

China's Growth as Superpower: Implications for US Policies



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Abstract

The rise of China economically, technologically and militarily has become an alarming threat for the superpower of the present century. The US is fighting a new Cold War to retain her hegemony all over the world. The policies of the new Cold War are quite different from those of the old Cold War. First Cold War was an ideological clash between the US and USSR, but the new Cold War is purely the US's ambition to preserve its primacy all over the world. The aim of creating a "New Silk Road" and the strategy against String of Pearls is, in fact, the beginning of a new Cold War. Although the US and China are key trade partners, their competition cannot be unheeded. After 9/11 the politics of the world took a new turn and USA transformed her traditional policies towards major powers. This paper examines and analyse the policies of the US towards a militarily advanced and economic giant of the world like China.

Key Words: New Cold War, String of Pearl, Domino effect, Hegemony, Containment, China, United States

Introduction

The twenty-first century comes close to countless political vicissitudes in the international political scenario. After 9/11 incidents, the United States framed a thoroughly new policy to deal with different powers of the world. China is a mounting economic giant that the world supposes her to become the global wealthiest power. In the west, especially in the US, this idea has prompted an alarm that China will be the hegemon of the world, and it will be a possible threat to the hegemony of the US. There is the possibility of a New Cold war between any pair of grander powers for the "quest of hegemony", and these powers would be US and PRC. (R.Wittkopf, 2004) Activities of the United States after 9/11 clearly indicate his containment policy towards China. The growing economy of China has become an alarming sign for America. Although America has not directly attacked China, it has operated some clandestine actions against China time in again. After the events of 9/11 the secret objective of American foreign policy, the containment of China became dimly visible. American intervention in Afghanistan and staying there as a bad guest, its intervention in the central Asian countries, his friendship with India and cooperation with Middle Eastern countries is a vivid signal of containment of the growing economy of China. By countering string of pearls and the construction of New, Silk route are the hallmarks of American policies towards China.

"Napoleon Bonaparte counselled in 1803, that world should let China sleep because, he predicted, when China awakens the world will tremble". (R.Wittkopf, 2004) Twenty-first century shows awakened China. The US want to safeguard his hegemonic leadership in the Post- Cold War scenario. During Cold War America was fighting to secure his hegemonic position in the world, but after securing the hegemonic position, USA became much conscious about maintaining his position as a hegemon. Challenges during the Cold War were less stimulating than those of

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after Cold War for the US because making progress in any field is easier than to maintain a prosperous status.

American diplomats continually assure Beijing that Washington is not pursuing to constrain China's rise. Meanwhile, the United States is actively fortifying its alliances' in East Asia, making partner capacity in South East Asia, and firming security bonds with Australia and India. [\(Ely Ratner, 2011\)](#) Bush government tried to resolve some goals of the national security stratagem of US after feeling a possible peril from the due progression of the Chinese economy. According to Wittkopf, this goal is to avert any other greater power to challenge the dominant status of the US as the singular global superpower. [\(R.Wittkopf, 2004\)](#) According to a general perception America intervened in Afghanistan for humanitarian grounds, but the construction plan of the "New silk road" in Afghanistan reveals some hidden realities of the goals of the foreign policy of United States of America.

Malaysia is not a US partner, but its close links with China have engrossed the attention of US strategists. [\(Chongkittavom, 2014\)](#) Special interests of United States in the North Pacific Ocean, its engagement in Japan as a security guarantor, strong ties with South Korea and Vietnam and his cooperation with Taiwan clearly shows that the aim of the foreign policy of United States has become the containment of China after a successful containment of Soviet Union.

