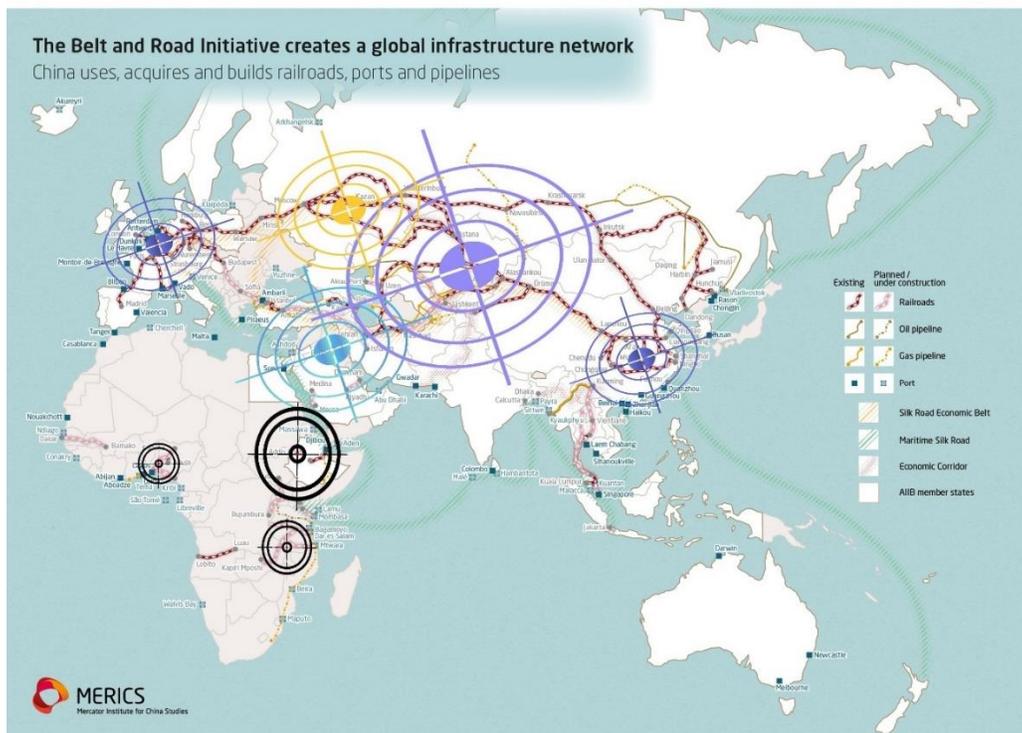


Strategic Competition Act of 2021 - Pt. 3

US Congressional Attempt to Sabotage China's Belt and Road Initiative

TARGET: Belt and Road Initiative



Graphic credits: Background map from <https://merics.org/en/tracker/mapping-belt-and-road-initiative-where-we-stand/> / Sniper targets from <https://pngtree.com>

By Gregory Brundage

ABSTRACT

Part 1 of this series examined the 281-page Strategic Competition Act of 2021 as a hate crime by globally disseminating anti-China and anti-Chinese false and defamatory information which has further stimulated racist hatred and violence in the US, Europe and beyond. Part 2 of this series examined the finance allocated to that smear campaign specifically intended to a) illegally block China's ability to communicate internationally, b) do international business, and 3) undermine Chinese people's confidence in their own government. This Third part of this series of articles looks at how the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 employs very aggressive and highly illegal strategies to undermine China's work on the One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI) that provides infrastructure development, primarily transportation, energy, communication, jobs and COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/vaccines to some of the world's least developed nations. Throughout this series relevant international and American laws are presented illustrating how this Act is a collusive, corrupt, and criminal endeavor. This third part begins with a review of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and is followed by a review of what appears to be corrupt activities by most of President Biden's top cabinet appointees. That is followed by a review of ten sections in the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 corruptly targeting the Belt and Road Initiative for destruction. *Readers may be shocked at the extreme levels of illegality and aggression outlined by the US Congress in this ill-conceived endeavor and how precisely they mirror that of any other large international crime organization.* Most of the illegal schemes outlined in that Act are already functioning, and that Act is presented as leverage to obtain much larger amounts of money to expand them. It is concluded these kinds of activities will only further degrade global opinion of the USA as it attempts to corruptly crush China's economy, rather than build itself up by contributing in a positive manner to development around the world. This Act is one more example of highly illegal political and economic international sabotage by the US Congress that will probably backfire as has been happening more and more often to US Defense and intelligence communities' ill-conceived plans and operations. If the US fully implements the plans outlined in this document it will only be seen by most educated people in the world as the pathetic, weak and desperate measure of an empire rapidly sinking under the weight of its own immeasurable corruption and greed. It is also noted in the conclusions that Chinese authorities are unlikely to quit their efforts to promote harmony worldwide, including and especially with the USA in an effort to support global economic stability and peace. Moral and legal considerations aside, there are practical reasons for abandoning this corrupt Act before its full implementation to wit: dead people, and those experiencing civil and international wars don't buy either Apple or Huawei phones.

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1st Edition, May 17, 2021

Updated May 18, 2021

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The West has created an imaginary, evil China for its people to hate and fear - and it's working, by Maitreya Bhakal, May 16, 2021

“...Ever since Chinese economic reforms began and China started ‘rising’, Western media has unleashed a massive propaganda campaign against it. Every single Chinese action is scrutinized to death, every wrong deed or mistake criticized endlessly, and every achievement mostly ignored or downplayed...”

The middle kingdom

“The US sees itself as the center of the universe, with other nations merely orbiting around it and paying homage. America treats many of them like its minions, or “allies” and “partners”, to use the popular - if inaccurate - terminology. Maintaining global and racial hegemony remains central to US foreign policy. Any successful development model that doesn’t obey Western norms cannot be tolerated.

“Thus, today, when the US sees another successful power center emerging, its Pavlovian response is to violently push back. Since China is too successful, it has to be suppressed. A non-allied nation that is not a Western-style “democracy” cannot be allowed to develop - whether technologically or financially, and certainly not militarily. And since China is not even a white-majority nation, it needs to be crushed even more.

“However, there is one small problem: China is not like America. It does not kill millions on false pretexts, it does not bomb nations and their hospitals and schools, it does not launch drone strikes against civilians, it does not violate international law repeatedly while lecturing others to follow it, it does not have an imperial empire for stealing and hoarding other nations’ wealth - it does none of the things that has made the West rich and prosperous. China became rich largely without doing any of the above.

Dr. China and Mr. Hyde

“Since China is not as evil as the West, an alternate, evil version of China has to be created - a mirror image in an alternate reality. The West can then project anything they want into this imaginary China. It can be accused of any evil in the world - based on equally imaginary evidence.

“This alternate China requires massive doses of propaganda and lies to construct - and the lapdog Western media is all too willing to oblige. After all, the US can’t openly say it wants to destroy China in order to maintain US hegemony. Thus, they lie through their teeth and spread conspiracy theories. People can then be successfully brainwashed to hate and fear China...”

<https://www.rt.com/op-ed/523673-west-created-imaginary-evil-china/>

Preface

The Strategic Competition Act of 2021 is documentary proof of very large-scale, very well-funded series of domestic and international corrupt acts designed to illegally prevent China's full participation in the international marketplace and information sphere via an illegal disinformation campaign based upon unproven allegations, bribes¹ and threats².

United Nations Convention Against Corruption

The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Convention's far-reaching approach and the mandatory character of many of its provisions make it a unique tool for developing a comprehensive response to a global problem. The Convention covers five main areas: preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, and technical assistance and information exchange. The Convention covers many different forms of corruption, such as bribery, trading in influence, abuse of functions, and various acts of corruption in the private sector.

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/tools_and_publications/UN-convention-against-corruption.html

https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/Publications/Convention/08-50026_E.pdf

United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/PNI/institutes.html>

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY [on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/610)]51/59. Action against corruption

II. CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND DISQUALIFICATION

4. Public officials shall not use their official authority for the improper advancement of their own or their family's personal or

¹ See Strategic Competition Act of 2021 - Part 2, and note financing for that disinformation war: \$3,993,000,000.00

² US threatens to cut intelligence sharing with Berlin over Huawei <https://www.ft.com/content/00dc81a6-4417-11e9-b168-96a37d002cd3> ;

financial interest. They shall not engage in any transaction, acquire any position or function or have any financial, commercial or other comparable interest that is incompatible with their office, functions and duties or the discharge thereof.

<https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/A/RES/51/59>

What follows in this Preface is a cursory review of some of the potentially illegal “conflicts of interest” created by most of President Biden’s top government appointees, including the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense and Director of National Intelligence. Following that is a brief summary of some of the effects on real humans of a small sample of America’s illegal wars resulting from similar potential “conflicts of interest” between weapons corporations, lobby groups, “consultants” and top administration officials, past and present. The foregoing provides the background context necessary to more objectively review the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 and its assaults upon the legitimate rights of China in regards to international communication, business and self-determination. No one, including the US Congress has a unilateral right to lock an entire nation, such as China out of the international marketplace and major global information networks based on a list of unproven allegations composed by US government and/or government related and funded groups and individuals. None of those accusations have been proven in any court of law, and substantive evidence is completely lacking. Moreover, the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 provides *explicit instructions and finance for the US to act in conspiracy with other nations to effectively lock China out of the international marketplace and major global information networks in addition to undermining its sovereignty by spreading malign disinformation within China*. The Strategic Competition Act of 2021 will earn a place in history right alongside Adolf Hitler’s Mein Kampf and other equally racist and fascist works. It appears to have been written by people with either complete ignorance of international law, or total contempt for it. US law is weak in some areas and strong in others, however there is no or very little enforcement of any laws regarding Congressional corruption in any case.

Defense industry corruption in the US government

Among these members of Congress with personal investments in the defense industry are several who sit on committees that determine major sources of funding for defense companies and weapons contractors.

