

**THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:
THE THREAT TO THE WEST**

The United States of America, especially, has reason to be afraid of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The Middle Kingdom is, today, the biggest threat to the largest, single economy of the world.

But the PRC is not, today, and never has been in its entire history, a military threat to anybody.

This is unlike the Japanese Empire, which, by its very nature, has been, historically, jingoistic and bellicose in the extreme.

Today, the PRC is reaching out, putting its financial and political fingers in many pies in its search for energy and energy related products, as well as commodities of all kinds.

The senior politicians of this dynamic country are looking very far afield, not expecting immediate returns on seeming generosity.

In short, the purpose of the economic expansion of the PRC is commercially driven.

There is no malevolent political motive of any note, at least, none has yet been recognised as such.

Certainly, the Government of the PRC has no territorial ambitions because, inter alia, it has yet to cope, comprehensively, with the problems at home let alone consider the problems of territories and their human populations abroad.

There is little that is insidious about that which the PRC Government has done of late: It is open for all to see.

Recently, the PRC Government has suggested becoming more aggressive against the Somali-based pirates that are continuously threatening important sea lanes, bringing crude oil and other strategic commodities from the Middle East and Africa to the PRC.

Even prior to taking definitive action in this respect, the PRC Government made known, publicly, its intentions and sought to provoke dialogue with The West so that there could be no mistaking the intentions of the PRC Government against the pirates of Somali.

The problems, as The West must see the position, is that the PRC is becoming more and more influential in many parts of the world, and, by so doing, it poses a potential threat to the powers-that-be, on the face of it, constructively usurping their privileged positions, rooted in days of yore.

When looking at trade statistics, it must be somewhat daunting for the US Government's Commerce Department to note that the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** – the total value of all goods and services, produced within a country in a year, minus net income from investments in other countries – of the PRC accounts for about 11.40 percent of the total world's GDP.

The GDP of the US, on the other hand, accounts for about 20.60 percent of the total world's GDP, while the GDP of eurozone accounts for about 15.70 percent of the total world's GDP.

This rise of the PRC's financial and political power, globally, is being felt ... and being feared, too.

In Asia, the PRC is poised to replace Japan as the world's second-largest economy, permanently, and, in fact, in December 2008, it did, indeed, become the second-largest economy.

When the PRC and India decide, permanently, to cohabit, economically, there will be no stopping the combined Sino-Indian powerhouse, with its combined human population of about 2.30 billion people and with an industrial base, growing exponentially.

Thus far, most of that which the PRC Government has done is predicated on obtaining interests in natural resources – iron ore; coal; steel; copper; gold; silver; crude oil; natural gas, etc, etc, etc.

If the PRC has any other intentions, other than trade and the acquisition of equities to ensure the continuous supply of essential commodities, needed to feed its industries, it, certainly, is keeping such intentions well hidden.

It is fact that the Government of the PRC is founded on the principles of communism, to be sure, with a one-party system of government, accountable to nobody.

That being the case, laws are made without reference to the populace on the grounds that the National People's Congress knows best.

This is not always the case, of course, but, on balance, the National People's Congress has not done too badly since October 1, 1949.

This form of government is somewhat alien to the US and eurozone mentality where it is held that democracy is the best form of government of the world.

When President George W. Bush held sway in the US, he stated that it was his intention to democratise the entire Middle East.

Well, some people in the Middle East do not want Western democracy and are happy with their lot.

In a country where the majority of the people are well-educated, eventually, the people will determine the form of government that they want to embrace.

And it may not be democracy.

In many parts of the Middle East, the majority of the people are not well educated, for one reason or another, and, because of this, they are not very interested in what the Americans call the fundamental rights of man in a democracy.

Even in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC, it is likely that only a percentage of the 7 million-plus, human population understands and fervently embraces Western democratic principles, as disseminated by certain Legislative councillors.

Democracy may not be perfect, but, thus far, it has proven to be the best form of government in countries where there is an educated majority.

But not everybody wants to join the club.

In the HKSAR, today, one notes that the 12,000 ethnic Indian residents leave petty political matters in the hands of their Indian elders who make determinations, for the most part, without reference to their

constituents.

The same is true for other ethnic minorities, resident in these 416 square miles.

The system of Government of the PRC may not be considered the best form of government in terms of the United States of America or the governments of most of Europe, but it is working well.

After all, never in the history of the PRC have so many people enjoyed a standard of living as that which is enjoyed today.

Instead of berating the PRC and its Government, instead of imposing pecuniary penalties on the PRC Government for alleged infringements of trade treaties, it would appear to **TARGET** () that closer understanding and much more dialogue would be more constructive.

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