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COMMUNISM VERSUS DEMOCRACY

Today, modern forms of democracy are generally revered in countries where it is apparent that democratic principles have been more than just moderately successful.

Not so for communism, however: It remains denigrated by the peoples of many countries of the world.

But in some countries, communism has proved its worth, much to the chagrin of many a Western politician, advocating that only democracy is the worthy political system in this day and age.

The People's Republic of China is a classic example of very successful communist, governmental policies, being able to reshape the economy of the country to the extent that, during the past 72 years, communism has nearly wiped out destitution from most of the 1.30 billion human inhabitants.

Ironically, ultimately, communism leads to capitalism.

It is well accepted that democracy may not be the best form of government for all the countries of the world, but a much-better form of government has yet to be discovered.

A Nutshell History Of Communism In The People's Republic Of China

In the People's Republic of China (PRC), The Communist Party of China (中國共產黨) is the sole governing political party. It leads eight other legally permitted subordinate minor parties together as The United Front.

The Communist Party of China was founded in 1921 with the help of the Far Eastern Bureau of The Communist Party of The Soviet Union and the Far Eastern Secretariat of the Communist International under Lenin – Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, better known by his alias, '*Lenin*'.

On October 1, 1949, Chairman Mao Ze Dong (毛澤東) formally proclaimed the establishment of the People's Republic of China at Tiananmen Square, Beijing, the Capital City of the country.

It was determined that The Communist Party of China should head the Central People's Government.

From that time on, through to the 1980s, top leaders of The Communist Party of China were largely the same military leaders, prior to the official founding of the country and the change of name, as well as the adoption of the country's (then) new official designation.

As a result, informal personal ties between political and military leaders dominated civil-military relations.

Since 1949, the PRC has become the second-largest economy of the world; it is very evident that its economy will surpass that of The United States of America in short order.

And The United States of America is powerless to prevent the continued rise to economic power of the PRC, now under the administrative control of the 68-year-old, Mr Xi Jin Ping (習近平), President of the People's Republic of China since 2013 and, today, being the Paramount Leader of country.

In March of 2018, the National People's Congress passed a set of constitutional amendments, including the removal of term limits for the President and Vice President, the creation of a National Supervisory Commission, and enhancing the central role of The Communist Party of China.

On March 17, 2018, the Chinese legislature reappointed Mr Xi Jin Ping as President – without term limits.

And so, President Xi Jin Ping is, today, the Paramount Leader of the country that has an estimated human population of 1.30 billion people: It is highly unlikely that he will be dethroned, easily.

According to current estimates, the strength The People's Liberation Army (PLA), the country's military force, is, approximately, two million active-duty troops: About 1.10 million ground troops; 250,000 troops in the Navy and Marines; between 350,000 and 400,000 Air Force personnel; about 120,000 rocket forces; between 150,000 and 175,000 strategic support forces; and, an estimated 600,000 to 650,000 People's Armed Police.

It has been resolved that the country must undergo a modernisation programme of its military equipment and weapons' systems.

Military expenditures, per annum, over the past five years, are known to have been 1.90 percent of the country's **G**ross **N**ational **P**roduct (**GDP**).

Never, in the history of that which was once known as the Middle Kingdom, going back 4,226 years to the Xia Dynasty (2205 BC to 1766 BC), has the country been as powerful and wealthy as it is, today.

How Troublesome Is The PRC To President Joseph Robinette Biden Jr?

While the People's Republic of China has never been known as being bellicose, having had a history of never attacking any country, nevertheless, The United States of America has gone

on record, stating, often by innuendo rather than making utterances overtly, that it has grave concerns about its main competitor.

In many quarters of Washington, District of Columbia, and even in the White House, itself, located at Number 1600, Pennsylvania Avenue, the historic residence of the country's President, the People's Republic of China is viewed as being one of the potentially, biggest threats.

But a threat to what?

On or about Thursday, March 11, 2021, President Joseph Robinette Biden Jr, the 46th and current President of The United States of America, decided to break the ice, façon de parler, and talked to President Xi Jin Ping, via a telephone call from the White House, for a little more than two hours.

According to reports in respect of this telecommunication dialogue, the two Presidents discussed a number of subjects, some of which centred on trade between the two countries, the issue of human rights abuses (by the PRC), a clampdown in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the PRC with regard to large numbers of disgruntled inhabitants, leading to widespread rioting and, inter alia, demands for the duly qualified inhabitants of the 416 square miles, that constitute the territory, the right to select elected representatives, democratically, as well as continuing tensions with regard to Taiwan.

PRC State television programmes, reporting on this historic event – from the point of view of President Joseph Robinette Biden Jr – broadcast that President Xi Jin Ping warned his Washington counterpart that bad relations could become a disaster for both countries.

At the conclusion of this telecommunication discussion, it was reported that President Joseph Robinette Biden Jr told President Xi Jin Ping that working with the PRC would only be when 'it benefits the American people.'