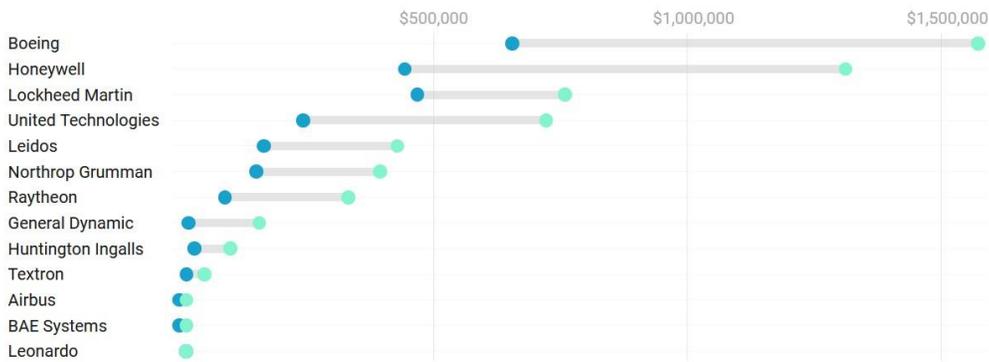
According to a Sludge review of financial disclosures, 51 members of Congress and their spouses own between \$2.3 and \$5.8 million worth of stocks in companies that are among the top 30 defense contractors in the world. Members of Congress generally report the values of their investments in ranges, so it’s not possible to know exactly how much their stocks are worth. As Congress debates whether to limit President Trump’s power to take military action

against Iran, the complete list of senators and representatives who own defense stocks are displayed below in this article.

Eighteen members of Congress, combined, own as much as \$760,000 worth of stock of Lockheed Martin, the world’s largest defense contractor in terms of overall defense revenues. The value of Lockheed Martin stock surged by 4.3% on the day after Soleimani’s assassination—a day in which the Dow Jones Industrial Average overall traded down.

Congress' Top Defense Stock Investments

Range of value of members of Congress' combined holdings of stock in top defense contractors



[Get the data](#) · Created with [Datawrapper](#)

<https://readsludge.com/2020/01/13/the-members-of-congress-who-profit-from-war/>

Three aspects of a crime that must be established before a guilty verdict can be determined in a criminal proceeding include: (1) Means: the ability of the defendant to commit the crime, (2) Motive: the reason the defendant felt the need to commit the crime (motive), and (3) Opportunity: whether or not the defendant had the chance to commit the crime. All three conditions are met in regards to most of President Biden’s top administration officials.

Serious Conflicts of Interest

The Members of Congress Who Profit from War - Here are the senators and representatives who own stock in Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, and other top defense contractors, by Donald Shaw, Jan. 13, 2020

“...Members of Congress’ investments in defense contractors may present more significant potential conflicts of interest than investments in other industries because the contractors rely heavily on defense spending that is approved by Congress for their revenue.

More than 70% of Lockheed Martin's \$51 billion in 2018 revenue came from sales to the U.S. government, for example. Companies like Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and Raytheon are considered "pure plays" because they sell their products almost exclusively to the government through appropriations approved by Congress.

"Members of Congress should divest from all investments tied to their congressional responsibilities and avoid any actual or potential conflicts of interest or ethics dilemmas," Scott Amey, general counsel at the Project on Government Oversight, told Sludge.

In the Senate, nearly one-third of the members of the Defense Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee own stocks in top defense contractors. The subcommittee is in charge of drafting the procurement section of the annual Defense spending bill, which allocates funding for the Defense Department and specifies weapons systems and other goods for the department to purchase from private contractors.

In the 2020 Defense appropriations bill, the subcommittee approved \$1.85 billion for 18 more F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircrafts and spare parts from Lockheed Martin. Subcommittee member Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) owns as much as \$100,000 worth of stock in Lockheed Martin. The subcommittee also recommended \$1.1 billion for 6 P-8A Poseidon aircraft, which is a maritime patrol and reconnaissance plane made by Boeing. Subcommittee members Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), and Jerry Moran (R-Kansas) own as much as a combined \$750,000 in Boeing stock...

The House Foreign Affairs Committee oversees arms controls and exports, yet at least four of its members have investments in defense companies whose foreign sales fall under their jurisdiction.

Foreign arms sales that are proposed by the President are referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee for approval, modification, or rejection. The committee may hold hearing on the sales to ask questions or raise concerns before the sales are approved, and it can initiate a joint resolution of disapproval in order to block or modify a sale.

Companies that Foreign Affairs Committee members are invested in, including Honeywell, Lockheed Martin, and General Dynamics,

have been approved for foreign sales and partnerships in recent years.

House Oversight and Reform Committee Government Operations Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) owns as much as \$400,000 worth of stock in Leidos, which is paid billions of dollars to provide information technology services for the Defense Department. In May 2019, Leidos CEO Roger Krone testified before Connolly's committee in favor of legislation calling on the government to guarantee back pay for contractors in the wake of government shutdowns. Connolly had written a letter to House appropriators months earlier seeking support for such a bill.

Senators Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) have re-introduced their Ban Conflicted Trading Act, which would prohibit members of Congress from buying and selling individual stocks, giving them six months from enactment to divest their shares, and from serving on corporate boards, something that's already banned in the Senate but not in the House.

"Members of Congress serve the American people, not their stock portfolios," Sen. Brown previously told Sludge. "Elected officials have access to nonpublic information that can affect individual companies and entire industries. There must be more accountability and transparency to prevent members from using this information and abusing their positions for personal gain."

Four companies—Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and General Dynamics—make up 90% of arms sales to Saudi Arabia in deals worth over \$125 billion, according to a July 2019 report by the Center for International Policy. American-made weapons have been used by Saudi Arabia's government in the war in Yemen, with a death toll that has risen over 100,000, including 12,000 civilians from attacks targeting them...

Of the at least 380 former high-ranking Department of Defense officials who went through the revolving door to become lobbyists or senior executives in 2018, around one quarter joined the top 5 defense contractors, according to the Project On Government Oversight: Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, General Dynamics, and Northrop Grumman. Current U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper is a former lobbyist at Raytheon, which over the past two election cycles spent \$6.4 million on campaign contributions and \$20 million on federal lobbying.

A Fix for Democracy – Government ethics experts call on elected officials to not trade individual corporate stocks. A bill proposed in Congress called the Ban Conflicted Trading Act would require senators, representatives, and senior staffers to divest corporate stocks, transfer them to a blind trust, or hold them throughout their time in office without making trades. The bill would also bar House members from serving on corporate boards. The House version of the bill has 9 co-sponsors, while the Senate version has 1 co-sponsor. No Republicans have co-sponsored the bill...

<https://readsludge.com/2020/01/13/the-members-of-congress-who-profit-from-war/>

The above raises many questions. For example, of what use are billions of dollars of weapons without bad guys to kill? Does appropriating billions of dollars for the defense industry create a desperate need for bad guys out there and is this the reason the USA intentionally creates and works with terrorist groups?

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/billions-of-dollars-worth-of-weapons-brought-into-syria-arms-traffic-organized-by-cia-and-pentagon/5600204>

Say Goodbye to Regime Change in Syria. Phasing Out of CIA “Train and Equip” in Support of “Moderate” Rebels? Trump’s decision to stop sending arms to rebels alters everything, By Scott Ritter, July 28, 2017

The fact is that there was no secular, moderate force worthy of the name operating inside Syria; virtually the entire anti-Assad effort is dominated by Islamist extremists who, if Assad was overthrown, would probably replace a secular dictator with something far worse. The Obama policy of regime change in Syria, like the Bush policy in Iraq, has done little more than unleash forces which the U.S. was unable to control, costing American taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars and the blood of American military personnel who lost their lives in its implementation.

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/say-goodbye-to-regime-change-in-syria-phasing-out-of-cia-train-and-equip-in-support-of-moderate-rebels/5601201>

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/298215567_Syria_Washington_Supports_the_Islamic_State_ISIS_the_evidence

<https://www.rsis.edu.sg/rsis-publication/rsis/co16254-salafis-and-wahhabis-two-sides-of-the-same-coin/>

<https://gabbard.house.gov/news/StopArmingTerrorists>

Just because the US stopped *openly* funding the world's second most dangerous terrorist groups (with the US being the first most dangerous terrorist group) doesn't mean the money flow stopped. In cases where US black ops weaponry and budgets can't cover supplies and expenses for "our" terrorist "friends," GCC member states are happy to cover the balance. Sucking up to the global hegemon is seen as beneficial to their national interests. The Balkanization of Syria would allow them to have forward military bases on Iran's borders, as decimation of Iran and control of its oil fields are the ultimate goals of the CIA and GCC in the region after all.

That Iran has a democratically elected government and parliament, and human beings with families actually living there, are irrelevancies to the American and GCC Intelligence Communities. International law. The war criminals laugh. What international law? We are international law!

The **Taliban** and **IS** were created by American intelligence and military organizations. Would Congressional appropriations for weapons also provide motivation to for example frame innocent national leaders like Syrian President Bashar Assad for crimes they didn't commit? The evidence is mounting. A variety of profit motives are easy to prove.

"We're keeping the oil, remember that. We want to keep the oil.
Forty-five million dollars a month."

<https://www.bbc.com/news/50464561>

<https://thegrayzone.com/2020/02/11/new-leaks-shatter-opcws-attacks-douma-whistleblowers/>

<https://thegrayzone.com/2020/01/22/ian-henderson-opcw-whistleblower-un-no-chemical-attack-douma-syria/>

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2015/05/01/why-is-the-us-trying-to-replace-the-assad-government-with-al-qaeda-in-syria>

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2019/05/29/the-western-media-is-key-to-syria-deceptions>

<https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/syria/2021/syria-210106-presstv02.htm>

<http://qodsna.com/en/317410/Terrorists-White-Helmets-meet-to-stage-false-flag-gas-attack-in-Idlib:-Russia-%EF%BF%BDs-military>

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syria-ambassador-un-calls-us-withdraw-troops-stop-acts-aggression>

Stolen oil and profiting from stock dividends are not the only motivating factors leading Congressional members to vote for wars and other illegal foreign aggressions.

‘Biden unveils Pentagon ‘China task force’ to review ‘challenge’ Beijing poses as US military flexes muscles at its doorstep - 10 Feb, 2021

“Led by Eli Ratner, who serves as special assistant on China to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, the task force will be composed of 15 civilian and uniformed defense officials and will deliver its findings to Austin within four months, according to a Pentagon fact sheet, which dubbed the project a “sprint effort.” The panel is not expected to produce a publicly available report, however...”

