

17 Strategic Issues

1. **The American Way (The 5th Dragon)**. Since the end of World War II, USA has had a tumultuous rise on a zig-zag course with strategic highs and lows. It now settles into a position of troubling disadvantage in the face of a continually changing world and an aggressive China Superpower. *“US change”, however, would significantly unsettle CCP advantage.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2826
2. **“The Devil May Care”**. Real or perceived, over the years, the US Superpower has to varying degrees conveyed an attitude that is arrogant, indifferent, oblivious or belligerent toward a mix of national, sub-national, transnational and hard-to-categorize power brokers around the world. Today it would seem that “the devils, indeed, do care” in terms of effectively targeting the US Superpower. *America’s attentiveness to details in highly globalized and increasingly unforgiving competitions and contest, could lend fresh advantage.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2745
3. **The Cognitive Domain**. Modern Chinese strategic thinking is reflected in Xi Jinping’s guidance concerning the imperative for “Winning informatized battles”. This dynamic challenge is broached in this new release: “The Chinese Way of War: How Has it Changed?” by Timothy L. Thomas, https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2844 USA’s quick grasp of this is fundamental to not becoming a casualty of informational-ized or intelligent strategies, weaponry and advantage. *Effective counters to this, as well as USA’s own innovations in this field, will first require shifts in senior US public and private sector leaders’ emphasis on this dynamic cognitive domain.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2847
4. **Strategic Space**. One of the main challenges lies in understanding Modern Strategic Competitive Space. USA has more of a geo-terrain concept of “space” toward which it projects various forms of power. China thinks and acts in terms of controlling key terrain features within and across various types of competitive space for “positional advantage”. *America’s competence and confidence in competing in these spaces is the key to optimizing American and allies’ capacities.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2749
5. **War and Competition**. US Government narrowly relies on a platform-centric approach to national defense. Combat systems are the heart of American Super Power “power projection”. US commerce is protected by this. US diplomacy is furthered by it. Somewhere along the way USA lost allegiances. Chinese communist leaders jumped in and “bought them”. *Winning is much about counter-competing for allegiances.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2747
6. **“Borrowed Swords”**. Surrogates, Proxies, Mercenaries and Traitors are part of the CCP’s Fail Safe architecture’s use of “borrowed-bought-bullied” capacities dispersed around the world. This reflects Chinese communist reliance on key persons’ decision-making control, as well as their actions, influences, resources, products, services, and impacts. Serious, systemic adoption of asymmetric methods would help USA overcome the CCPs present advantages. *This is bread and butter for USA at least staying apace with the CCP’s wide array of competitive methods.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2763
7. **The COVID-19 Phenomenon**. COVID-19 demonstrates the essence of modern no-rules unrestricted competition. Direct and indirect consequences reflect advantage that has sent US Government, American Business, and allies reeling. *Americans, however, have unconventional revolutionary roots to draw upon, if they will only do so.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2771
8. **The Last Dragon**. 5G and Artificial Intelligence. All competition, opposition, resistance, systems, difference of opinion, and individuality can be crushed by this technology under CCP authoritarianism. Everything the CCP is doing - everything - is ultimately focused on accomplishing this hyper-enabled Dragon as the nerve center of future war. *America has expertise to contest this devastation, if not win this contest. Anything less will be disastrous.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2844

9. **Troubled Diplomacy.** While Chinese communists leverage multi-tiered economic and social diplomacy from the United Nations to village level, USA has for decades relied on a nation state-to-nation state diplomatic model as the sovereign panacea for what ails its international relations. US Government's single-level diplomacy and engagement has been generally overmatched in this way. https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2751
10. **Corrupted Cultures.** Today the American Experiment is in need of a scrubbing. The US Super Power has bred incestuous self-perpetuating cultures immune to self-criticism and self-correction. This has destabilized The Ship of State. *The mix of existential crisis and uncommon opportunity may be a motivating mix for Americans to find their sea legs and rebound.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2757 billionaires married to china factor
11. **"They Still Believe".** While Americans have admittedly strayed from the standards that drove Founding Fathers to revolution, they have still held onto these authentic impulses. This sets USA apart from Chinese communist authoritarianism aimed at totalitarian dominance of the Anglo West and its founding precepts. Being worthy of admirable-followable Super Power stature in the 21st Century is not a given. *It is, however, the opportunity at hand.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2753
12. **Profit vs Prosperity.** In the end, the competition between the PRC and USA + allies reflects the difference between Profit and Prosperity. The concept of "inclusive prosperity" scares Chinese communist leaders to death. Experimentation in, promotion of, and imparting of inclusive prosperity initiatives will set an inspired West far apart from Communist China's dark options. *Tyrants shudder, and not only the ones in China.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2755
13. **Just Say "No!"** Chinese communist leadership itself is now fully addicted to the world agreeing to agree with China's terms. A rolling barrage of "No's" at multiple decisive points, would constitute a major change of sea state for Chinese communist leadership. This equates to "sustained loss of income". Economic demise follows. *A strategic attention-getter today in Beijing.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2759
14. **The Desperation Factor.** Most obvious today is the reality that Xi Jinping has expertly led the latest phase of a 5000-year evolution in hierarchical authoritarian dominance as a model of governance. CCP brilliance is reflected in how they got USA to help them do this. *Their folly? They got "found out" because of their own bug.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2743
15. **Fail-Safe.** It would be naïve to presume that authoritarian power brokers around the world (the 4th Dragon) are not vested in PRC's success. They have much to gain from a collaborative club of totalitarians tormenting and exploiting a weakened USA. A no-brainer for this community of dark purposes. *USA has a fundamental advantage over authoritarian regimes: The majority of humanity innately rejects their oppression.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2761
16. **"Whoa?"** Draconian retaliation against the PRC resonates with many today and for good reasons. 100,000+ Americans murdered is a valid point of view. *This is a coercive backdrop to strategize from, but may not be the sole basis to totally rely on.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2766
17. **Rudder.** The USA's PREZ-DIP-CONGRESS-BIZ-MIL-INTEL model has evidenced varying degrees of "lack of rudder". So also, lack of "chinking the planks" below the waterline of The Ship of State. COVID-19 sufficiently prodded us into waking up. This enabled seeing how far we were missing the mark on debilitating influences eating away at national direction, resilience, and security. *USA's opportunity rests on addressing misdirection, gaps, omissions and inefficiencies in integrating all elements of national resilience.* https://thechinafactor.org/?page_id=2773