President Obama considered India the defining partner of 21st century, it will be vibrant to the US tactical interests in "Asia-pacific and across the Globe." [\(wood, 2013\)](#) During Cold, War India enjoyed cordial relations with the Soviet Union, but after the Cold War, both the USA and India came closer because of having a common enemy. China is India's traditional foe. US cooperation with India after the incidents of 9/11 makes it crystal clear that the US is making India enough powerful to counter China in the region. Many experts see increased US-India security stalemates as providing an alleged "hedge" against or "counterbalance" to growing Chinese influence in Asia, but both Washington and New Delhi repetitively tone down such possible intentions. [\(KAlan Kronstadt, 2011\)](#) Even after 2005, the USA started cooperation with India in nuclear technology which is a serious threat for the growing military power of China in Asia.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) by being a strong bloc in Central Asia became another source of tension for the superpower. US see a durable SCO as a serious threat for him. The USA started cordial relations with Central Asian countries to minimize the danger of this grand organization. USA and Tajikistan relations have developed considerably since September 2001. The US is assisting Tajikistan and other countries in this region. By giving aid, the US policy is to intervene in the internal affairs of the Central Asian countries, after 9/11 US is successful in this policy. Given China's economic boom, its totalitarian political structure, the role of the state in the economy, its dealings with pariah states such as North Korea and Iran and its target to hastily renovate its military muscle, it is clear why the United States harbours national security concerns towards China that were not present to the same degree in other two-sided investment relations. [\(Rhodium group, 13 feb 2014\)](#)

The Emergence of New Cold War and US Plan

"The Middle East is just a blip. The American military contest with China in the Pacific will define the twenty-first century" [\(Kaplan, 2005\)](#) World became unipolar after the dismemberment of Soviet Union in 1991. The United States became the superpower of the world. The United States then tried to secure her supremacy in all parts of the world. The US endeavours to preserve and boost its position. She is suspicious about the domination of China. [\(Pittsburgh, 2007\)](#) The navy of the United States being the superior navy of the world tried to maintain her supremacy on high seas. USA has no serious threat from his own continent because the neighbours of the USA are weak. The only threat America perceived after becoming a superpower is the rise of China. The growing advancement in every field of life in China became a grave tautness for Washington.

After the 9/11terrorist attacks, the policies and motives of the United States made it clear that America is fighting a new type of Cold War against a new challenger. "A comprehensive document

laying out American foreign and security policy in the wake of last September's terrorist attacks, it vows to present the emergence of any future competitors, commits the use of its military, political and economic resources to encourage open societies and democracy, and reorient US military strategy toward pre-emptive actions."_(Yuan, 2002) The US initiated a war after the incidents of 9/11 in Afghanistan; this war could not stop terrorist attacks but increased terrorism all over the world. The aim of abolishing terrorism of the United States is still ambiguous because this war shows some clear signals of a new type of Cold War. China had nothing to do with the terrorist attacks of 9/11, nor has China ever funded a terrorist organization. The future word competitors in this policy show that the aim of the United States is not to abolish terrorism in its true sense, but it is to weaken the growing economic giant of the world China. The USA has developed a dual policy program towards China. On the one hand, the USA welcomes the emergence of strong, peaceful and prosperous China, and on the other hand, the US is trying to check the rise of China. Our militaries will be resilient enough to deter probable challengers from following an armed accumulation in hopes of exceeding or competing for the power of the US. (Yuan, 2002) In the twenty-first century, the only formidable competitor is China. Other than China, there is no country to compete with such power. Although the United States has not yet mentioned "China" directly as a competitor, it can be perceived through the military and economic abilities of the great powers that the only competitor of the United States is China.

"Hegemony as the new order is, it seeks cutting China downsize by reducing it to a regional power within a small periphery, with no voice in the Pacific and Southeast Asia region"._(Koreshi, 1995) For the United States, it has become the greatest challenge to maintain its hegemony in this globalized world. For the US, it is very difficult to cut down China to size by reducing it to a regional power because China has deep trade relations with great powers. China has created a soft image in the world through soft power as the US is extremely jealous of any other power's emergence as a great power like China. The "peaceful development" policy of China has not yet revealed her intentions of being a hegemon of the world like America directly. America perceives some serious threats regarding it. Policymakers in the United States are designing policies to counter a new hegemon in their own way. The two concepts in the "pentagon papers" are the containment strategy in South Asia and the Far East, to restrict the rising of any new opponent to US interests in those regions._(Koreshi, 1995)

US policies towards many Asian countries like Taiwan, India and South Korea shows some more signals of the emergence of a New Cold War. However, the seeds of the China-Taiwan conflict were sown long before the 1990s, in 1971, when President Nixon visited China and declared the one-China policy._(Lin, 2004) US need a strong Taiwan to compete with China for her own defence. Similar is the case with Japan, where the United States need a strong Japan to combat Chinese hegemony in the region. The growing relationship of US-India also reveals this fact that the US want to maintain the balance of power in South Asian regions. The United States has strengthened its ties with India to counter the growing power of China.

