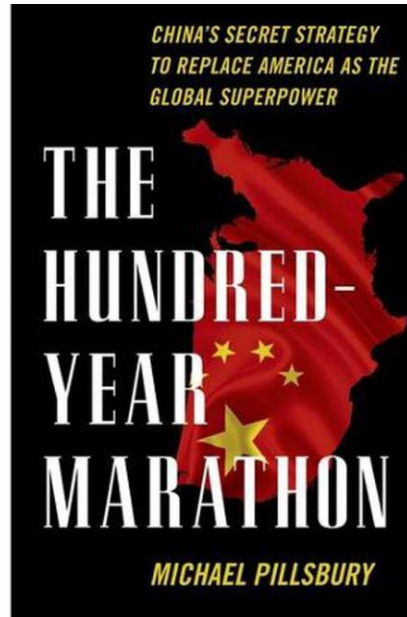




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THE NEXT GLOBAL SUPERPOWER: HOW CHINA IS CURRENTLY USING WARRING STATES STRATEGIES TO DEFEAT THE U.S. WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT



By Carol Rushton

War games. The Pentagon plays them all the time. A little more sophisticated than the 1983 movie by the same name, Michael Pillsbury, author of *The Hundred Year Marathon*, actually participated in Pentagon war games sometime before or during the Obama presidency.

The year is 2030. Every time China and the U.S. fight a conventional war with conventional weapons, the U.S. wins. Every time the war is fought with Pillsbury using China's Warring States Period strategies, the U.S. is defeated.

This same scenario played out in at least twenty different war games with the U.S. and China. The result was the same in every case.

Understanding the Warring States Period strategies puts China's moves over the last thirty years - around the world and in the Asian Hemisphere - in a new light. Considering the world situation, it is imperative that the United States and its leaders understand what China is up to and how the U.S. must respond. I take much of the information for this article from Pillsbury's book, *The Hundred Year Marathon*.

CHINA'S ENCIRCLEMENT POLICY: WORLD DOMINATION

China has been engaging in what can only be generously called threatening behavior toward their neighbors in Asia. Vietnam, also a Communist country, has complained to the U.S. for years about China's bullying tactics and has appealed to the U.S. government leaders for help. This bullying has included the Philippines, Australia, and Japan. Japan had to scramble their jets to intercept incoming fighter jets from China 675 times in 2019 and has fought with China over the islands in the China Sea that China claims belongs to them.

Almost immediately after Joe Biden took the oath of office in January, China started buzzing Taiwan relentlessly with their fighter jets, causing Taiwan to have to upgrade their aging F-16s and start intercepting Chinese jets when they entered Taiwan's air space. After the U.S. withdrawal debacle in Afghanistan in 2021, China has taunted Taiwan that the U.S. will not support them if China decides to invade the island.

While the U.S. military is concerned about white rage, Critical Race Theory, vaccine mandates and spending American tax-payer dollars on sex change operations for American military personnel, China has spent billions modernizing their military. Military.com reports China's military "has already surpassed the U.S. in missile development and its number of warships and air defense systems under the Chinese Communist Party's plan to achieve dominance by 2049, the Defense Department said in a sobering report" (Richard Sisk, "China's Military Has Surpassed US in Ships, Missiles and Air Defense, DoD Report Finds," September 1, 2020, Military.com).



Chinese Naval Ships

The above article reports that China has the largest navy in the world with 350 ships and submarines, compared with 295 ships in the U.S. Navy; China has at least two types of ballistic missiles totaling 1,250 with the U.S. having only one. China's demonstration in August 2021 of at least two hypersonic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons makes China's military a formidable force to be reckoned with.

Military superiority is only one dimension of China's multi-pronged strategy to displace the U.S. as the world's greatest superpower. China is also using the tactic of creating footholds throughout the world through financing infrastructure projects in other countries.

I became aware of China's goal of world domination in the 1990s from reading articles about China's interest in funding infrastructure projects in other countries in the *International Herald Tribune* while I was living in Israel. Of course, it was never described that way in the articles I read about China's "investments." Many third world countries desperately need basic infrastructure: roads, highways,

railroads, bridges, airports. China was then and is today only too willing to help these countries with loans to build these crucial infrastructure projects, called the Belt and Road Initiative. From a \$350 million loan to Ethiopia in 2009 to build the Addis Ababa Expressway, conveniently financed through the Export-Import Bank of China and using the Chinese Communication and Construction Company to a \$1.5 billion to Sudan from the China Development Bank in 2013, China has been busy being very generous to help other countries improve the lives of their citizens while burying them in millions of dollars in debt.