<https://www.rt.com/usa/515206-biden-pentagon-china-task-force>

“Eli Ratner, a researcher at the US think tank New American Security Center, is considered a young Chinese expert in the US.”

<https://www.archyworldys.com/the-birth-of-an-elite-group-of-iron-triangle-china-trembles-with-bidens-diplomatic-team>

“The Center for a New American Security (CNAS) is a Washington, D.C.-based think tank established in 2007 by co-founders Michèle Flournoy and Kurt M. Campbell. It specializes in the United States’ national security issues. CNAS focuses on terrorism and irregular warfare, the future of the U.S. military, the emergence of Asia as a global power center, and the national security implications of natural resource consumption.

“CNAS is relatively small, with around 30 employees and a budget under \$6 million.[7] Among the organizations top donors include Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems, Open Society Foundation, Airbus Group, The Boeing Company, Chevron Corporation, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Raytheon Company, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, the United States government, BAE Systems, BP America and Exxon Mobil Corporation.”

<https://www.cnas.org/support-cnas/cnas-supporters>

Mr. Ratner was a researcher working for a “think tank” supported by America’s top weapons manufacturers. It is highly likely he had more than a little to do with the inception and actualization of the Strategic Competition Act of 2021.

The Strategic Competition Act of 2021 is a form of “irregular” warfare such as CNAS is tasked with pursuing. How many current or past defense industry employees, lobbyists and/or “consultants” worked on the creation of the Strategic Competition Act of 2021? Would employment with the defense industry create a “conflict of interest” when also

working on Congressional documents designed to isolate China from international trade and communications?

“The mass media are reporting that the Biden camp has selected former general Lloyd J. Austin III to be the next secretary of defense...

“As has become the standard ritual for Biden's cabinet picks, the mass media are holding a parade to celebrate the fact that Austin would be the first black chief of the US war machine, while virtually ignoring the murderous agendas he has facilitated throughout his career. As head of Central Command, Austin actively campaigned to resurrect the Pentagon’s spectacularly failed program of trying to arm ‘rebels’ in Syria to fight ISIS, and in 2014 he backed immunity for US troops from war crimes prosecutions by the government of Afghanistan. He helped spearhead the Iraq invasion, and *he is a member of the same private equity fund which invests in defense contractors as Flournoy and Biden's warmongering pick for secretary of state, Tony Blinken.*” (Italics added by this author.)

<https://www.rt.com/op-ed/508991-caitlin-johnstone-biden-raytheon>

That “private equity fund,” Pine Island Capital’s partners include Tony Blinken (President Biden's Secretary of State), Michele Flournoy (American defense policy advisor) and retired Gen. Lloyd Austin now Biden's (Secretary of Defense).

Though claiming to divest themselves of any investment in Pine Island, just prior to the election Pine Island launched some new ‘special purpose acquisition companies’ (SPACs) which are essentially shell companies.

According to The Daily Beast:

“The firm raised \$218 million for its new SPAC, which is specifically looking to invest in “defense, government service and aerospace businesses,” according to the prospectus, which was amended and re-issued on Nov. 13. And one specific area of government contracting it hopes to plumb for new business ties in the government’s response to the coronavirus.”

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/firm-tied-to-biden-contenders-tony-blinken-lloyd-austin-michele-flournoy-looks-to-cash-in-on-covid-response>

Pine Island Capital proudly boasts of its DC connections which includes a who’s who of past and current government, military and industry leaders including:

- Major General Charles F. Bolden Jr., USMC (Ret.)

- Senator [Saxby Chambliss](#)

During his tenure in the Senate, he served as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee..., the Senate Rules Committee; and his leadership and experience on homeland security and intelligence matters earned him an appointment to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, where he served as vice chairman from 2011 to 2014, advocating for dramatically improved information sharing and human-intelligence-gathering capabilities. His previous role as chairman of the House Intelligence Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security made him one of the leading congressional experts on those issues.

- Senator Tom Daschle

“Daschle is officially a lobbyist now - The former Democratic leader resisted registering under a loophole that now bears his name.” By Isaac Arnsdorf, 03/29/2016

“After his 2004 upset loss to John Thune, Daschle joined law and lobbying firm Alston & Bird as a “special policy adviser,” earning as much as \$2.1 million a year, but he never registered as a lobbyist. His journey through the revolving door, later with DLA Piper and finally Baker Donelson, helped popularize the now well-trodden path for former officials to cash in on K Street without formally registering as a lobbyists...”

“Under the statutory definition of a lobbyist, policy advisers don't have to register if they avoid direct contact with lawmakers or spend less than 20 percent of their time lobbying. The provision became widely known as the Daschle loophole... Daschle previously registered with the Justice Department under the Foreign Agents Registration Act to represent Taiwan. He's currently promoting a book co-authored with his Republican counterpart, Trent Lott, now also a lobbyist.”

<https://www.politico.com/story/2016/03/tom-daschle-officially-lobbyist-221334>

Reframing “lobbyist” as “special policy adviser,” or “consultant” is a con game, the oldest trick in the book.

"Since leaving the Senate, Senator Daschle has remained an active and learned voice among policy-makers... Senator Daschle serves on numerous public and private boards, including the Center for American Progress and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations."

<https://www.bakerdonelson.com/thomas-daschle>

- Senator Byron Dorgan
- Michèle Flournoy
- Representative Dick Gephardt
- Ambassador Stuart Holliday
- Ambassador Capricia Marshall
- Admiral Mike Mullen, USN (Ret.)
- Senator Don Nickles
- Lieutenant General Vince Stewart, USMC (Ret.)

<https://pineislandcp.com/team/>

“We have unique insight into how rapidly changing technologies will directly impact the evolving preferences of defense, intelligence and federal government customers.” — company prospectus “We believe that there are still a significant number of potential targets with competitive advantages in ‘big data’ analytics, enterprise IT, secure data processing, seamless inter-agency technology integration, communications and training solutions that would benefit from our deep bench of advisers who contribute decades of relevant government and defense expertise,” the prospectus reads. The document adds, “Our leadership team is well equipped to support a potential target on all key competitive factors of the government services market as we have unique insight into how rapidly changing technologies will directly impact the evolving preferences of defense, intelligence and federal government customers.”

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/firm-tied-to-biden-contenders-tony-blinken-lloyd-austin-michele-flournoy-looks-to-cash-in-on-covid-response>

That “unique insight” into “how rapidly changing technologies will directly impact the evolving preferences of defense, intelligence and federal government customers,” sounds like a breach of confidentiality agreements top Biden Administration officials must have signed when hired to do government work.

“But that “revolving door” between government and industry can create perverse incentives and conflicts of interest, ethics experts say. And it’s just that sort of business as usual that Mandy Smithberger, the director of the Straus Military Reform Project at the Project on Government Oversight, says is concerning in this case. “These kinds

of conflicts are particularly disappointing given justified criticisms of how the Trump administration has repeatedly used the government to further personal and financial interests,” Smithberger wrote in an email. “While this isn't uncommon, it's still gross.”

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/firm-tied-to-biden-contenders-antonio-blinken-lloyd-austin-michele-flournoy-looks-to-cash-in-on-covid-response>

That revolving door did not begin or end with former President Trump and it's spinning faster than ever now with the Biden administration.

Also see:

How Biden's Foreign-Policy Team Got Rich - Strategic consultants will define Biden's relationship to the world, by Jonathan Guyer, July 6, 2020

<https://prospect.org/world/how-biden-foreign-policy-team-got-rich/>

Conflicts of interest? It's way beyond that.

President Trump was hardly unique in crossing the line between government and industry, as President Biden's cabinet has many picks right out of that same revolving door between politics and industry, including Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III and Antony Blinken (of WestExec Advisors fame).

Though not officially a lobby group, WestExec Advisors thrive in the so-called gray zone doing many, most or all of the same things as a lobby group.

Their members include:

Antony Blinken – Antony J. Blinken was sworn in as the 71st U.S. Secretary of State on January 26, 2021.

“In 2015, Obama had dispatched Blinken to tell Mohammed bin Salman that the U.S. supported Saudi Arabia's right to defend itself and nothing more. But four years later, the U.S., through its arms sales, was party to an ongoing war [Yemen]. The death toll was over 100,000 in an asymmetric conflict, and the defense contractor Raytheon had sold Saudi Arabia more than \$3 billion worth of bombs.”

<https://prospect.org/world/how-biden-foreign-policy-team-got-rich/>

“The fund, **Ridgeline Partners**, was co-founded by Tony Blinken's WestExec and “provides strategic insight on U.S. & allied national

security capability needs and emerging opportunities.” The companies listed on the Ridgeline website include data and tech start-ups that have seen government contracts, including some deals with the Department of Defense.”

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/12/10/biden-secretary-of-state-pick-blinken-linked-to-fund-with-national-security-portfolio.html>

That gives the appearance of “crossing the line” between consulting and lobbying. It isn’t an example of the kinds of vague supposition one finds from the beginning to the end of the Strategic Competition Act of 2021, but a very clear and unambiguous “[conflict of interest](#).”

Michèle Flournoy - “Co-Founder and Managing Partner of WestExec Advisors, and former Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), where she currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors. Michèle serves on the boards of Booz Allen Hamilton, Amida Technology Solutions, The Mission Continues, Spirit of America, The U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, CARE, and sits on the Honorary Advisory Committee of The Leadership Council for Women in National Security. Michèle is also a former member of the President’s Intelligence Advisory Board, the CIA Director’s External Advisory Board, and the Defense Policy Board, and is currently a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Aspen Strategy Group, and is a Senior Fellow at Harvard’s Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.” (Clearly Ms. Flournoy is one of the alpha “interventionists” of the Biden Administration and appears to have several prominent [conflicts of interest](#).)

According to a study published last month by the [Center for International Policy](#), nearly half of CNAS’ funding came from Lockheed Martin, Boeing, General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon, the study found.

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/transition-playbook/2020/11/13/liberals-take-on-bidens-likely-pentagon-pick-791660>

Flournoy has spoken a bit about WestExec’s work with Silicon Valley start-ups to land contracts at the Pentagon, where she sees a need to better leverage new technologies that are not necessarily the forte of larger, more traditional defense contractors.