The abrupt change in the US strategic posture shows that America's engagement in fighting a new Cold War against China. The nuclear stance review that covers exigency tactics to use atomic munitions against China and six other states._(Yuan, 2002) The emergence of a New Cold War is vivid through the intentions of United States. Although the United States shows something different and acts in a different manner.

US's Policy against String of Pearls

China has constructed deepwater ports in different regions of south Pacific regions through its policy of "Peaceful Development". China wants to increase trade relations with all other countries of the Middle East and other parts of the world. In Woody Island in the east of Vietnam, an elevated airstrip is a pearl. In Chittagong, a container shipping facility is a pearl. The building of deep-water seaport in Sittve, Myanmar and creation of navy base in Gawadar Pakistan are called a group of pearls. US and India called this series as the series of pearls as "String of Pearl". Although

China did not use it as an official term, America and India often used this term to criticize the policies of China.

The USA sees some serious threats from these pearls. US have kept a special eye on each pearl to maintain US dominance in each chunk of the world. In each of China's four security rings, the United States is All-pervading. (Scobell, 2012) China has constructed all these ports for peaceful development and for increasing trade with other parts of the world. The US has shown some serious concerns on these pearls ranging from the coast of mainland China through the shores of the South China sea, the strait of Malacca, across the Indian ocean, and on to the seafronts of the Arabian sea and the Persian Gulf. This chain of pearls is considered a strategy against the United States and India. China has not shown any strategic angle regarding the United States and India up till now. China is busy in developing her economy, increasing foreign trade and technology.

Many authors like Goldstein has the view that, Chinese grand strategy of peaceful development is a strategy to "mitigating the risk that other nations might perceive China as a threat." (Goldstein, 2005) American thinkers and its powerful navy is busy to counter each pearl through their diplomatic relations with the neighbouring countries of these pearls, where they are located. United States' aid policy to Asian countries also highlights these ambitions of United States in Asian countries.

Pakistan handed over Gawadar port to China; this move was disliked by Washington. The cooperation of Pak-China in Gawadar seaport further compelled America to strengthen his ties with India. Both India and the US have some serious concerns over the Gawadar seaport. China's approach to relations with states in the "string of pearls" considered China s' engagement with rogue states such as Myanmar, Iran, and Sudan undermines attempts by the west to isolate or effect change in these regimes. (Chietiq Bajpae, 2005) China s' trade relations with rogue states are not accepted by the United States. America has a fear that China would one day cooperate with rogue states in such a way that they will be a challenge for the United States.

US strategy in Asia must not captivate itself with a Chinese build-up. (Kissinger, 1997) Kissinger considered Chinese army much stronger; the USA is following the same policy in Asia. Just like the Cold War, a direct confrontation of the USA in China has become impossible; that's why the USA is using some clandestine actions to protect her interests in this area.

The String of Pearls works as a litmus test for the prospective course of US-China ties. (Pehrson, 2006) Thus the future course of US-China relations will be based on a string of pearls to minimize Chinese influence in the region. Pakistan handed over Gawadar without the consent of United States; as a result, Pakistan is facing some serious challenges in Baluchistan region where different international agencies like Row and Mossad are busy to make a greater Baluchistan out of Pakistan. India and Israel along with CIA are performing clandestine actions against Pakistan. Conspiracies against Pakistan in Baluchistan region are in fact conspiracies against China to affect her trade with the Middle Eastern countries. Gawadar port gives China easy access to reach in Africa and Gulf Muslim countries. America is the most influential country in the Gulf region so that it does not want to see Chinese influence in that region. America wishes to see India as a regional hegemon to secure his interests in the Indian Ocean. A strong India can minimize the threat of Chinese ports around the Indian sea. In March 2006 George Bush stated that he was willing to accept India as a nuclear state despite its non-membership status of NPT. (Lanteigne, 2009) This move clearly shows that America is making India an ally for the New Cold War. The USA has tried to make India as a firewall against China. America is highly concerned with the ports of China in those areas. American ties with Australia and other southeastern countries are strategic in the sense of containing China in those regions. America strengthens Japan in the North East to check the growing power of China in that region.