While Westerners would call investing in third world countries, especially in Africa, a poor decision, China doesn't see it that way. "China has been investing aggressively in Africa to secure resources such as oil, gold or farmland" and as far Sudan is concerned, China "has an interest in stabilizing Sudan's economy because oil exports from arch rival South Sudan need to pass through the north" (Reuters Staff, "Sudan Receives \$1.5 Billion Loan from China Development Bank," January 17, 2013, Reuters).

According to the Reuters article, "China in the Driver's Seat Amid Calls for Africa Debt Relief" by Joe Bavier, published on April 13, 2020, China has loaned at least \$143 billion to African nations between 2000 and 2017, and may eclipse loans from the World Bank to Africa.

It should be no surprise that some of these third world countries are now having a difficult time paying back these massive loans China has been so very gracious to give them.

What China is doing has been called "debt-trap diplomacy." This is when a country makes large loans to an entity, like a country, knowing that the entity will not be able to pay the debt, thereby deliberately gaining economic and political advantage over that entity or country.

This is what is happening in Kenya and Sri Lanka, two countries that owe China a large amount of money.

Kenyans recently raised concerns over Beijing's plans to take over one of its strategic seaports since the African country is unable to clear its debts. Similar concerns have been elsewhere. In December 2017, Sri Lanka handed control of the new-built port of Hambantota to a Chinese operator in order to satisfy part of its significant debt to Chinese lenders . . . China is Africa's largest trade partner, mutual trade with Africa increased from one billion US dollars in the 1980s to \$170 billion in 2018, which included Chinese imports from Africa. These imports mainly consisted of ores, crude oil and agricultural products . . . China takes raw materials from Africa, converts them into finished goods in China, and then sells them in African markets ("How China's Debt Trap Diplomacy Works and What It Means," December 13, 2019, TRT World).

Other countries that China is poised to take over with similar projects include Pakistan, Laos, Brunei, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, and Myanmar, just to name a few. The countries cannot pay back the loans; China exploits the situation by using its economic leverage to take over these projects and turn at least some of them into bases for its military scattered around the world.

Most Americans don't realize that a Chinese company also operates the ports on the Panama Canal. *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Post* have reported that China will build a military naval base in Equatorial Guinea, which is located on Africa's west coast, giving China a position on the Atlantic Ocean.

With a system of connecting railroads, seaports, highways, and military bases through multiple countries, China is not just trying to supplant the United States as an economically superior country. In view of its Warring States Strategy, China is encircling the United States so that it can one day defeat the U.S. without firing a shot.

PROPAGANDA: CHINA'S USEFUL IDIOTS

Each country wants to present a positive image throughout the world, whether that image is truthful or not, to attract global corporations and foreign economic investment, foreign aid, and good relationships with other countries. Every country in the world does it; it is nothing new. However, the effort that Communist China goes to in order to present an image of their country to the world that has nothing to do with reality is extraordinary. Michael Pillsbury writes in *The Hundred-Year Marathon*,

. . . the Chinese government, at its highest levels, uses a false reality to cultivate the goodwill of foreign governments, policymakers, academics, reporters, business leaders, and analysts. This is more than an elaborate PR operation. It is an essential component of the Marathon to induce complacency in the hegemon (U.S.), to hide in plain sight. And the Chinese are succeeding brilliantly (Michael Pillsbury, *The Hundred-Year Marathon: China's Secret Strategy to Replace America as the Global Superpower*, 2016, St. Martin's Griffin, New York, pg. 116).

China actually has an official propaganda office with a yearly budget of at least \$12 billion and employs over 1,000 people. A Chinese defector related to Pillsbury and other American government officials that the Chinese government actually "creates" pro-China stories to be published not only in China but in newspapers and magazines abroad, including in the U.S. In its goal to dominate and rule the world, China makes great use of propaganda tools but not always in the traditional way Americans think of as propaganda. One of these tools is the Confucius Institute.

At the time Pillsbury's book was published in 2016, there were at least 350 Confucius Institutes around the world, many on American college and university campuses. The Confucius Institute touts the benefits of exposing American students to Chinese language, culture, and ideas. The institutes have been so successful that China is expanding them into the curriculum of K-12 schools in many countries, including the U.S.

Some may remember the 1970s television series, *Kung Fu*, in which a Chinese martial arts expert who leaves China in the late 1800s for the United States has flashbacks to his boyhood teachings in China from his "master" who tries to instruct the young "Grasshopper" on peaceful resolutions to conflicts. A patient, soft-spoken, bald-headed elderly man is probably the image that most Americans have when they think of Confucius.

