**The US Has Financed China’s Rise. But where from here?**

Contributor to KEI Network (October, 2021)

US trade with China has been imbalanced enabling China to amasse over US$4T. The accumulation of US$ and intellectual property, has helped China achieve an increase in it's global influence and economic competitiveness in addition to modernizing its domestic infrastructure, public social benefits, and military capability.

Some argue that China needs to be contained and that US tariffs have been ineffective. Instead they argue that measures should be taken to stop the so called "theft" of intellectual property.

Such a defensive recommendation reflects a view of the US: China relationship as economic and "competitive" and interprets China's access to intellectual property as "theft". Yet it is US trade and access to US intellectual property that have enabled China to modernize it's economy, infrastructure, and military.

As China's economy enables it to modernize it's military, the US's competitive policies are bound to refocus onto China's military capabilities. The current posturing over Taiwan has served to crystallize the US military relationship to China that had been rather ambiguous.

The US military: industrial complex is a major contributor - at $T/yr., to the US economy. It is a source of jobs and innovation, closely regulated, and a non-contributor to inflation as it's goods and services are financed by taxation and only  consumed through conflict.

China can now afford to develop its own military: industrial complex for creating jobs just as does the US. Whether it is able or veven wants to contain consumption through conflict (e.g.: India, Russia, Taiwan) is yet to be seen.

When the US: USSR relationship reached a similar stage, the USSR was able to contain conflict but unable to sustain the cost of a sustained arms race; it ultimately collapsed. A US: China competition may follow a similar path - an expensive arms race even into space. Assuming no conflict, who is likely to win?

Competition need not be adversarial, but what is the alternative? Can the relationship instead of competitive and clashing become collaborative and sharing to address a common purpose? What might that be: A pandemic - tried but failed?  Climate change - too early? Famine -  possibly? A common enemy - Internet sourced aliens such as Ransomware? These are all negative forces.

There are positive options that leaders may employ to stir collaboration such as the shared pursuit of a global system of education or healthcare or patents or finance or taxation or transportation leading to a WEF-like system of global governance.

Consider also the cost and time savings of the shared pursuit of a common source of clean, abundant, accessible energy - such as fusion. Once achieved, a new social and economic order will surely follow.

Stay tuned; the future is coming.