“The name of the game is how do you enable the Department of Defense to really access that cutting-edge commercial technology and adapt it to military purposes,” Flournoy said in a 2019 podcast interview at the University of Chicago. “It is one of the things that WestExec is trying to help with. How do you let these smaller,

cutting-edge technology firms actually navigate the DoD and national security space?”

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/11/23/westexec-advisors-biden-cabinet-440072>

WestExec is only one of Blinken and Flournoy’s overlapping roles, which keep them updated on trends that others lack access to. Flournoy, for instance, previously served on the Pentagon’s Defense Policy Board, the President’s Intelligence Advisory Board, and the CIA director’s External Advisory Board; each of these positions gives members access to sensitive information, which in turn provides insights useful to attracting and serving corporate clients. Membership requires ethics disclosures, though none of those documents are publicly available, adding another layer of opacity.

<https://prospect.org/world/how-biden-foreign-policy-team-got-rich/>

By not registering as a lobby group, WestExec avoids disclosure requirements and thus they can operate in the shadows wherein most criminals likewise thrive.

But many of the people who work closely with Biden are enmeshed in the opaque world of strategic consultancies and by extension a network of the world’s biggest businesses. If they’ve been consulting for corporations with offshore interests, this spells potential conflicts. “One of the biggest gaps in ethics laws is that we don’t require strategic consultants to register as lobbyists,” said Mandy Smithberger of the Project on Government Oversight.

<https://prospect.org/world/how-biden-foreign-policy-team-got-rich/>

She may be wrong about that. See [H.R.2316 — 110th Congress \(2007-2008\)](#) below.

[Reall the “Daschle loophole” above. The legality of that has yet to be challenged and given the potential for encouraging corruption in government, and the deadly consequences of that potential corruption, that challenge should come sooner rather than later.]

In 2011, Flournoy, then Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and close associate of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton helped persuade President Obama to intervene militarily in Libya an action that has led to 10 years of civil war.

https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/pentagon-leaders_n_871519

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlz3-OzcExI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdX4MEFQ1C8> (“A new start for the Libyan people,” involved an American backed civil war against a UN backed coalition government.)

“Alleged Torture Victims Target U.S. Property Assets of Libyan Commander, By Jared Malsin and Benoit Faucon. 2020.Nov. 8 - Khalifa Haftar, at one time backed by the CIA, owns millions in U.S. real estate, assets that are being pursued by victims of Libya’s bloody civil war - Haftar is a U.S. citizen and a longtime former resident of Virginia who also owns property in the state...”

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/alleged-torture-victims-target-u-s-property-assets-of-libyan-commander-11604840401>

She was also a supporter of the American covert and then overt war against the Syrian government led by Bashar Assad, another war which has employed a) [massive propaganda campaign](#), b) lingered on for 10 years [killing thousands of innocents](#), c) [silencing whistleblowers](#), d) starves the poor while [denying them medicine](#), and c) [employs known terrorist groups](#) to launch terrorist attacks against the internationally recognize government.

<https://www.cfr.org/event/conversation-michele-flournoy>

...and leading to millions of “displaced people” and starvation.

“As a result, more than 9.3 million Syrians have become food insecure and over 80 percent of Syrians live below the poverty line...With over 50 percent of the health infrastructure destroyed, and hundreds of thousands without shelter and unable to practice social distancing, the region is increasingly at risk of a devastating outbreak.”

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/syria>

Also see:

<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/2018-deadliest-year-yet-children-syria-war-enters-9th-year>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/01/world/middleeast/at-un-syrian-minister-calls-conflict-a-war-on-terror.html>

Primarily US funded <https://www.hrw.org> incidentally blames Russia for the violence and death there, glibly overlooking the fact that the US started that NATO supported war and works with a variety of [terrorist groups](#) in that illegal war against the internationally recognized government. Also, incidentally the US is [stealing Syrian oil](#) on an ongoing basis, asserting that Syria should pay for the war the USA has forced upon them.

<https://www.indepthnews.net/index.php/the-world/usa-and-canada/3085-how-the-us-regime-justifies-the-theft-of-syria-s-oil>

<https://archive.is/R7nOp>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/50464561>

...and the US led by President Biden and his “interventionist” cabinet members is now going so far as to steal the wheat from starving children in Syria. This is not different from the use of USAID as a weapon in Venezuela, in which they starve the nation via brutal economic sanctions, and run a false flag operation denying the starving people access to food aid.

A complete list of American false flag operations would be very long. A probable recent example was the temporary shutdown of the American gas “Colonial Pipeline.” According to Natalya Kaspersky, the founder and former CEO of security software firm Kaspersky Lab, the group, known as UMBRAGE, is adept at hiding its online footprints. The existence of the team first came to light in a series of documents published by WikiLeaks in 2017 and subsequently picked up by American media. At the time, USA Today said the shadowy operatives “may have been cataloguing hacking methods from outside hackers, including in Russia, that would have allowed the agency to mask their identity by employing the method during espionage.”

The world of special interest control of American politicians may not be so opaque as Mandy Smithberger suggests. Those wars not only kill and maim millions of innocents and produce millions more “displaced people,” but they also produce greatly increased stock dividends for many or most of President Biden’s top cabinet members’ close friends and associates.

Avril Haines, “Director of National Intelligence (DNI) The nation’s top intelligence official—the DNI — is the designated leader of the U. S. Intelligence Community (IC), 18 agencies and organizations that include the CIA, the National Security Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office and the Office of DNI.”

Her stated priorities include: “Bolster cyber defenses and counter China, which she sees as a potential partner on climate change and an adversary when it comes to stealing U.S. intellectual property and technology & Does not envision America re-joining the Iran nuclear agreement in the near future.”

[One can only wonder what she thinks about Google’s recent Supreme Court victory over Oracle, given that Google “copied” 11,500 lines of code from Sun’s Java SE program. One person’s intellectual property is another person’s free-use material if it’s a small enough percentage of the total code according to SCOTUS. In any case, there’s no good reason to not vilify China, contribute to a massive 4-billion-dollar smear campaign, corruptly attempt to cut it out of international trade and world communications systems, and play brinksmanship in the South China Sea possibly leading to WWIII, right? As Director of

National Intelligence, Avril Haines bears **culpability** in the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 and all possible outcomes. She most definitely “crosses the line.” It is unquestionably profitable to bring superpowers to the brink of war as she well knows.

Professional/Academic Career

After leaving the Obama administration, Haines worked in the private sector consulting for companies such as the Denver-based national security contractor Palantir Technologies, which specializes in data analytics.

Principal at WestExec Advisors, a D.C.-based strategic advisory firm founded in 2017 by former Obama administration officials including Antony Blinken, (Biden’s Secretary of State), and Michèle Flournoy, (former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy under President Obama)...

<https://breakingdefense.com/2021/02/whos-who-in-defense-avril-d-haines-director-of-national-intelligence/>

Palantir — founded in 2003 with capital from investors including the CIA — provides software to help organizations analyze data... Palantir’s government business grew much faster in 2020 than its commercial business. Its total revenue increased 47% from about \$743 million to \$1,093 million in 2020. Its government business soared 77% to \$610 million while its commercial business rose 21% to about \$482 million, according to its 2020 10K. For the fourth quarter, Palantir’s government segment popped 85% to \$190 million while its commercial segment inched up 4% to \$132 million, noted CNBC.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/petercohan/2021/04/11/palantir-technologies-stock-could-fall-17/?sh=72526e6a6857>

Ms. Avril Haines is at the axis of the revolving door between defense industries and the government’s intelligence community.

Exactly how long did President Biden’s top cabinet appointees wait after resigning their cozy defense related activities before assuming office(?) and to what extent do they stay in contact with those former associates? Who exactly is monitoring the time-frames involved, those kinds of relationships and to what extent is that information made public, and where? There are many unanswered questions swirling around those relationships which are profitable and cozy to some and exceedingly deadly to others. The word “opaque” here can also be interpreted as obstruction of justice.

If you want to solve a crime



...you have to follow the money.
Who profits from this crime?

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20181219-facebook-censoring-images-of-starving-yemen-children>

Answer: Shareholders in defense industry corporations and political “representatives” in the USA who profit from corrupt activities.

Senators who tried to kill Yemen bill have been paid by lobbyists

Roy Blunt, who voted against limiting the US's role in the Yemen war, received \$19,200 from pro-Saudi lobbyists in 2017

by Faisal Edroos, 29 Nov 2018

At least five of the 37 Republican Senators who voted against advancing a resolution limiting the United States' involvement in the war in Yemen have received campaign contributions from pro-Saudi lobbying groups.

Roy Blunt, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo and Tim Scott all received financial contributions from firms representing Saudi interests between 2016 and 2017, according to a recent investigation by the Centre for International Policy (CIP).

All five Republicans voted on Wednesday against advancing the resolution, which, if passed, would force the US to limit its support for the Saudi-UAE war in Yemen.

Senator Bernie Sanders, who co-sponsored the bill, said the time to end the US involvement in the war was now.

"We have already seen 85,000 children starved to death, the UN tells us that millions of people are facing starvation, 10,000 new cholera cases are developing each week because there is no clean drinking water in the country," Sanders said following the briefing.

"All of that was caused by the Saudi-led invasion of Yemen three years ago, led by a despotic, dishonest dictatorship."

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/11/pro-saudi-lobbyists-paid-5-senators-voted-yemen-bill-181129075933213.html>

Yemen death toll five times higher than previous estimate, researchers say

At least 56,000 people have been killed in armed violence in Yemen since January 2016, independent research group finds.

The new figure encompasses the deaths of both combatants and civilians in Yemen between January 2016 and 20 October 2018, explained Andrea Carboni, a research analyst at the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED).

It does not take into account the Yemenis who have died as a result of the humanitarian crisis engulfing the country and its related problems, such as diseases and malnutrition.

"The fatality numbers refer to the number of people that were killed as a direct consequence of armed violence," Carboni told Middle East Eye on Monday.

<https://www.veteranstoday.com/2018/11/09/yemen-death-toll-five-times-higher-than-previous-estimate-researchers-say/>

This is mass murder and gangsterism in its most base and transparent form.

Where are the prosecutions for what are obviously examples of bribery and "conflict of interests?"