Pillsbury writes what is actually taught in Confucius Institutes:

[W]hat they do is whitewash China's history, portraying China to foreigners as a pacifist, happy nation that considers Confucius the sole guide to understanding Chinese culture. The institute encourages a reinterpretation of Sun Tzu's *Art of War* as a nonviolent treatise. Students are regaled with stories of happy Confucian families and cultural heroes who implement sincere and honorable courses of action. Pacifism and sincerity are highlighted as China's main cultural values" (Ibid, pg. 123).

This is exactly the image the Communist Chinese want us to have of their country, culture, and society.

While China foots the bill for the teachers and curriculum (which many U.S. colleges are only too happy to agree to), the Confucius Institutes demand that certain topics are off limits such as Tiananmen Square, Tibet, China's military buildup, China's stealing intellectual property of other countries, abortion, and its horrific human rights record. *The Washington Post* reported that North Carolina reneged on its invitation to the Dalai Lama to speak on campus after the Confucius Institute objected (Naima Green-Riley, "The State Department Labeled China's Confucius Programs a Bad Influence," Chinese Search Engine," August 25, 2020, *The Washington Post*).



Lebron James

Communist Chinese officials also make sure that they have sympathetic, pro-China advocates throughout American society. Most Americans are very familiar with famous and enormously wealthy pro-basketball star LeBron James and other professional American athletes who turn a blind eye to China's atrocities against the Uyghur Muslims, the brutal suppression of Hong Kong, the shutting down and desecration of Christian churches, and the arrest and imprisonment of Christians, journalists, and anyone else who refuses to toe the Communist Party line. Pro athletes would rather have the millions from the products China produces for them and revenue from their sporting events broadcast in China than to stand up for what is right.

These same athletes (like LeBron James) blast the United States and its citizens for being a perpetually racist country that can never apologize or atone enough for the country's slavery past while at the same time, these same athletes ignore the Civil War, the 13th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution, and the Civil Rights Acts of the 1960s. The fact that very few American professional athletes have spoken out about the disappearance of women's tennis player Peng Shuai, whose great crime was revealing that a high-ranking, Communist Chinese government official had sexually assaulted her, tells you that American sports athletes are more than willing to sell out their own country and look the other way at China's horrendous human rights abuses for a fistful of dollars. They are willingly used as propaganda tools by the Communist Chinese without a second thought.

Unfortunately, American athletes are not the only ones actively promoting an anti-American, pro-Communist China viewpoint. American journalists, reporters, and academics must express views and opinions that are favorable to China and the Communist Chinese government if they want access to China and Chinese society and institutions that are closed to those who do not. In *The Hundred-Year Marathon*, Michael Pillsbury recalls being barred from even entering China after years of unfettered contact with Chinese universities, academics, institutions, journalists, and even Chinese military leaders. Pillsbury came to realize that China was not the benign, congenial, and benevolent country that the Communist Chinese wanted everyone to believe it was. This has happened to others as well.

China carefully monitors social media to make sure that no negative media reports are available to its citizens and pressures social media companies to remove any content that the Communist Chinese Party does not like. Axios revealed in September 2021 that LinkedIn, a social media platform that is mostly used by business professionals, had blocked articles by journalists that China found objectionable; the articles were not allowed to be viewed and read by Chinese citizens (Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian, “LinkedIn Blocks U.S. Journalists’ Profiles in China,” September 30, 2021, Axios).

The article goes on to say that after China punished LinkedIn for not removing some content the Communist Chinese did not like, “LinkedIn began aggressively censoring the LinkedIn profiles of prominent academics and journalists outside of China whose profiles mentioned politically sensitive information, including the Tiananmen Square massacre.”

China also tries to influence American society and politics by using American politicians and officials who can be swayed to push any narrative acceptable to the Communist Chinese government. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Milley’s revelation that he actually called his military counterpart of our greatest enemy to supposedly warn them that President Trump was going to attack China shocked many Americans, but it is the kind of behavior that the Communist Chinese encourage and revel in.

General Milley is not the first American government official to compromise the security of the United States to the advantage of the Communist Chinese. Politicians on both sides of the political aisle are guilty of getting into bed with Communist China to enrich themselves and their families at the expense of American sovereignty and liberty. Bill and Hillary Clinton’s acceptance of election campaign donations in the 1990s from the Chinese government (and subsequent denials that they knew anything about it) was the first of many successful attempts by China to erode and sabotage our country. Remember, Bill Clinton aggressively pushed for China’s acceptance into the World Trade Organization. China’s “investment” in Bill Clinton’s re-election campaign paid off very well.

By the way, that was not the end of the Clinton’s involvement with the Communist Chinese government. Rilin Enterprises, whose owner, Wang Wenliang, was a member of China’s National People’s Congress, pledged \$2 million dollars in 2013 to the Clinton Foundation while Hillary was still Secretary of State in the Obama Administration (Juliana Goldman, “Chinese Company Pledged \$2 Million to Clinton Foundation in 2013,” March 16, 2015, CBS News). Can you say “special access”?



