman, 2020). He wrote this article during the middle of the Covid crisis when Covid-19 vaccines were not available. Many people believe China could make the Covid-19 vaccine and be the top in the world order. The scenario was changed as China, Russia, the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom made the Covid-19 vaccine at almost the same time. Therefore, the expectation of the world order is still alive and remains the same. Fishman added that the world order was fragile, and it was time for repair. It is an extreme moment for leaders to accept the broken world order and prepare to make and accept the new order. In the

last few years, the US economy has been declining slowly, and during the coronavirus pandemic, the Chinese economy grew by 7.9 per cent in the second quarter of 2021 (Mullen and Wang, 2021). This maybe one of the symptoms of the changing world order.

Recently there was a significant event in Afghanistan. The US and western supported governments collapsed on 15 August 2021. That government was in Afghanistan for the last 20 years, and that government collapsing means declining US power. Coincidentally, the Taliban political chief met with the Chinese foreign minister just before the US and the western supported government collapsed (Chinese officials and Taliban meet, 2021). People criticise that, collapsed government and the withdrawal of the US and the UK army is another big loss, like how the loss of the Suez Canal was seen as the loss of power for the British Empire. Over Afghanistan, China may play an important role and is becoming more influential. However, China itself has to improve its political system, not in a neoliberal democracy, but it has to improve freedom of speech and protect human rights in their system. Suppose China is domestically not strong and united. In that case, Chinese power will not be sustainable. Therefore, they have to give more freedom, rights, and recognition to the 56 ethnic groups and self-governing rights to territories, making the people feel like they are more in charge of the decisions being made.

Conclusion

The Chinese Communist leader Zedong said 'political power comes from the barrel of a gun.' And, during his tenure, 20 million people were killed, and a Communist government in China was established. But Michel Foucault said power is everywhere because it comes from everywhere. Consequently, the two contradict each other. Firstly, power comes from everywhere, not only from the barrel of the gun. Secondly, China is recently gaining power from trade, export economy, and development infrastructure and not from the barrel of the gun.

President Jinping inaugurated the silk road initiative, and Deng Xiaoping's economic idea is that first, people have to reach an open FDI. Both of their ideas are not new but later helped brand Chinese characteristics socialism.

People know that the Chinese economic founding father is Deng Xiaoping, and it maybe possible to say President Clinton too because he played an important role in allowing China to join the WTO. On the other hand, President Obama looks bad for China because he launched 'pivot to Asia Policy 2011', a counterattack strategy to China. As a consequence, China retaliated by launching BRI. Additionally, Obama managed to form the Quad alliance before exiting from his office in 2017. Ultimately, the Quadrilateral announced they aim to establish an "Asian Arc of Democracy in the

same year.". President Trump looked harshly at China. He placed sanctions and tariffs to import Chinese goods, but the Obama policy is more questionable than Trump's policy and action. As retaliation to the Quad alliance, China-proposed China, Russia, Iran and Pakistan (CRIP) alliance in March 2021, which may start another Cold war. Chinese power is expanding with a shovel, cement, and steel, focusing entirely on building infrastructure whilst the US has expanded with weapons. Later, the US realised people have an attraction in infrastructure rather than weapons. Therefore, the US proposed Build Back Better World (B3W) in the G7 summit in 2021. It looks like a copied initiative of BRI, and it maybe too late. Steve Jobs said, 'do not go back and start same way competition but do different way'. Regarding B3W, it's too early to comment on this idea of whether it will succeed or not.

Similarly, China announced 1 billion Covid-19 vaccines as Covid-19 diplomacy to provide for developing countries globally, which may change people's perception of China. Later the US also announced the same amount of vaccines also for developing countries. This maybe coincident, but sometimes China copied the US and vice versa.

Some people believe that the US and western countries feed and support Tibet, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Xinjiang free movements. Tibetan refugees have exile administration based in India for a long time. Also, an East Turkistan government was formed in Washington D. C. in 2004.

There is no evidence of the nation which is US backing up the establishing of the Turkistan government. However, if there is backing up, China could retaliate by fundings and supporting the US 10 Separatist groups/movements such as Conch Republic, Cascadia, California, Confederate States of America, Lakota, New England, Texas, Alaska, Vermont, Hawaii (Kiprop, 2018). If China is already backing up, what will be the consequences?

When the economy improves, all domestic issues no longer become a priority or disappear, but domestic problems will arise when the economy declines. Currently, the US economy is comparatively declining compared to China, and the US growth rate is behind. Therefore, it is of great concern to the US. Francis Fukuyama said the US hegemon would end because of the US itself. Additionally, identity or separatist movement in the US will also result at the end of US hegemony. In line with what Fukuyama said, the identity movements and the separatist movements mentioned above maybe one of the key challenges of the US. Therefore, the US hegemony is at the border because of rising China and the declining US economy. If one hegemon will finish, it means another is rising, and that rising country maybe China.