The Director of National Security Ms. Avril Haines must be fully aware the greatest

danger to American national security is not the Afghans or Iraqis, not China, Russia or Iran, but rather corruption in American politics, and yet, somewhere between nothing and insignificantly little is being done about this clear and present, extreme and rapidly escalating danger. Why not?

These facts *give the appearance* that Ms. Haines ignores this absolute corruption in government precisely because she is a willing participant in this same corruption – which when stripped of its niceties is nothing less than organized crime and mass murder and torture of innocent men, women *and children* in the name of “national security.”

This is not an opaque world nor is it simply a case of multiple conflicts of interest. All of those involved in insider trading make the same compromises and use the same rationalizations. And yet, those caught for insider trading go to jail, whereas transparently corrupt politicians do not. Why not?

Given that the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 is by far the longest plan for a series of “hate crimes” I have seen since Mein Kampf, one can only wonder how DNI Avril Haines sleeps at night and if the tacit agreements she’s made are really worth risking WWII and in effect attempting to cut the world in two (via her ominous “counter China” agenda).

It’s not difficult to figure out which of the two prostitutes she represents in **Solomon’s decision** regarding the two mothers. A seven-year-old can figure this out and thanks to corporate control of the media, absolute corruption in government and Avril Haines’ “leadership,” the lives of 7+ billion people and civilization as we know it hang in the balance. What percent of Americans would approve of Avril Haines’ “compromises” if they knew of them?

Is attempting to maintain American unipolar hegemony in perpetuity while secretly and corruptly enriching oneself really worth the very real risk of thermonuclear war? Precisely how many, or what percentage of humanity must die to feed the collective and individual egos of the USA and its political “representatives?”

Furthermore, exactly how would she feel if she were an elderly Asian American beaten nearly to death in the streets of the USA because of the very hate she promotes in “countering China?” Is this really “justifiable collateral damage?” How would she like to die of starvation in Syria, Yemen, DRC, or dozens of other nations the US sanctions? One can only wonder if the weight of the nine million humans that starve to death every year,

the children blown to bloody bits on busses, in schools and refugee camps, and/or the **80 million** displaced people in the world ever weigh on her conscience, if she has one at all.

Robert Work “Another partnership was with Google’s in-house think tank, Jigsaw. WestExec’s Robert Work, during his time at the Pentagon, collaborated with the tech company in an artificial-intelligence venture, as first reported by The Intercept. That AI initiative, known as Project Maven, led to an insurrection among Google staff upset about collaborating with the military. (“WestExec has done no work on Project Maven. Period,” said Flournoy.) Though Jigsaw has since been removed from WestExec’s list of partners, the Prospect has learned that Blinken and Flournoy have continued to work quietly and informally with Google engineers and executives, spitballing potential geopolitical threats. Schmidt Futures, Google founder and billionaire Eric Schmidt’s philanthropy, has also hired WestExec.”

...and others.

By inference one must assume the Project on Government Oversight is culpable in all crimes associated with these collusive deals between government and industry in macabre fulfillment of [Eisenhower’s Farewell Address](#) warning citizens and the world of collusion between government and the weapons industry *exactly* as is going on now.

The persons named above are just the tip of the iceberg.

“If ‘personnel is policy,’ as Sen. Elizabeth Warren likes to say, we can learn a lot about Biden from his team. In addition to Blinken, advisers include Nicholas Burns (The Cohen Group), Kurt Campbell (The Asia Group), Tom Donilon (BlackRock Investment Institute), Wendy Sherman (Albright Stonebridge Group), Julianne Smith (WestExec Advisors), and Jake Sullivan (Macro Advisory Partners). They rarely discuss their connections to corporate power, defense contactors, private equity, and hedge funds, let alone disclose them.”

<https://prospect.org/world/how-biden-foreign-policy-team-got-rich/>

General Dynamics (Defense contractor \$10,883,966 Total Lobbying Expenditures, 2020; former Defense Secretary General James Mattis, who sits on the company's board) <https://www.opensecrets.org/federal-lobbying/clients/summary?cycle=2020&id=D000000165>

Misc. Defense Spending on Lobbying \$47,628,420 <https://www.opensecrets.org/federal-lobbying/industries/summary?cycle=2020&id=D03>

In order to begin to clean up the absolutely corrupt government of the United States of America, all exemptions should be deleted from:

2 U.S. Code § 1603 - Registration of lobbyists - a) Registration (1) General rule - No later than 45 days after a lobbyist first makes a lobbying contact or is employed or retained to make a lobbying contact, whichever is earlier, or on the first business day after such 45th day if the 45th day is not a business day, such lobbyist (or, as provided under paragraph (2), the organization employing such lobbyist), shall register with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives...

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/2/1603>

As it is all too easy to have tacit agreements that fly under the radar of exemptions listed in 2 U.S. Code § 1603 - Registration of lobbyists.

The following should have closed those loopholes in the law:

H.R.2316 — 110th Congress (2007-2008)

Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 - Title I:
Closing the Revolving Door

...Requires such Member, officer, or employee to recuse himself or herself from any matter in which **there is or appears to be a conflict of interest under the Rule**, and to notify the Committee of such recusal. Requires such individual also to submit to the Clerk of the House, for public disclosure, the statement of disclosure for which such recusal was made.

[Text bolded by this author.]

(Sec. 102) Amends the federal criminal code to subject to a fine or imprisonment of up to 15 years, or both, a Member of Congress or a congressional employee who with the intent to influence, on the basis of partisan political affiliation, an employment decision or employment practice of any private entity: (1) takes or withholds, or offers or threatens to take or withhold, an official act; or (2) influences, or offers or threatens to influence, the official act of another...

(Sec. 103) Prohibits an attorney or law firm (including a professional legal corporation or partnership, or an attorney employed by such firm) which contracts to provide services to a congressional committee or subcommittee, a Member of the leadership of either chamber, a covered legislative branch official, or a working group or congressional caucus, from knowingly making, with the intent to influence, any communication or appearance before any Member, officer, or congressional employee

on behalf of another person (except the United States) in connection with any matter on which the attorney or law firm seeks official action by such Member, officer, or employee in his or her official capacity during the term of the contract and for one year thereafter.

(Sec. 104) Amends the federal criminal code to require the Clerk of the House to: (1) notify former Members of the House, officers, or employees of post-employment restrictions; and (2) post the information contained in such notification on the public Internet site of the Clerk's Office.

(Sec. 105) Establishes criminal penalties for a congressional employee formerly employed as a lobbyist who, within one year after leaving employment as a lobbyist, knowingly makes any communication to or appearance before the organization that employed him or her as a lobbyist (if not self-employed) or any client of that organization, present or past, during that one-year period on a matter relating specifically to that organization or client...

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/2316>

Though this should come as no surprise, those politicians are or at least “give the appearance” (of) a bunch of crooks in a business that murders literally millions of people. They can change their official title from lobbyist to “consultant,” but that difference is moot when the bombs are falling on your family, and/or you’re drinking putrid water while rapidly dying of dehydration from diarrhea that just looks like bloody water because you haven’t had food in weeks. It hurts you know. Starvation hurts.

The human effects of American government corruption

Priyanka Motaparthi, a researcher for [Human Rights Watch](#), arrived at a market in the Yemeni village of Mastaba on March 28, 2016, to find large craters, destroyed buildings, debris, shredded bits of clothing and small pieces of human bodies. Two weeks earlier, a warplane had bombed the market with two guided missiles. A Human Rights Watch (HRW) report says the missiles hit around noon on March 15, killing 97 civilians, including 25 children... Under President Barack Obama’s administration and, now, President Donald Trump’s, the United States has put its military might behind the Saudi-led coalition, waging a war without congressional authorization. That war has devastated Yemen’s infrastructure, destroyed or damaged more than half of Yemen’s health facilities, killed more than 8,350 civilians, injured another 9,500 civilians, displaced 3.3 million people, and created a

humanitarian disaster that threatens the lives of millions as cholera and famine spread through the country. U.S. arms merchants, however, have grown rich. Fragments of the bombs were documented by journalists and HRW with help from Mastaba villagers.

An HRW munitions expert determined the bombs were 2,000-pound MK-84s, manufactured by General Dynamics. Based in Falls Church, Va., General Dynamics is the world's sixth most profitable arms manufacturer. One of the bombs used a satellite guidance kit from Chicago-based Boeing, the world's second-most profitable weapons company. The other bomb had a Paveway guidance system, made by either Raytheon of Waltham, Mass., the third-largest arms company in the world, or Lockheed Martin of Bethesda, Md., the world's top weapons contractor.

An In These Times analysis found that in the past decade, the State Department has approved at least \$30.1 billion in Saudi military contracts for these four companies. The war in Yemen has been particularly lucrative for General Dynamics, Boeing and Raytheon, which have received hundreds of millions of dollars in Saudi weapons deals.

All three corporations have highlighted business with Saudi Arabia in their reports to shareholders. Since the war began in March 2015, General Dynamics' stock price has risen from about \$135 to \$169 per share, Raytheon's from about \$108 to more than \$180, and Boeing's from about \$150 to \$360.

<https://inthesetimes.com/features/us-saudi-arabia-yemen-war-arms-sales.html>

Also see: <https://mwatana.org/en/>

The above is only a tiny sample of the human carnage unleashed during Hillary Clinton's career as Secretary of State "under" "President" Obama. To the above list one should add the overthrow of Egypt's first democratically elected President Mohamed Morsi, who was replaced by Ms. Clinton's choice of leader Abdel Fattah Saeed Hussein Khalil el-Sisi; President Mohamed Morsi's subsequent imprisonment and death, several attempts to overthrow the government of Venezuela, the killing of thousands of civilians in drone wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, and a dozen other countries at least, political assassinations, the millions of innocents that die every year of starvation due to American economic sanctions, and so on.

What's in the newspaper recently?

At least 30 killed, 50+ injured as multiple blasts rock school in Kabul (VIDEOS) May 8, 2021

Multiple explosions have rocked a school in the Afghan capital of Kabul. At least 30 people were killed in the blasts and dozens more were injured. The majority of the victims were female students.

On Saturday, at least three blasts occurred on the premises of the Sayed-ul-Shuhada High School, located in the western part of the capital. The attack occurred when the students were leaving the school.

Local TOLO news, citing the Interior Ministry, says the blasts killed at least 30 and wounded over 50 people. So far, no armed group has claimed responsibility for the attack. The Taliban denied any involvement.