Dianne Feinstein

In 2018, Americans discovered that California Senator Dianne Feinstein had a staff member who worked for her for 20 years and turned out to be a Chinese spy, reporting to China’s Ministry of State Security. We were told that the spy was only a driver for Feinstein and did not pose a security risk. However, this staff member was also listed on Feinstein’s payroll as an “office director.” Even though Feinstein served on the U.S. Senate’s Intelligence Committee, she typically brushed off any

suggestions that this staff member had been a security risk and did not have any access to sensitive or classified information that could compromised the security of the United States.

Writing for *The Mercury News*, Marc Thiessen asked the question, “Imagine if it emerged that the Republican chairman of the House or Senate intelligence committee had a Russian spy working on their senate staff. Think it would cause a political firestorm?” (Marc Thiessen, “Sen. Dianne Feinstein had a Chinese spy on her staff for 20 years,” August 10, 2018, *The Mercury News*).

Thiessen revealed in the same article that he asked CIA officials if this incident was really as innocuous and benign as Feinstein tried to paint it. The CIA officials said that the driver was typically the most trusted of all in any clandestine operations and would have recorded all of Feinstein’s telephone calls and conversations with passengers in the car and “would have had access to her office and homes.” To this day, Feinstein has not been held to account for having a Chinese spy on her official government payroll for 20 years.



Eric Swalwell and Christine Fang

Eric Swalwell is a member of the House of Representatives from California’s 15th district and is on the House Committee on Homeland Security. In 2020, American media started reporting on Swalwell’s past relationship with a noted Communist Chinese spy, Christine Fang, sometimes known as “Fang Fang.” Rep. Swalwell, a Democrat, has been charged, although not formally, with having had a sexual affair with Fang. Swalwell claimed that after the FBI alerted him in 2015 that Fang was not on the up-and-up, he cut all ties with her. After the story broke, Swalwell has refused to discuss the exact nature of his relationship with Fang and he is still on House committees dealing with classified U.S. intelligence information.



Mitch McConnell and Elaine Chou

Mitch McConnell and Elaine Chou are one of Washington D.C.'s power couples, according to Peter Schweizer in his book, *Secret Empires*. McConnell from Kentucky is the Republican Senate Minority Leader; Chou has served under both President George Bush and President Donald Trump as Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Transportation, respectively, and was also at one time the head of the Federal Maritime Commission.

Chao's parents, originally from China, founded a shipping company in 1964 that is now known as the Formost Group which became a very successful, lucrative business. After McConnell and Chou were married in 1993, Chao's father, James Chao and still the head of the family shipping company, arranged some meetings in China between McConnell and Chinese government officials.

Since those and subsequent meetings with Communist Chinese leaders, the Formost Group has become involved in doing a lot of business with and for Communist China. This has made the Formost Group, which was modestly successful, experience a boom in its financial fortunes, allowing the Chaos to become very wealthy. This increased the McConnell-Chao net worth from approximately \$3 million to over \$9 million - and possibly over \$30 million. Elaine Chao has bragged that the majority of the company's workforce is from China. Some of the Chao family members have very important positions in the Communist Chinese government, one being appointed as a board member of the Bank of China.

In *Secret Empires*, Peter Schweizer points out that the Chao family business ties with the Communist Chinese government has also led to a dramatic change in Mitch McConnell's views toward China. Before McConnell and Chou were married, McConnell was very strident in his condemnation of China's actions toward the students and young people at Tiananmen Square; after they were married, McConnell's criticism of China has been rather muted if he levels any criticism toward the Communist Chinese at all.

Joe Biden and his family's lucrative business dealings with China are revealed in great detail in Schweizer's book; unfortunately, space does not permit me to discuss them now and must be postponed for a future article.

CONCLUSION

I hate to be a pessimist but the United States right now is in an extremely perilous position. China has surpassed us militarily. Our Defense Department cannot confidently state that the U.S. would win any future war with China. China is establishing a system of connecting infrastructure projects in other countries which enables them to very easily transport their almost 3-million-man military to Europe and the Western Hemisphere within a matter of days, not weeks and months. Our media, academia, and politicians are engaging in what can only be described as highly treasonous actions that undermine our national security and could very well lead Americans into becoming slaves to one of the most brutal regimes in history.

While America sleeps with its head in the sand, China has used its Warring States Strategy brilliantly and is close to reaching their goal of world domination well before 2049. The only question left to ask is, is it already too late for the U.S. to reverse course?

Carol Rushton is a writer and podcaster for SWPM and is the author of the book, "Understanding Israel and the Middle East," available at swpm.us.

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