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USA is only superpower till 2030

USA versus China. Today we have a lot of question about future of the world, future of international relation and future of the humanity. Who is going to lead people in the future? Can China surpass US or not? Is it going to be the war between both countries? Will China become a superpower in the next decade? XXI century preparing us more questions than answers. US opinions have divided into two views. The US military and its proxies describe China as a more than a rival – as a looming threat. Others, most especially Wall Street, see China as about to slide into recession. Or depression. Or sink into the sea, like Atlantis. They describe two different worlds, both shaped by American needs and fears. What can China achieve in the nearest future? What is the reality? Today a lot of experts and scholars debate on this questions every time. Each debate opens us new reality which we couldn't even imagine...

Keywords: USA, China, superpower, relation, economy, conflict.

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2030 жылға дейін АҚШ бірден-бір алып держава болып қала бермек

АҚШ пен Қытай... Екі мемлекеттің болашағы мен қарым-қатынасы қазіргі таңда бүкіл әлем жұртшылығының назарын аударуда. Өйткені көптеген сарапшылардың пікірінше ҚХР жақын арада АҚШ-ты басып озады-мыс. Қырағы көзді бүркітті елдің басын көтеріп келе жатқан айдаһар мемлекетіне деген көзқарасы қандай? Аузынан от шашқан мемлекет Бостандық елін жақын арада оза ала ма? Келесі 10 немесе 20 жылдықта Қытай Халық Республикасы алып мемлекетке айнала отырып, Құрама Штаттармен терезесі тең саясат жүргізетін, сондай-ақ кез келген сала бойынша бәсекеге түсе алатын мемлекеттің халықаралық аренада пайда болуына Ақ үй қарсы екені айдан анық. Мұндай қарқынды бағыт екі елдің арасына жік түсіретіні де белгілі. Дегенмен ХХІ ғасырда әлемді кім билейді деген сұрақ көкейкесті мәселе болып қалуда. Дәл осындай сұрақтар қазір кез келген адамға ой салуда. Қалай болса да болашақ жауапқа қарағанда бізге көптеген шешілмеген сұрақтар алып келуде. Қазір Батыс жұртшылығы дәл осы мәселе бойынша 2-ге бөлінгендей. Бірі Пекин Ақ үйді жақын арада басып озады десе, екіншісі мүлдем керісінше пікірде. Ал Қытай басшылары «біз Американың орнына таласып жатқан жоқпыз, олардың үстемдігіне ешқандай қауіп келтірмейміз» деген сөздері әлемді таңғалдыруда. Кім не айтса да, сөзбе-сөз қақтығыстар, дипломатиялық шиеленістерден аспаса екен деген үміттеміз. Қалай дегенменде жарыс жалғасуда. Дәл осы мақалада мен осы бір сұрақтарға жауап іздегендей болдым. Батыс сарапшыларының жұмыстарына көз жүгіртіп, белгілі бір тұжырымдарға келдім.

Түйін сөздер: АҚШ, Қытай, супердержава, қарым-қатынас, экономика.

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США – единоличная супердержава до 2030 года

Кто будет править в ХХІ веке? Китай или Америка? Как будет США противостоять потенциальному господству Народной Республике? Не приведёт ли рост экономики Азиатского дракона к конфликтным ситуациям и недоразумениям в глобальном масштабе? Возможен ли конфликт между Пекином и Белым Домом? Может ли борьба за влияние или же конкуренция перейти в вооруженный конфликт? Как бы то ни было ХХІ век преподносит нам все больше вопросов, нежели ответов. В этой статье кратко, но грамотно изложено видение и мнение аналитиков не только Запада, но и Востока. Интересен тот факт, что мнение на эту тематику разделило мир на две составные, многие Западные аналитики и политические деятели уверены, что КНР напрямую угрожает глобальному доминированию США, когда сами же китайцы твердят, что не претендуют на этот пост. Все же будем верить, что дипломатические противостояния двух стран не перерастут в прямой военный конфликт. Потому что конфликта избежать никак нельзя. История показывает, что быстро растущая страна или народ всегда будет мешать давно процветающей или доминирующей.