The most dangerous tension involves the issue of Taiwan Korean peninsula is another potential source of conflict. The influence of the United States in that region aims mostly to contain the hegemony of China. Technologically advanced Japan was the pressing need of the United States but in recent year's China left both Japan and Taiwan far behind in many aspects.

Thus “The String of Pearls” the Chinese ports in south pacific Asia pose different threats to the hegemony of the superpower. The United States of America is busy in a New Cold War with the growing influence of China in the South Pacific region of the world. Conspiracies of USA clearly show that it is engaged in a New Cold War.

US Strategy of New Silk Road

Although America intervened in Afghanistan, in the name of humanitarian intervention after 9/11 attacks, at that time, the objective of the USA was to break the power of militant groups in Afghanistan. In 2004 they also fought a war with Iraq because America considered Iraq a producer of mass destruction weapons. In the name of ending terrorism, America increased terrorism in the south Asian region. The USA spent more than trillions of dollars in Afghanistan and stayed there like a bad guest who has forgotten to exit. Finally, the Obama administration decided to withdraw from Afghanistan after 2014 in 2011 just after killing Al Qaeda Head Osama Bin Laden. In this period of stay in Afghanistan, America tried to make India an influential power in Afghanistan.

The idea of New Silk Road in Afghanistan revealed some hidden agendas of United States of America in Afghanistan. America has given the idea of the New Silk Road to make Afghanistan a strong economy. The construction of New Silk Road poses many challenges to People’s Republic of China. It will minimize the foreign trade of China. Automatically it will decrease the economic growth of China. In these war years after 9/11 America has strengthened its ties with Central Asian countries, which is a menace for both China and Russia. Through this New Silk road, America wants to strengthen its ties with Tajikistan and other Central Asian countries. America has taken a special interest in the fourteen parts of the Soviet Union which were dismembered in 1991. The US diplomatic and strategic relations with Central Asia is a serious peril for China

Through this “New Silk Road,” United States want to link South Asia, especially India, with Central Asia. This issue was first raised by the secretary of state Hilary Clinton in a speech in Singapore on November 17, 2012. The sudden changes in the goals and policies of the United States show some alarming signs of a Cold War, which the US is fighting with China. At first, the aim was different, but now the aim is to maintain US’s influence in these regions. This statement shows that the aim of the USA in Afghanistan was not only to execute Osama and retreat of the Taliban, but their aim was to encounter and contain the growing power of China through this region. Central Asia has now become a playground of the New Cold war that’s why it has become the centre of attention for great powers like United States, Russia and China. “We cannot forget that, as history has shown us simply abandoning Afghanistan could potentially have terrible consequences for American, regional and global security.” (Hormats, 2011) Thus the US still want to leave his traces in this area after her withdrawal, for future strategy in the region.

US’s Fear about Shanghai Cooperation Organization: A Counter Strategy

Shanghai cooperation organization has been designed by Russia and China to cooperate in the region. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is often portrayed as attempting to encounter the increasing western presence in Central Asia. (Zurich, 2009) SCO has been criticized by the western writers as a potential threat for NATO and the United States. “However, current American concerns about SCO stem from the possibility that it might develop through Russian and Chinese influence as a balancing actor in Central Asia, designed to minimize US influence.” (Lanteigne, 2009) Shanghai cooperation organization has become another tension for the think tanks of the United States. The hasty expansion of the SCO signifies a chief challenge to western standards of political growth and international collaboration. (Andy Yee, 2011) The main power in the SCO, according to the United States is China. America is trying to make a strong NATO counter the rise of SCO. The USA does not want to see such type of organizations in the region in future. By making strong ties with the Central Asian countries, the US is trying to weaken such type of organizations in the region. The initiative of the New Silk Road can be dangerous for the growth of shanghai cooperation organization.