Afghanistan has seen an uptick in violence in recent weeks following US President Joe Biden's announcement that American troops – deployed in the country for two decades – will be withdrawn by September 11, and not the May 1 date agreed during Donald Trump's administration. The Taliban criticized the new deadline.

<https://www.rt.com/news/523270-blasts-rock-school-kabul/>

Followed by:

At least 13 killed in two bus bombings across Afghanistan as Taliban announces three-day Eid ceasefire, May 10, 2021

At least 13 people were killed and almost 40 were injured overnight in two bus bombings in Afghanistan. The attacks came shortly after the Taliban announced a three-day ceasefire for the Eid al-Fitr holiday later this week.

A passenger bus was hit by a roadside bomb in the southern Afghan province of Zabul overnight, the provincial governor's spokesman, Gul Islam Sial, said on Monday. The attack left at least 11 people dead and some 28 injured, including women and children.

<https://www.rt.com/news/523356-afghanistan-bus-bomb-attacks/>

Shortly thereafter one finds:

Six children & two women killed in Israeli airstrike on crowded Gaza refugee camp – reports, 15 May, 2021

...One of eight official refugee camps in Gaza, al-Shati was established in 1948 after tens of thousands of Palestinians fled their homes and villages during the Israeli War for Independence, also known to Palestinians as the ‘Nakba’, or ‘catastrophe’, which saw 750,000 Arabs displaced from territory that became Israel. The refugee population has since swelled to around 5.7 million worldwide, according to the UN, with over 1.3 million remaining in Gaza.

Despite repeated calls for a ceasefire from international bodies, hostilities have continued into the sixth day as of Saturday morning, seeing at least 137 Palestinians killed, including 36 children, and nearly 1,000 wounded.

<https://www.rt.com/news/523888-gaza-camp-bombed-children/>

The deaths of those children in Afghanistan and Palestine were the direct result of long histories of US egregious violations of international law via repeatedly interfering in the affairs of other nations. In regards to Afghanistan did President Biden consult with DNI Avril Haines and DCI William Burns before changing the US withdrawal date from May 1, 2021 to 9/11? In regards to Israel has he consulted with Prime Minister Netanyahu in regards to his wanton slaughter of innocents to distract voters from his **corruption trial**?

Examining the multiple chains of events leading to the most savage carnage around the world it always comes back to corruption in the US government and an intentional effort to maximize corporate profits.

And what’s going on with the Palestinians these days with President Biden at the helm of the US empire? Riots and extreme violence³ as Israelis keep evicting farmers and stealing more and more land, in addition to forbidding Muslims to pray in Al-Aqsa Mosque⁴ where

³ 2021.05.13 <https://imemc.org/article/israeli-army-kills-many-palestinians-in-gaza/> “Israeli Army Kills Many Palestinians In Gaza - On Thursday evening, the Palestinian Health Ministry said eighty-seven Palestinians, including eighteen children, have been killed and 530 have been injured due to the ongoing Israeli strikes on Gaza. The Israeli army targeted 14 residential towers with its missiles, in addition to firing missiles at 23 media centers, dozens of institutions, societies, and offices, in addition to 58 government-run centers, such as police stations, security centers, and service centers. As of about one hour before the time of this report, Dr. Ashraf al-Qedra, the spokesperson of Gaza’s Health Ministry had confirmed that eighty-seven Palestinians, including eighteen children and eight women, have been killed, and more than 530 have been injured, in the ongoing Israeli offensive.” Mired in a corruption trial, P.M. Netanyahu tries to “rally the nation” behind intensified crimes against innocent Palestinians, while the US pumps billions of taxpayer dollars into their “defense” coffers. Clearly Israeli ultra-nationalists know with certainty President Biden is in their corner.

⁴ When the Crusaders captured Jerusalem in 1099, they used the Al-Aqsa Mosque as a palace and the Dome of the Rock as a church, but its function as a mosque was restored after its recapture by Saladin in 1187. More renovations, repairs and additions were undertaken in the later centuries by the Ayyubids, Mamluks, Ottomans, the Supreme Muslim Council, and Jordan. Today, the Old City is under Israeli control, but the

they've prayed for some 1,300 years on the holiest days of the year. What is this strategy? Provoke, provoke, provoke and blame the victims. And how much money does the federal government give to Israel, America's "cats-paw" in the Middle East? In 2019, the US provided \$3.8 billion in foreign military aid to Israel. Israel also benefits from about \$8 billion of loan guarantees. Almost all US aid to Israel is now in the form of military assistance, while in the past it also received significant economic assistance. With all that money one might think they could just buy land instead of killing people and stealing it. But, that's the American way afterall.

And what about news from Venezuela?

'Humanitarian' agency USAID was 'key tool' for Washington undermining the Venezuelan government, official review reveals, 9 May, 2021

<https://www.rt.com/op-ed/523110-usaid-venezuela-undermine-government/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pORZM6Q_0Vc

The USA has economic sanctions on Venezuela because it has a socialist government and refuses to accept the [American choice for president](#).

Exactly what part of the above news stories is Chinese or Russian propaganda? I have Afghan friends including Afghan newspaper editors, government officials and teachers. I have friends in Venezuela and can easily read their newspapers (Spanish was my second language). I was in Pakistan in 1993 and visited a Saudi directed training program where the Taliban were created. I was in the Sri Lanka war when the CIA was delivering money and bomb-making materials to the terrorist LTTE group. I visited a refugee camp in Austria near the end of the Bosnian war and have lived in countries with American appointed fascist dictators. Likewise, I have friends in Xinjiang and regularly go to Jumaat prayers here in China on Fridays. The propaganda put out by the western press is pure nonsense. None of the above is Russian or Chinese propaganda. The Russian and Chinese governments have had had nothing to do with my personal experiences traveling around the world during the past 55+ years.

What does USA Today have for the reading public today?

'[They will slaughter us](#)': Afghans who worked with US beg for visas as troop withdrawal looms

The US promised all Afghans who they trained as translators, teachers, drivers, etc. visas and then reneged on those promises in a backroom deal with the Afghan government because they were the best educated people in the country. If only the US had 1) not hired

mosque was under the administration of the Jordanian/Palestinian-led Islamic Waqf, at least until President Trump, in one of his most infamous acts, gifted Jerusalem to the Israelis, even though it was not his to give.

the extremist Salafist Saudis to program the Taliban in the first place, and 2) gone in with agricultural specialists, ecologists, teachers and construction and engineering crews instead of armies, drones and bombs, none of this would be happening now.

The American Defense industry poisons [everything](#) and [everyone](#) it touches. The American government's foreign policy is a killing machine that always betrays its friends while earning profits for corporate shareholders and those same corporations "donate" money to politicians many or most of whom clearly have multiple "conflicts of interest."

Is that Russian or Chinese propaganda? China has not participated in any armed conflict in any way except as [peacekeepers](#) in decades.

The Strategic Competition Act of 2021 outlines a series of highly illegal actions designed to smother competition, not facilitate it.

Possible prosecution of high-ranking cabinet officials and Congressional representatives

The cleanest and simplest way to clean up Congress and corrupt cabinet officials is via the RICO laws. What is the difference between the Chicago Mafia, the Gambino family, the Lucchese family and Al Capone's mob and the US Congress? Only that the US Congress is bigger, better funded, protected by corrupt presidents, attorney generals, the slavishly obedient corporate owned mainstream "news" media, and is vastly more deadly. Racketeering laws evolved into RICO in 1970 and are still very useful today.

To convict a defendant under RICO, the government must prove that the defendant engaged in two or more instances of racketeering activity and that the defendant directly invested in, maintained an interest in, or participated in a criminal enterprise affecting interstate or foreign commerce.

<https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/content/rico-act.html>

Obvious *quid pro quo* relationships between political donations and Congressional voting patterns do create the *appearance* of corruption.

Even in the cases that have construed the anti-corruption interest most narrowly, we have never suggested that such quid pro quo debts must take the form of outright vote buying or bribes, which have long been distinct crimes. Rather, they encompass the myriad ways in which outside parties may induce an officeholder to confer a legislative benefit in direct response to, or anticipation of, some *outlay of money the parties have made or will make on behalf of the officeholder*. See McConnell, 540 U. S., at 143 ("We have not limited [the anticorruption] interest to the elimination of cash-for-votes exchanges. In Buckley, we expressly rejected the argument that antibribery laws provided

a less restrictive alternative to FECA's contribution limits, noting that such laws 'deal[t] with only the most blatant and specific attempts of those with money to influence governmental action'" (quoting 424 U. S., at 28; alteration in original)). It has likewise never been doubted that "of almost equal concern as the danger of actual *quid pro quo* arrangements is the impact of the appearance of corruption." *Id.*, at 27. Congress may "legitimately conclude that the avoidance of the appearance of improper influence is also critical. [Italics added by this author, except for the Latin text.]

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/09pdf/08-205.pdf>

Conflicts of interest and dividend profits from votes in favor of international aggression may only be circumstantial evidence, but:

"Criminal law does allow prosecutors to convict a defendant using just circumstantial evidence. In fact, this proof is not considered to be inherently less reliable than direct proof."

<https://www.shouselaw.com/ca/defense/legal-defenses/circumstantial-evidence/>

Is there any possibility Attorney General Merrick B. Garland would ever prosecute any top administration officials or members of Congress for egregious violations of law, e.g., violations of Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 - Title I: Closing the Revolving Door?

Were I him I most certainly would. Why? Suppose there is an "incident" in the South China Sea involving American and Chinese naval forces leading to loss of lives. The American stock market could well crash. There is a distinct possibility more than a million hungry Americans would then surround Washington DC, block the roads with trucks, and demand Congress answer for their absolute corruption in provoking war and the inevitable economic devastation. Were I the Attorney General I would most definitely want to be able to honestly say I was already working on that, and be more or less ready to begin those prosecutions, most probably using RICO laws. Also please recall that it would not have to be the US launching a "false flag" operation in the South China Sea to ignite that conflict, as there are numerous interested 3rd party national leaders whose sovereignty depends on American hegemony, any of whom can afford a private military company to launch a false flag operation with the intent of starting a naval conflict between the US and China.

