

New Major Player in South Pacific

United States has had a world superpower status ever since World War II. Countries have always looked to the United States for leadership, freedom, and money. During World War II, although they thought we were a little slow to enter, they certainly were happy when we came into the war with all of our resources. We offered not only weaponry, manpower, and raw material supplies – we also offered a chance for the countries to bounce back after the war.

Now there are many ways for countries to become superpowers: they can do it through military action, economic dominance, or influence in politics and diplomatic affairs. China is striving to hit in all of these arenas. Because of its governmental structure, it can mobilize and react to situations more quickly than most countries in the world -- including the United States.

Courtesy of RealClearDefense.com



Rebuilding economies is something we're very good at.

But our dominance on the world stage is on rocky ground. We are spending and printing money at an unprecedented pace. If this continues our economy will be crippled and extreme measures will have to be taken to recover.

China in the past did not want to be on the world stage. She remained separated except for trade. The Silk Road was a renowned trade route between China and the Far East, Middle East, and Europe. But recently, China has changed in its global goals. China wants to be the dominant superpower in the world and has devised many avenues to help accomplish this.

According to the US Department of Defense, China continues to build up its military to supplant the United States as the preeminent power in Indo-Pacific region. According to Randall Schreiber, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Indo-Pacific security affairs, China has bragged that it wants to become a world-class military by 2049. But its actions seem to demonstrate that it wants the time table a little faster. It has two new cruisers, has launched a new aircraft carrier, and has flown J – 2 5th generation aircraft which has stealth technology —technology that was stolen from the United States.

As a matter of fact the Defense Department reported back in 2019 that China had the largest navy in the world with 350 ships and submarines. according to



the New York Post, they also had 130 major surface combatants as of September 2, 2020.

The People's Liberation Army - Navy, which is the Chinese Navy has been building and deploying vessels in the South China Sea, which is the first thing that China needs to do to become dominant in its own region with military and perceived power.

Mr. Schreiber's report speaks of many other things such as cyber theft, Chinese influence operations – which is an effort to influence media ,culture, business, academia and other things within foreign countries.

China has been very busy in other regions also – influencing politics, the media, and the economics of the world. Matter fact it is very good at propaganda, and has been for a long time. China has now been very active in our various forms of media. Social media is one of China's favorite routes of influence. Planting diplomats, media organizations, media figures and influencers on the social platforms widens China's narratives and audience.

Tick-tock, which is used largely in India and Pacific Asian areas, uses what's called shadow ban to censor media that may express something negative about

China. Just as our own social media has started censoring many many conversations, China has influenced other areas to do the same.

According to U.S. News & World Report, Chinese authorities have wanted to expand their control of a broadcasting platform. In a 2016 speech, Chinese President Xi Jinping, told their estate media, “wherever the readers are, wherever the viewers are, that is where propaganda reports must extend their tentacles.” Xi has stated that the telling of China's story must be done in favorable light at all times.

China also has controls on Chinese television firms in Africa and Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia are using those stations. Many other countries are being influenced by China's rhetoric and how it normalizes the success of its authoritarian government.

One of the fastest way to influence other countries is to give them money. China is now the world's largest creditor, holding paper on loans all over the world including the United States. President Xi has expressed many times that he's pushing to get China's currency – the Renminbi - to become the major reserve currency. Currently the United States dollar is the world's reserve currency go to. As mentioned before the United States, when it entered



World War II, brought much to the table. Countries were buying and selling using gold as this exchange medium. But as they started to run out something had to be done.

In 1944, it was then decided that the US dollar would be the exchange currency because the US had the largest supply of gold as backer. The dollar is the largest held reserve currency in the world, closely followed by the euro.

China is also breaking into the world to scene in diplomatic circles. By joining many international groups, China has become a leader, or at least a perceived leader in the fight against the pandemic virus. They have also turned this into something that is to their advantage.

China has been expanding its leadership role financially for quite a while. In 2013 China expanded its influence by proposing the belt and road initiative. This initiative was designed to improve trade routes for China and other countries within Africa, Middle East, and eventually into Europe. It was a series of loans that would help struggling countries to improve their infrastructure, thus enabling better trade with China.

This was perceived as something that would be very beneficial to many of the countries, although it did pose economic problems for some. If they received the loan, how would they pay it back in a post

epidemic economy? Although quite a bit of this has been started the World Bank research papers show that there are debt vulnerabilities. The question is if the country cannot pay back the debt, will China take over the infrastructure project. They claim not, but only time will tell.

China has been making many concentric strives to gain global dominance: they are increasing their military presence in their own immediate region, and extending that region as far as they can. They are giving or loaning money all over the world, in an attempt to curry favor with other countries and expand their own trade routes with other nations. They are expanding their diplomatic presence and influences in countries by participating in world conferences, banking operations, and academia.

So what can the United States do to counteract this?

Thank heavens our military has been rebuilt and strengthened, but we must not let our guard down. It must continue to ensure that China does not build more islands and try to expand its international waters territory further than where it presently lies.

We must curb our spending and stop driving the dollar to an all time low in value. If our deficit becomes so grand and our international perception of our currency strength declines, we will have to take drastic measures to climb out of the hole that we are now digging. We must have fiscal responsibility in

our Congress. We certainly can't run our country on negative dollar values.

Although we have reentered many of the global conferences and elements such as the WHO, Paris Accords, and other world initiatives, we should only pay our fair share — not the amounts that were being given by a previous administration. We absolutely must get our finances in order while still remaining on the global scene. We need to apply more funding to research to keep us in the forefront of the technical world. China is going out of its way to become a global leader in the world of 5G and other new and innovative technologies.



We should not be purchasing any equipment from China that could be given a shadow program. An example was illustrated by the Institute for Energy Research. On February 4th, they issued a report that President Biden had revoked an Executive order that prevented purchasing any bulk-power system electric equipment from any foreign country that poses a national security threat. China has become the world's leading supplier of transformers and if they wished to cause us an issue, it is with these new purchases or ones that are in existence, that it could be used.

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Education in the United
States vs China

Chinese power equipment can be embedded with software and hardware that can be remotely accessed, enhancing China's ability to commit cyberattacks. Because of a transformer's size, it is difficult for techs to identify embedded counterfeit software.

*It is time our country decides
if it wants to remain a leader
or become a follower on this
ever changing global stage.*

We also need to strengthen our schools and their teaching structure. We don't need to throw more money at them, we need to make them teach practical material. Many of our students come out of school not able to read or make informed decisions. We absolutely must teach our children to love our country. Not hate it or look at it as if it is something less than what this great nation truly is. We must teach decent values to our children.

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