NATO is committed to supporting Afghan security institutions after 2014. [\(Hormats, 2011\)](#) This commitment of NATO inflicts checks the rise of a regional organization like SCO. Many Eastern writers now call SCO as NATO-like organization in the East. This idea of SCO is strongly disliked by the United States of America. United States is not in a position to strengthen NATO as historically she has done through the Marshal Plan during the initial years of the Cold War. China is in a position to strengthen SCO. Although at present Central Asia has become more important than the Middle East for the United States. The region's Status as a geopolitical pivot and as a secondary energy producer lead the diplomatic competition between the United States and China. We should repel the supremacy of Asia by any state. [\(Kissenger, 1997\)](#)

US Policies towards South Asia; Tactics to Contain China

The US foreign policy towards South Asia just after the tragic events of 9/11 shows a new turn in containment policies of the USA. A new era began after 9/11 attacks; the need for global hegemony and influence pushed the US towards seeking better ties with important South Asian countries, especially India and Pakistan. US relations with South Asia have always been labeled controversial, unstable and uncertain in nature. Historically US has always been a fair-weather friend of Pakistan. Whenever the United States felt the need of Pakistan then developed strong relations with Pakistan. This relation has always been uncertain in the past.

After 9/11 the USA made cordial relations with Islamabad. Such cordial relations were seen during the Cold War era but soon after they gave up. Pakistan enjoys cordial relations with China, which is detested idea for the United States. The USA has performed many coward operations in Pakistan. In Salalah incident in 28 November 2011 USA has been witnessed in clandestine actions within the territory of Pakistan. International agencies have also been blamed for the killing of Chinese engineers in the territory of Pakistan. Kashgar to Gawadar railway track plan is underway between Pakistan and China, which America feels a great threat for the hegemony of USA. The United States and other countries are trying to destabilize Pakistan, after declaring it a failed state they try to hamper the pacts between China and Pakistan.

Indian agency Row is operating coward operations in Pakistan. Pak-China relations are also a threat for India that's why India want to destabilize Pakistan in the region. Both US and India have strengthened their defence cooperation. Relations between the US and India reached their peak through the US- India Civil Nuclear Agreement in 2008. [\(vijay Vikram, 2012\)](#) A destabilized Pakistan is the need of the United States of America. Mercenaries of many powerful countries like Israel, India and America are busy in different areas of Pakistan. China needs a strong Pakistan to fulfil her aims regarding the advancement of trade through Kashgar to Gawadar railway track. A strong and stable Pakistan can never be the dream of the United States because Pakistan enjoys cordial relations with China. Pakistan is fighting American proxy war in its FATA region, lost more than 43billion\$ and thousands of military personals and civilian, but still, Pakistan could not be able to please her bad master the United States.

The barbaric assassination of the three Chinese engineers in Pakistan was aimed to create a "wedge" between China and Pakistan. [\(Yan, 2006\)](#) In June 2005 the new framework for India-US defence framework treaty was announced. This comprises joint planning and action as well as defence procurements. This initiative included expanded cooperation in civil nuclear technology as one of the three goals. It also called for enhanced cooperation on the peaceful uses of space technology trade was the third trinity issue agreed upon by the NSSP initiative in 2004. This defence framework agreement has become a serious threat to the growing economy of China because she is the traditional foe of India. The most serious challenge is the presence of US military in the Central South and South-East Asia. This presence may undermine Chinese influence in those regions.

Future Prospects of US Policy towards China after Its Withdrawal from Afghanistan

According to the future plan of the United States, she will make India as the regional hegemon.