One might also wonder if Attorney General Merrick B. Garland would attempt to prosecute a president reaching for the nuclear trigger for purely political and/or economic reasons (as compared to genuine national security reasons)? That remains to be seen and he may be tested on this issue in the relatively near future given the abject lack of ethics and absolute greed and corruption present in the current [Biden](#) Administration.

The Unspoken Premise of Modern Capitalism Is That the World Will Be Saved by Greedy Tech Oligarchs, by Caitlin Johnstone, Dec. 29, 2020

“...Ah yes, America. The country where Republicans spend all day screaming that socialism is happening and Democrats spend all day making sure it never does...

“In reality, the world is still very much locked into zealous worship of the great god known as capitalism. And it is choking the world to death...”

<https://caitlinjohnstone.com/2020/12/29/the-unspoken-premise-of-modern-capitalism-is-that-the-world-will-be-saved-by-greedy-tech-oligarchs/>

The United States is not rapidly descending into riot, ruin and rot because of the workers – they by in large are fine. The referenced information in this section represents only the tip of the iceberg of the absolute corruption in Washington DC, their sociopathic masters in Langly Virginia, and their avaricious masters in the boardrooms of corporate America. The only way to get a clear view on daily events surrounding those places is to read “*The Twelve Caesars*,” by Suetonius wherein the debauched leaders of empire can only find pleasure in [sadism](#). There was no profit in killing half a million Americans with COVID-19, or in starving nine million to death every year. Given the highly advanced state of pharmaceutical interventions available to intelligence organizations to extract truth from prisoners there is no need at all for torture. Why then kill all those innocents and torture people? The answer can be found in the work of Suetonius.

Were I a prosecutor I would also look into any communications between Mr. John J. Mearsheimer (see “Introduction to the Belt and Road Initiative” below) and elected or appointed government officials and/or defense industry consultants/lobbyists and/or executives.

Gangsterism is often idealized in the American media. For example, Bonnie and Clyde [Bonnie Elizabeth Parker, October 1, 1910 – May 23, 1934, and Clyde Chestnut Barrow, March 24, 1909 – May 23, 1934] were an American criminal couple who were shot to death in 1934 yet remain folk heroes to this day. The movie Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford about two hapless bank robbers was hugely popular in 1969, won many awards and remains a film classic. One of the most popular pop songs as of this writing is Coolio ft. & Snoop Dogg’s [Gangsta Walk](#).

Mr. Mearsheimer, many members of the House of Representatives and the 51 members of the Senate that voted in favor of the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 participate in activities consistent with crime racketeering as defined by law and commonly called “gangsterism.”

For the sake of brevity and out of sheer revulsion at the limitless corruption within, and horror American foreign policy makers routinely inflict upon the innocent of the world, I will close this section here. It is hoped the above review is sufficient background for readers to begin to grasp the profit-motivation behind the highly deceptive so-called “Strategic Competition Act of 2021” as it relates to China’s Belt and Road Initiative.

Introduction

When you're behind in a game, you just try harder and/or hopefully smarter. A sportsman doesn't hire hit teams to take out the competition or run around slandering his or her competitor(s). That's considered rather low-minded to put it mildly. Unfortunately, since WWII the US has been so feverishly busy selling bombs and guns to almost everyone, starting wars, overthrowing governments and so on, they just didn't take the time to invest in much of anything positive around the world, like building roads and other transportation systems, hydro-electric dams, wind farms, industrial parks in developing countries, and so on. So now, in 2021, they come late to the table and yap on about China, nagging and quibbling about everything China has done helping underdeveloped countries develop. It's ridiculous, undignified and pathetic. Oh! Did I mention malign, malicious, underhanded, *illegal* and probably not going to work anyways?

To solve this "problem" (American foreign policy makers and industry leaders have created with their own negligence and infinite arrogance), Congress has concocted a ludicrous set of strategies to attack the competition in outlandishly corrupt and wildly illegal ways. What is the American endgame in China? The US wants to eliminate China as an economic competitor, and their plan is to weaken the people's confidence in their government while continuing to attack China at the corners: Xinjian, Hong Kong and Tibet and attempt to shatter the Belt and Road Initiative into a million pieces.

The final goal? Balkanization of China – that is divide it into several smaller impoverished warring states, just like they did to the Balkans and more recently, Sudan, just like they want to do to Syria, Ethiopia and any other nation that attempts retain any measure of self-determination. Fortunately, that's probably not going to happen and the US should instead be investing in trying to promote its own stability because it's not far from a Civil War itself.

Series Recap

To truly understand the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 one must have some idea of the use of American political "**double-speak**," AKA "**spin**," AKA "**controlling the narrative**" and **manufactured consent**. A really quick scan of the 281 page Strategic Competition Act 2021 might almost appear reasonable provided one is smoking opium, and not thinking critically. It almost has the veneer of logic but all of that fades away quickly when one examines the details which reveal the single longest list of self-confessed "intent to commit" multi-billion-dollar tax-payer financed international crimes I have ever had the misfortune of reading.

It is a mind-numbing expose on what Congress thinks very dumbed-down American voters might accept. That oily palaver however evaporates instantly with a careful read. Every page and Section of that document is cram-packed with false allegations without a shred of solid evidence, and wildly illegal by both American and international laws.

That document reveals utter contempt for all norms of civilized international communication, trade, and law.

Were allegations against China leveled in this Congressional Act put before a criminal trial judge anywhere in the world it would instantly be dismissed as “frivolous,” due to a complete lack of evidence supporting any of the allegations. The allegations are all suppositions by American government and/or government related/financed entities.

In all fairness to copyright laws however, I will acknowledge when I first came to China some 12 years ago, I did see what probably were illegal pirated movie DVDs being sold on some street corners. However, I will also note I’ve traveled and/or lived in 20 some other developing countries and they all had pirated DVDs for sale on street corners. Also, for the past 8 – 10 years I haven’t been able to find any DVDs for sale in China at all. With that one exception in mind, I don’t believe there is any rational excuse to declare war, economic or thermonuclear on China for all fatuous claims made in the Strategic Competition Act of 2021. Besides all that exactly what constitutes “copyright infringement” is constantly being redefined by courts in the US.

Before going into that document’s malign and illegal plans to attack China’s Belt and Road Initiative a brief review of Parts 1 & 2 of this series of articles is presented.

Strategic Competition Act of 2021 - Pt. 1 A Hate Crime

SEC. 135. “Sense of Congress condemning anti-Asian racism,” (while [promoting Anti-Asian racism](#) throughout that same document)

SEC. 303. “Imposition of [sanctions](#) with respect to systematic [rape](#), coercive abortion, forced sterilization, or involuntary contraceptive implantation in the [Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region](#).”(Those assertions should have been prefaced with the word “alleged” for without that modifier those assertions are nothing more than defamation. Those defamatory and unproven allegations come from [well-funded US government disinformation](#) services and have been paralleled by US funded and orchestrated [terrorist](#) campaigns in [Xinjiang](#)).

SEC. 13. “The PRC is using legal and [illegal](#) means to achieve its objective of becoming a manufacturing and technological superpower. The PRC uses state-directed industrial policies in [anticompetitive](#) ways to ensure the dominance of PRC companies,” (though nothing as anti-competitive as attempting to [overthrow 64 governments and initiating 201 military conflicts](#) or as heavy handed and [anti-competitive as the anti-Huawei and anti-Nord-Stream 2](#) campaigns of the USA)

Strategic Competition Act of 2021 - Pt. 2 Illegal Info-War Against China

SEC. 132 - Supporting independent media and countering disinformation. (**\$400,000,000 per annum to [illegally censor](#)** any news with any semblance of a [Chinese perspective](#), [illegally ramp-up American government-driven anti-China propaganda in the US](#), while [illegally flooding China](#) with American government-driven propaganda.

SEC. 134. Authorization of appropriations for the Fulbright-Hays Program. (**\$105,500,000 per annum to illegally flood China with anti-Chinese government propaganda** under the guise of “cultural-exchange” and teaching English)

SEC. 136. Supporting independent media and countering disinformation. (**\$170,000,000 per annum** program to teach freshman “journalists” how to work as loudspeakers for US government dicta to **illegally smear China with fake information** while avoiding any semblance of truth whatsoever, and protecting those "CIA-friendly" fake journalists when overseas.)

SEC. 137. Congress established the Global Engagement Center (GEC) to “direct, lead, and coordinate efforts” of the Federal Government to “recognize, understand, expose, and counter foreign state and non-state propaganda and disinformation globally.” (Increase in GEC funding to **\$138,000,000 per annum to illegally censor** out any viewpoints in any way communicating Chinese, Russian and/or Syrian perspectives on the illegal American wars against them by anyone including American investigative journalists.)

SEC. 207. Additional **\$2,500,000 per annum to illegally coordinate** directly and through fake NGOs with the EU, ASEAN, OECD, and banks to prevent and otherwise stop **Huawei’s 5-G platform development** under the guise of “regulatory” issues.)

SEC. 215. Additional **\$10,000,000 per year to hire people to illegally infiltrate Pacific island** governments to **smear Chinese business interests** in those countries.)

SEC. 216. A whopping **\$3,250,000,000 to India to illegally and corruptly coordinate with China’s neighbors** in the region to undermine China’s legitimate business interests in the region presumably by way of the usual bag of dirty tricks - disinformation, bribery, threats, etc. - and **via IT** interference.

SEC. 217. One can presume the US exempts itself as an “authoritarian” state here - based on the presumption of **American Exceptionalism** which everyone in the world must bow before - in allocating **\$5,000,000 per annum to corruptly and illegally influence the UN** against Chinese interests in favor of American interests.

SEC. 245. Illegally censor any and all news reaching Canadians that might contain any viewpoints reflecting China’s perspectives on this economic war against it; illegally prevent and halt all Chinese business interests with Canada, and escalate the number of NORAD long-range missiles and other “high-precision” weapons aimed at China in Canada.

SEC. 246. Sense of Congress regarding the Government of China’s arbitrary imprisonment of Canadian citizens. (To illegally whip up a frenzy of anti-Chinese hatred in Canada in retaliation for China legitimately arresting two Canadian spies. American race-based “**Five-Eye**” “friends,” including Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders run some very nasty and **deadly intelligence operations** in a large number of countries, most of which are never reported.)