Ключевые слова: США, Китай, супердержава, отношения, экономика, конфликт.

What kind of world order prefers USA and China? China has already started to compete with potential superpower countries. Now they have fastest growing economy and the biggest population in the world. They have strong industry and agriculture sector. China is also the largest exporter and second largest importer of goods in the world. According to International Monetary Fund the country's per capita GDP (PPP) was \$8,394 in 2011. There is no doubt that importance of China is growing time by time. What you might not understand is how the differences between two countries, in economic philosophy, in population, in geography and in how the military is built and paid for ultimately play into the entire economic relationship.

A superpower is a state with a leading position in the international system and the ability to influence events and project power on a worldwide scale; it is traditionally considered to be one step higher than a great power. Superpower is a country that has the capacity to project dominating power and influence anywhere in the world, and sometimes, in more than one region of the globe at a time, and so may plausibly attain the status of global hegemony»[1]. It was a term first applied in 1944 to the British Empire, the Soviet Union and the United States of America. Following World War II, as the British Empire transformed itself into the Commonwealth and its territories became independent, the Soviet Union and the United States generally came to be regarded as the only two superpowers, and confronted each other in the Cold War. After the Cold War, only the United States appeared to fulfill the criteria to be considered a world superpower [2]. Brazil, China, the European Union, and India have been thought to have the potential of achieving superpower status within the 21st century, although many academics regard their rise to power as unlikely. Some people doubt the existence of superpowers in the post-Cold War era altogether, stating that today's complex global marketplace and the rising interdependency between the world's nations have made the concept of a superpower an idea of the past and that the world is now multipolar [3]. The term *superpower* was used to describe nations with greater than great power status as early as 1944, but only gained its specific meaning with regard to the United States, the British Empire and the Soviet Union after World War II. This was because the United States and the Soviet Union had proved themselves to be capable of casting great influence in global politics.

There have been attempts to apply the term superpower retrospectively, and sometimes very loosely, to a variety of past entities such as Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, China, India, the Persian Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the Roman Empire, the Mongol Empire, Portuguese Empire, the Spanish Empire, France, and the British Empire. Recognition by historians of these older states as superpowers may focus on various superlative traits exhibited by them. For example, at its peak the British Empire was the largest in history with 1 in every 4 people in the world living under its flag.

The term in its current political meaning was coined by Dutch-American geostrategist Nicholas Spykman in a series of lectures in 1943 about the potential shape of a new post-war world order. This formed the foundation for the book *The Geography of the Peace*, which referred primarily to the unmatched maritime global supremacy of the United Kingdom and United States as essential for peace and prosperity in the world.

A year later, William T.R. Fox, an American foreign policy professor, elaborated on the concept in the book *The Superpowers: The United States, Britain and the Soviet Union – Their Responsibility for Peace* (1944), which spoke of the global reach of a super-empowered nation[4]. Fox used the word Superpower to identify a new category of power able to occupy the highest status in a world in which, as the war then raging demonstrated, states could challenge and fight each other on a global scale. According to him, there were (at that moment) three states that were superpowers: Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union. The British Empire was the most extensive empire in world history, was considered the foremost great power and held sway over 25% of the world's population and controlled about 25% of the Earth's total land area, while the United States and the Soviet Union grew in power in World War II. The criteria of a superpower are not clearly defined and as a consequence they may differ between sources [2, p-2]. According to Lyman Miller, "The basic components of superpower stature may be measured along four axes of power: military, economic, political, and cultural. The last nowadays known as a 'soft power'. This term was first used by political scientist Joseph Nye[1, p-2]. In the opinion of Kim Richard Nossal, "generally this term was used to signify a political community that occupied a continental-sized landmass, had a sizable population (relative at least to other major powers);

a superordinate economic capacity, including ample indigenous supplies of food and natural resources; enjoyed a high degree of non-dependence on international intercourse; and, most importantly, had a well-developed nuclear capacity or in other words second-strike capability [2, p-3].