China is rapidly increasing its power because of western fear. Its power is in combined forms: in economic, military, foreign policy, action plan, dispute against domination (hegemony), and bullying power. Meanwhile, China is fighting with several plans: the BRI, which is accused of

being a debt trap, the South China Sea confrontation and the disputes with Taiwan, Tibet, and Uyghurs in Xinjiang. Furthermore, a military alliance with Russia, WTO, UN, World Bank, IMF, Covid-19 vaccine diplomacy, and BRICS New Development Bank initiative is making China stronger.

Many people argue that China is mysterious, but we have considered the Chinese civil war in the 1930s, the captured regime by Communism in 1949 and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in the 1960s, which killed millions of people and established an agnostic, classless society. Additionally, the Great Proletarian Cultural revolution established China as a no religious-based political country, a unique feature of China not found in many Southeast Asian countries like India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and the Middle East. That, however, is theoretically and in practice that maybe happening in China.

If China wishes to find itself at the top of the new global order, China must also act to decrease CO2 emissions immediately. According to records, China produces 28% (2020), the US 16% and the UK 0.37% (Each Country's Share CO2 Emissions, 2020) of the total CO2 world emission. When the position is high, responsibility should also be high.

The current world order has remained the same since the 19th century, and it has involved World Wars and many wars with strategic plans and meaningful roles. It feels as if it has to be concrete. However, silently, China is rising

with economic power. There was a gap to improve, so China caught up quickly and is now almost at the ceiling. Therefore, it might not come as the previous ratio because there is no gap as before. Chinese people now live a higher standard of living, and soon, access to cheap labour will be difficult. The US was China's biggest trade partner. However, the US has banned many Chinese products, which means a big source of income is limited now, which may affect China's economy. There are some predictions after the Covid-19 pandemic, but we are yet to see the effects because the pandemic is not over yet. Hence, the current world order is at a critical point. China is already a big economic power, but hegemony consists of economics, military, foreign policy, and more. Therefore, the US is still a hegemony and will go a bit longer than people predict. China will not replace the US hegemony until there are changes in their foreign policies and have more significant input in globally governed institutions.

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biswasdip@gmail.com | www.biswas.com.ip



Biswasdip TIGELA (Limbu) is a politics and international relations student. However, he was a self-motivated political teen boy and started his political involvement at the age of 14; he was a chairperson of the student union while he was in the year/class 9. He has an interest in indigenous people's rights and Ethnic Minority Rights, but due to different opportunities, He served non-political organisations in the MOD for 18 years four months. After his retirement, he started his study as a full-time student in 2016 and completed his Degree in Politics and Master's degree in International relations in 2021.

He has written six books in his speaking language and script. Also, he has edited a literature book, 'The Himalayan Bard' in English; however, 'WHY CHINA IS NOT REPLACING AMERICA' This book is his critically analysed book about cosmopolitan politics. Mr. Tigela loves to be a critical thinker, Social worker and working for a long time as an independent journalist and a media person. He has a strong determination to research as a mature student; therefore, he is inspirational.

Since the USSR collapsed, then the world power became unipolar. During that period, some Middle East countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya had problems. Later, Russia and China rose in power, becoming the check and balance for the US hegemony. According to the war theory: Unipolar power killed more innocent people rather than the bipolar or multipolar one(s).

Since China became a member of WTO, the Chinese economy is rocketing.

Fortunately, now there is a choice of BRI or B3W, which is good for the world because both focus on infrastructure development.

Chinese military power is never tested, and China used to always be quiet in international affairs and other countries' domestic affairs. Still, there is a Roman saying, 'if you want peace, prepare for war'. Almost exactly in the same way as the saying goes China is having this kind of challenge. However, Chinese authorities themselves are violating international law over the South China Sea.

There are 15 countries that recognised Taiwan as an independent sovereign country, but the US itself does not recognise it.

The Chinese government responses are very concerning, especially human rights violations and media. They treat Tibetan refugees in a barbaric way and badly violating the Human Rights.

China has problems with Xinjiang (Uyghurs/ East Turkestan), Taiwan, Tibet, and Hong Kong. When the US launched their 'pivot to Asia strategy' as retaliation, China revived their Silk Road Initiative. 'People rich first', Xiaoping's idea, is rebranding China as socialism with Chinese characteristics. And China has a communist system in politics whilst the economy is a state control capitalist.



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