In a written statement from the White House, one was informed that the President 'underscored his fundamental concerns about Beijing's coercive and unfair economic practices, crackdown on Hongkong, human rights abuses in Xinjiang, and increasingly assertive actions in the region, including toward Taiwan.'

Following on from this March 11, 2021 telecommunication tête-à-tête between Presidents Joseph Robinette Biden Jr and Xi Jin Ping, seven days later, a high-level meeting between top members of the Biden Administration and some of the most-important representatives of the PRC Government, was held in Alaska on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

The two-day meeting turned out to be, in a word, acrimonious, sponsored by the two representatives of the Biden Administration.

Representing The United States of America was newly appointed Secretary of State, Mr Antony Blinken, and newly appointed National Security Advisor, Mr Jake Sullivan.

Representing the People's Republic of China was Mr Yang Jie Chi (楊潔篪), aged 71 years, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, and Mr Wang Yi (王 毅), aged 68 years, State Councillor and Foreign Minister.

At the outset of the meeting, Mr Antony Blinken went on the attack, stating:

'Our Administration is committed to leading with diplomacy to advance the interests of The United States and to strengthen the rules-based international order.

'The United States' relationship with China will be competitive where it should be, collaborative where it can be, adversarial where it must be.'

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, then, went on to state that the aggressive behaviour of the People's Republic of China was of great concern, as were incidents of oppression, orchestrated by certain organs of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

He mentioned the human rights violations against some 12 million Uyghur and other Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang Province of the People's Republic of China.

He made mention, also, of the threats to democratic processes in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the PRC, aggression toward Taiwan, threats to Tibetan culture and religion, and violations of sovereignty and economic coercion of nations in the Indo-Pacific Region and beyond.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said:

'Each of these actions threatens the rule-based order that maintains global stability ... helps countries resolve differences peacefully, coordinates multilateral efforts effectively, and participates in global commerce with the assurance that everyone is following the same rules.'

Mr Yang Jie Chi, on listening to the very laud vocal monologue of Secretary of State Antony Blinken, said that The United States of America had assumed the posture of a 'cold-war mentality', and used its military and economic power to 'incite other countries to attack China.'

Secretary of State Antony Blinken countered, stating that the People's Republic of China 'threatened the rule-based order that maintains global stability' with its policies in respect of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region, Taiwan, and the Chinese Province of Xinjiang.

If the Government of the People's Republic of China had been under the impression that the two-day Alaska meeting was the first step to détente, the country's leading lights must have been sadly disappointed.

At the conclusion of the two-day meeting, there was, certainly, no indication of a likely follow-up meeting between the two economic giants.

That which was made very evident at the Alaska meeting was that Secretary of State Antony Blinken was totally ignorant or, alternatively, blinded by his new power base, since he did represent the most-powerful country on the face of the earth.

His stentorian outbursts were unwelcome, to say the least, according to reports, emanating, directly and indirectly, from the PRC Governmental representatives, to wit: Messrs Yang Jie Chi and Wang Yi.

Of that which was expected of Caucasians at a meeting of informed and delegatory Asians, and, of the social behaviour that is to be warranted if two parties expect to engage in an exchange of impartial ideas of potential great importance, Secretary of State Antony Blinken was, certainly, not up to the task.

Suggestive remarks, bordering on belligerence, and utterances, displaying arrogance and pomposity with regard, inter alia, to the grimaces of the two senior American officials, representing the sovereign state of The United States of America, before and after making their statements and complaints to the high-ranking representatives of the PRC, were unreservedly evident, according to official reports about the Alaska meeting.

On his return to Washington, in front of The House of Foreign Affairs Committee, Secretary of State Antony Blinken rejected the suggestion that the Alaska meeting was seeking 'to bring China-US relationship back to the right track of sound and steady development.'

He went on to state:

'This is (sic) not a strategic dialogue. There's no intention at this point for a series of follow-on engagements.

'Those engagement (sic) ... really have to be based on the proposition that we're seeing tangible progress and tangible outcomes on the issues of concern to us with China.'

Which seems to concur with the words and attitude clearly apparent with regard to Secretary of State Antony Blinken's remarks to his Chinese counterparts at the Alaska meeting.

If Jupiter is the brain to the world, then the man who organises and presides over human affairs can logically consider himself as a part of that all-governing mind.

Humanity, rightly or wrongly, has almost always conceived of its god in terms of Providence; Providence or nature as providing protective care.

Military courage may, and often does, subsist without domestic liberty.

The dreams of inexperienced philanthropy may nourish expectations inconsistent with position, and anticipate an adequate protection to private right from the extension of knowledge, without the aid of warlike prowess; but experience gives no countenance to these ideas, and loudly proclaims the everlasting truth, that as regulated freedom is the greatest blessing in life, so it never can be defended for a course of ages from the assaults of regal or domestic despotism, but by hardihood and resolution of those who enjoy it.

In the words of Marcus Tullius Cicero (January 3, 106 BC – December 7, 43 BC):

'Justice is temporary; conscience is eternal.'

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