In the opinion of Professor Paul Dukes, “a superpower must be able to conduct a global strategy including the possibility of destroying the world; to command vast economic potential and influence; and to present a universal ideology”. Although, “many modifications may be made to this basic definition”, according to Professor June Teufel Dreyer, “A superpower must be able to project its power, soft and hard, globally” [5].

A potential superpower is a state or a political and economic entity that is speculated to be, or to be in the process of becoming, a superpower at some point in the 21st century. Presently, it is widely considered that only the United States currently fulfills the criteria to be considered a superpower [6]. Today we have 5 potential superpowers. States most commonly mentioned as being potential superpowers are Brazil, China, the supranational entity as European Union, India and Russia, based on a variety of factors. Collectively, these five potential superpowers and the United States comprise 66.6% of global nominal GDP, 62.2% of global GDP (PPP), more than one third of the total land area and more than 50% of the world's population.

Predictions made in the past have not been perfect. For example, in the 1980s, many political and economic analysts predicted that Japan would eventually accede to superpower status, due to its large population, huge gross domestic product and high economic growth at that time. Though still the world's third-largest economy as of 2012, Japan has faced an ongoing period of weak growth since the “lost decade” of the 1990s, and has been suffering from an aging population since the early 2000s, eroding its potential as a superpower.

And nowadays western and Asian scholars and scientists are searching the answer to the question about superpower? And who do think will be the next superpower? Given its rapid and successful development, there can be no doubt that the People's Republic of China will become one of the dominant global powers of the twenty-first century. Indeed, despite the massive problems that the country is confronting, it could even emerge as the global power.

The People's Republic of China receives con-

tinual coverage in the popular press of its potential superpower status [7], and has been identified as a rising or emerging economic and military superpower by academics and other experts. In fact, the “rise of China” has been named the top news story of the 21st century by the Global Language Monitor, as measured by number of appearances in the global print and electronic media, on the Internet and blogosphere, and in Social Media [8]. Barry Buzan asserted in 2004 that “China certainly presents the most promising all-round profile” of a potential superpower [9]. Buzan claimed that “China is currently the most fashionable potential superpower and the one whose degree of alienation from the dominant international society makes it the most obvious political challenger.” However, he noted this challenge is constrained by the major challenges of development and by the fact that its rise could trigger a counter coalition of states in Asia.

ParagKhanna stated in 2008 that by making massive trade and investment deals with Latin America and Africa, China had established its presence as a superpower along with the European Union and the United States. China's rise is demonstrated by its ballooning share of trade in its gross domestic product. He believed that China's “consultative style” had allowed it to develop political and economic ties with many countries including those viewed as rogue states by the United States. He stated that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization founded with Russia and the Central Asian countries may eventually be the “NATO of the East” [10].

Geoffrey Murphay's *China: The Next Superpower* (2008) argued that while the potential for China is high, this is fairly perceived only by looking at the risks and obstacles China faces in managing its population and resources. The political situation in China may become too fragile to survive into superpower status according to Susan Shirk in *China: Fragile Superpower* (2008) [11]. Other factors that could constrain China's ability to become a superpower in the future include: limited supplies of energy and raw materials, questions over its innovation capability, inequality and corruption, and risks to social stability and the environment. Minxin Pei argued in 2010 that China is not a superpower and it will be not be one anytime soon and argued that China faces daunting political and economic challenges [12]. In 2012 she argued that China, despite using economic power to influence some nations, has few real friends or allies and is surrounded by

potentially hostile nations. This situation could improve if regional territorial disputes would be resolved and China would participate in an effective regional defense system that would reduce the fears of its neighbors. Alternatively, a democratization of China would dramatically improve foreign relations with many nations. Amy Chua stated in 2007 that whether a country has enough pull to bring immigrants is an important quality for a superpower. She also wrote that China lacks the pull to bring scientists, thinkers, and innovators from other countries as immigrants. However, she believed that China made up for this with its own diaspora, and said that size and resources for them are unparalleled [13].