India is employing a Global positioning system Assisted Geo Augmented steering method for civil aviation purposes through a viable treaty with the US firm Raytheon. (office of the spokesperson, 2013) She will leave a weak and unstable Pakistan. The US will maintain his influence in the region. NATO will maintain its cooperation with Afghanistan. In the name of New Silk Road, America will try to weaken the economy of China. US policy towards China will show some dramatic changes. Sometimes the US will be very much near to a direct confrontation. According to economic experts of USA China will be an economic superpower after 2020. This assumption of the USA about Chinese economic growth has left many questions for the think tanks in Washington. America will continue its unprecedented support to India, militarily, economically, diplomatically, and above all, technologically. After becoming a strong country in the region, India will be the greatest threat to China. India will reopen all the old issues with China to redress at a suitable time. The USA then will try to perform the role of a cunning Arbiter overtly, and she will back India to fight against China cowardly. Asia will be the battlefield of a big war. Russia will not be able to decide taking part in either side. Again the USA will try to give aid to Pakistan. The US will try Pakistan not to participate in that war. US will warn Pakistan as he did in 1962 Sino-Indian war. It will be the greatest blow to the economy of China. Both India and China will suffer a lot. The US will try to support India. Obama stated in favour of India in this way, the US views India as a risen power. India is securing its deserved place in Asia and on the world. India's rise is respectable for the US and good for the world." (Obama, 2010) The USA will be the excellent beneficiary of this war. The USA will try to maintain its hegemony in Asia in a different manner.

European Union and NATO will support India. NATO will perform very well in this war, and all other countries of the globe who want to support China in this war will not be able to support China because of the fear of United States of America. The trade of many other countries with China will suffer a lot. Again the highest exporter of some times like Germany will become the highest exporter in the world. Japan will try to fulfil the aims of the United States of America. On the South-Eastern front, Australia will be a staunch ally of the United States of America will show her strong favour to India in that war. Middle Eastern countries like Saudi Arabia and all other countries will do only that what the United States ask them to do. US declared Rogue states like Iran, Burma, and Sudan would not be able to play an efficient role in that war.

Conclusion

As it is rightly said that achieving a hegemonic status is not an as big challenge to maintain that hegemonic status. There are some quite natural characteristics of a hegemon that he wants to maintain his status by all means. Same is the case with the United States the hegemon, the superpower of the world. The United States fought a war about a half-century starting from 1945 to 1991 for the cause of becoming the superpower of the world. The USA had sacrificed more than 50000 arms men in Cold War in Vietnam, trillions of dollars in achieving this status of hegemonic power. As the US has paid such an amount for hegemonic status, similarly USA is ready to fight wars, to spend trillions of dollars for the maintenance of this status of a superpower. USA is conscious about its competition in the world and the USA will not pardon any challenger, any competitor in the world. As compared to other world powers China seems to be a potential threat for the USA. In the name of "peaceful development" China is very near to become the world's greatest economy on the earth. Vibrant growth of the economy of China has deeply surprised the superpower of the modern era. Many activities of the USA after the end of the Cold War have clearly shown that the United States is fighting a "new Cold War" with China. The activities in this New Cold War are different from those of the Old Cold War, which was fought between the USA and Russia; the Soviet Union was an open challenger with an opponent ideology. In the New Cold War China is a secret challenger of the United States of America. Both the USA and China are indispensable trade partners, and China has adopted a non-interventionist policy which makes China different from the Soviet Union of the late seventies. The response of the USA towards China in this competition is secret in nature.

“China can become a rival to it in Asia Middle East and at some future date in Africa also, when it graduates into international power politics as a full-fledged superpower.” [\(Koreshi, 1995\)](#) Fearing from such assumptions of different scholars the USA is trying to humiliate the economic and technological growth of China. The idea of the New Silk Road is an idea to minimize the growth of the Chinese economy. The USA has put an active check on the Chinese ports in different areas in the South Pacific region. The idea of “String of Pearls” was developed by the USA to keep aware of other great powers like India and Japan. The policy of the US after 9/11 is a hallmark of “New Cold War”. The USA dramatically strengthened his ties with Central Asia. All these activities in Afghanistan and Central Asia clearly reveal the fact that America is busy in a new type of Cold War with China in these regions.

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