Economist and author of *Eclipse: Living in the Shadow of China's Economic Dominance* Arvind Subramanian argued in 2012 that China will direct the world's financial system by 2020 and that the Chinese renminbi will replace the dollar as the world's reserve currency in 10 to 15 years. The United States' soft power will remain longer. He stated that "China was a top dog economically for thousands of years prior to the Ming Dynasty. In some ways, the past few hundred years have been an aberration" [14].

Lawrence Saez at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, argued in 2011 that the United States will be surpassed by China as military superpower within twenty years. Regarding economic power, the Director of the China Center for Economic Reform at Peking University Yao Yang stated that "Assuming that the Chinese and U.S. economies grow, respectively, by 8% and 3% in real terms, that China's inflation rate is 3.6% and America's is 2% (the averages of the last decade), and that the renminbi appreciates against the dollar by 3% per year (the average of the last six years), China will become the world's largest economy by 2021. By that time, both countries' GDP will be about \$24 trillion" [15].

Historian Timothy Garton Ash argued in 2011, pointing to factors such as the IMF predicting that China's GDP (purchasing power parity adjusted) will overtake that of the United States in 2016, that a power shift to a world with several superpowers was happening "Now". However, China was still lacking in soft power and power projection abilities and had a low GDP/person. The article also stated that the Pew Research Center in a 2009 survey found that

people in 15 out of 22 countries believed that China had or would overtake the US as the world's leading superpower [16].

Chinese foreign policy advisor Wang Jisi in 2012 stated that many Chinese officials see China as a first-class power which should be treated as such. China is argued to soon become the world's largest economy and to be making rapid progress in many areas. The United States is seen as a declining superpower as indicated by factors such as poor economic recovery, financial disorder, high deficit and unemployment, and increasing political polarization. Here is one more point about clean-tech development. China is going on to develop a different type of nuclear reactor. Today they have billiard-ball-sized fuel elements, coated in graphite, each meant to do a fuel rod's work but also to ensure that in a nuclear emergency, there would be no nuclear meltdown. All this clean-tech talk is just another example of China's pre-eminence as the world's superpower. United States was in a full-on freak out over its nuclear plants, and yet here was China, saying that once the billiard-ball technology proved successful in two plants, the country's leaders would put them in more, a wave of 50 reactors in all to be built over the next five years.

This was a powerful, and, given the world's environmental concerns, responsible statement – but also an economic one. China invested more in clean energy than anyone else in the world last year, a record \$54.4 billion. China is now the world's largest manufacturer of wind turbines, and solar energy units, GE recently invested \$2 billion with China, in large part to develop even more clean-tech companies and jobs there. There is a reason China is the world's clean-tech leader, and it's the same reason it late last year built the world's fastest supercomputer, and this summer will debut the world's fastest train [17].

But is it real? With the United States apparently in terminal decline as the world's sole superpower, the fashionable question to ask is could China reach or surpass the US? Poised to overtake Japan as the world's 2nd largest economy in 2010, the Middle Kingdom has all the requisite elements of power – an extensive industrial base, a strong state, a nuclear-armed military, a continental-sized territory, a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council and a large population base – to be considered as Uncle Sam's most eligible and logical equal.

Indeed, the perception that China has already become the world's second superpower has grown so strong that some in the West have proposed a G2 – the United States and China – as a new partnership to address the world's most pressing problems.

Why the US Will Still be the Only Superpower in 2030

Despite to optimistic prediction on the future of China, there are a lot of facts telling us that United States of America won't be passed by any country anytime soon. Henry Kissinger also believes that China won't be next superpower. The main cause of it is domestic instability. Though rapidly gaining influence on the world stage, China will be far too preoccupied with domestic issues in the coming years to become a so-called global "superpower". He believes the next decade will see China wrestling with the problem of how to bring its political institutions in line with its economic development. He also doubts that a country that will be so preoccupied with this fundamental change will also have time to concentrate on dominating the world. USA has to understand that China will get stronger, and they must stop interpreting its every move as an act of aggression. But China has to learn some self-limitation in the way it vindicates its interests around the world [18].

Population dynamics alone argue that it will be a challenge for Chinese GDP to overtake America's, though this challenge is likely to be met. Yet even once Chinese GDP is larger than America's, raw aggregate GDP is not enough to become a world super power, and Harvard Professor Joseph Nye gives an explanation why in an interesting opinion piece in *Caixin*.

Even if Chinese GDP passes that of the United States around 2030, the two economies would be equivalent in size, but not equal in composition. China would still have a vast underdeveloped countryside, and it will begin to face demographic problems from the delayed effects of the one child per couple policy it enforced in the 20th century. Moreover, as countries develop, there is a tendency for growth rates to slow. Assuming a 6 percent Chinese growth and only 2 percent American growth after 2030, China would not equal the United States in per capita income until sometime in the second half of the century.

Per capita income provides a measure of the sophistication of an economy. In other words, China's impressive growth rate combined with the

size of its population will surely lead it to pass the American economy in total size at some point. This has already provided China with impressive power resources, but that is not the same as equality. And since the United States is unlikely to be standing still during that period, China is a long way from posing the kind of challenge to American preponderance that the Kaiser's Germany posed when it passed Britain at the beginning of the last century. The facts do not at this point justify alarmist predictions of a coming war.

Essentially, he's arguing why America won't be displaced as the world's primary super power any time this century. His point isn't to cheer American power but rather highlight why the U.S. should embrace rather than fear a rapidly developing China. One important point he makes relative to China's influence in East Asia is that while China's economic rise is welcomed by its neighbors, its military rise isn't. He believes that other Asian nations would be more likely to join the U.S. as a countervailing force should China try to flex its military muscles in the region. China also lacks the 'soft power' of U.S. culture and its global influence.

The fact that China is not likely to become a peer competitor to the United States on a global basis, does not mean that it could not challenge the United States in Asia, and the dangers of conflict can never be completely ruled out. But basically, Bill Clinton was right when he told Jiang Zemin in 1995 that the United States has more to fear from a weak China than a strong China. Thus far, the United States has accepted the rise of Chinese power and invited Chinese participation as a responsible stakeholder in the international system. Power is not always a zero sum game. Given the global problems that both China and the United States will face, they have much more to gain from working together than in allowing overwrought fears to drive them apart, but it will take wise policy on both sides to assure this future.

A genuine superpower does not merely have military and political influence, but also must be at the top of the economic, scientific, and cultural pyramids. Thus, the Soviet Union was only a partial superpower, because they spend more than half of finance to develop their military capability while other spheres ruined time by time due to this according to the scholars the USSR collapsed. The most recent genuine superpower before the United States was the British Empire. Many Europeans like

to point out that the EU has a larger economy than the US, but the EU is a collection of 27 countries that does not share a common leader, a common military, a uniform foreign policy, or even a common currency. The EU simply is not a country, any more than the US + Canada comprises a single country.

The only realistic candidate for joining the US in superpower status by 2030 is China. China has a population over 4 times the size of the US, has the fastest growing economy of any large country, and is mastering sophisticated technologies. But if you see the entire situation, you know that Chinese leaders are against this idea of surpassing the US. Moreover they want USA to be the global leader and only superpower. But it might be just the words and tricks... Ultimately, DIPLOMACY is the art of letting someone have it in your way... We have to keep it in our mind and shouldn't forget that... However it is just the beginning, we will see what happens the next!

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