SEC. 247. Strategy to enhance cooperation with Canada. (To illegally escalate Canadian participation in promoting “regime change” in China via [covert operations](#) using “[democracy](#)” as [a front](#).)

And now for some psychological relief from the bizarre psychopathologies and criminal intent of the US Congress, a brief introduction to the vastly more hopeful and constructive Belt and Road Initiative.

Introduction to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

The BRI is by far the largest trade and infrastructure development plan in human history.

As of January 2021, the number of countries that have joined the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China is [140](#). Given that there are about 195 countries in the world, some 72% of the countries have signed on to the BRI. Some will be trading partners, others investors, and others still are looking for assistance in building infrastructure. It is a very large, multi-faceted program spanning most of the world.

Unfortunately, Australia dropped out recently. That was not terribly surprising as the US has been doing quite a lot of China bashing there in recent years.

America Has No Allies, Only Hostages, October 21, 2020

...“Now some people say there’s an alternative: you can go with China,” said (John) Mearsheimer. ‘Right, you have a choice here: you can go with China rather the United States. There are two things I’ll say about that. Number one, if you go with China you want to understand you are our enemy. You are then deciding to become an enemy of the United States. Because again, we’re talking about an intense security competition.

‘You’re either with us or against us,” he continued. “And if you’re trading extensively with China, and you’re friendly with China, you’re undermining the United States in this security competition. You’re feeding the beast, from our perspective. And that is not going to make us happy. And when we are not happy you do not want to underestimate how nasty we can be. Just ask Fidel Castro.”

American political analyst John Mearsheimer at a debate hosted by the Australian think tank Center for Independent Studies held at: Mearsheimer Australian Center for Independent Studies

<https://consortiumnews.com/2020/10/21/america-has-no-allies-only-hostages>

Later on in that interview Mr. Mearsheimer went on to add:

(51:16) You understand, we’re trying to wreck the Chinese economy... We do not want them growing over the next 30 years the way they’ve grown over the past 30 years. So, you’re gonna help feed the beast? You’re going to trade with

China and basically just ignore us? I don't think that's going to work out too well.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsFwKzYI5_4

The CIA did [try to kill](#) Fidel Castro a number of times. Thus, one can see US representatives go so far as to make death threats should nations do business with China. This would appear to fall in the category of “anti-competitive” actions.

“John J. Mearsheimer is the R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, where he has taught since 1982. He graduated from West Point in 1970 and then served five years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force.” <https://political-science.uchicago.edu/directory/john-mearsheimer>

Frankly I'm a bit surprised Australians are so easily intimidated. Probably President Biden's emissaries promised a great deal money for their own infrastructure projects (which they will have to borrow from Japan). I'm sure China will keep the door should the Australian leadership have a change of heart at some time in the future. Patience always has been the great virtue of Asia.

China Belt and Road Projects Value Now Exceeds US\$4 Trillion, posted by Silk Road Briefing, Nov 25, 2020

<https://www.silkroadbriefing.com/news/2020/11/25/china-belt-and-road-projects-value-now-exceeds-us4-trillion/>

In comparison, the Marshall Plan, also known as the European Recovery Program, was a U.S. program providing aid to Western Europe following the devastation of World War II. It was enacted in 1948 and provided more than \$15 billion to help finance rebuilding efforts on the continent.

The countries of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are spread across all continents:

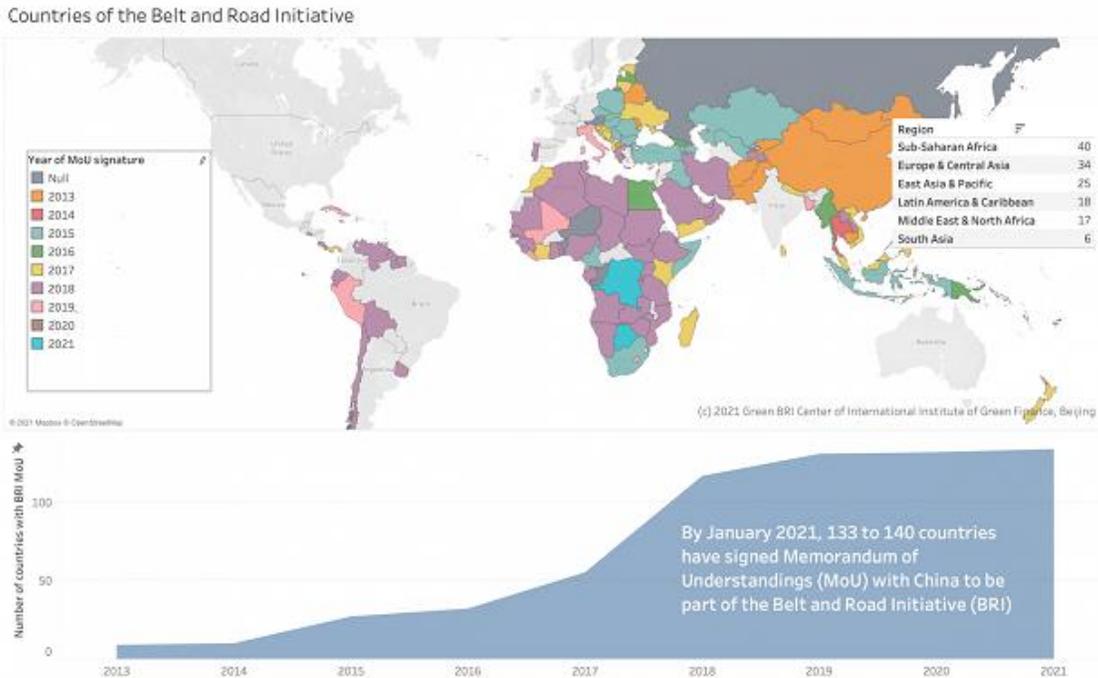
- 40 countries are in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 34 BRI countries are in Europe & Central Asia (including 18 countries of the European Union (EU) that are part of the BRI)
- 25 BRI countries are in East Asia & Pacific
- 17 BRI countries in Middle East & North Africa
- 18 BRI countries are in Latin America & Caribbean
- 6 countries are in South East Asia

A current table of the countries that have joined the BRI can be found here:

<https://green-bri.org/countries-of-the-belt-and-road-initiative-bri/>

(Nedopil, Christoph (2021): “Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative”; Beijing, IIGF Green BRI Center)

That China is helping infrastructure development and job creation in the world's least developed nations is admirable, however others may spin the facts. Africa, Latin America, most of Asia and the Middle East suffered anywhere between 150 - 500 years of colonialization and have a lot of catching up to do simply to get into the 20th Century, not to mention the 21st Century. As time has gone on, most have only fallen further and further behind the developed world while American **neo-liberal economic policies** starve and deny employment and access to medicine for the poor. In comparison to those kinds of things, and by any other measure, the BRI is outstandingly virtuous as it does not tie neoliberal expectations to loan guarantees.



<https://green-bri.org/countries-of-the-belt-and-road-initiative-bri/?cookie-state-change=1620709189721>

Sept. 7, 2020 (Xinhua) Trade in goods with partner countries has exceeded 7.8 trillion U.S. dollars, and direct investment surpassed 110 billion dollars, providing a strong boost to local employment and social and economic development. In the first half of this year, China's investment in BRI countries increased by 19.4 percent.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/07/c_139349500.htm

To write that 500 years of colonial rule has left large parts of the developing world behind would be an understatement.

Asia needs USD 26 trillion in infrastructure investment to 2030 (Asian Development Bank, 2017), and China can certainly help to

provide some of this. Its investments, by building infrastructure, have positive impacts on countries involved. Mutual benefit is a feature of the BRI which will also help to develop markets for China's products in the long term and to alleviate industrial excess capacity in the short term. The BRI prioritizes hardware (infrastructure) and funding first.

<https://www.oecd.org/finance/Chinas-Belt-and-Road-Initiative-in-the-global-trade-investment-and-finance-landscape.pdf>

To write that the development of the BRI came just in time would also be an understatement. For example:

BEIJING, Feb. 8 (Xinhua) -- China is providing (free) vaccine aid to 53 developing countries including Pakistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Monday.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-02/08/c_139730673.htm

Xinhua, 2021-04-10 World Insights: Booming China-Africa logistics offers lifeline, economic promise for Africa, by Xinhua writers Cao Kai, Zhang Yisheng and Ding Le

“Ethiopia's national flag carrier Ethiopian Airlines has recently transported a batch of COVID-19 vaccines from Beijing to Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. So far, China has provided COVID-19 vaccines to more than 30 African countries. Smooth logistic routes between China and Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic have helped African countries fight the pandemic, promoted two-way exchanges of products and ensured that the continent's economic recovery is on the right track.

“Fitsum Abadi, managing director of cargo and logistic services of Ethiopian Airlines, said that the frequency of flights to and from China has doubled from about 63 times per week before the pandemic to about 120 times per week now. "We have been transporting PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) from China to the rest of the world. In Africa, we have transported (PPE) to 52 countries," said Abadi.

“Official data showed that China has been Africa's largest trading partner for more than a decade...”

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/africa/2021-04/10/c_139871074.htm

Is it somehow China’s fault that the USA has fallen so far behind in addressing the real needs of the so-called “less developed” world? Is China to be punished, crushed, Balkanized and enslaved for helping to build infrastructure in the world’s poorest nations?

“The freight train service was the main channel to deliver the anti-epidemic and life necessities in urgent need to European countries. In 2020, the China-Europe freight train service transported 9.39 million pieces of anti-epidemic supplies, weighing 76,000 tonnes, to countries including Italy, Germany, Spain, the Czech Republic and Poland.

“The achievement that came at such a critical time speaks volumes about the efficient, wide-coverage and all-weather advantages of China-Europe freight trains. A mere 17 trips were made in 2011, but trip numbers topped 10,000 in 2020. Now China has launched the China-Europe freight train service from over 60 domestic cities to major European countries.”

<https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/qwyw/rdxw/167938.htm>

China sent masks, gloves and gowns to many U.S. states. Here’s who benefited.

“Critics of Beijing’s ‘mask diplomacy’ may have overlooked long-established sister-state ties”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/01/29/china-sent-masks-gloves-gowns-many-us-states-heres-who-benefited/>

If this is interpreted as “challenging American authority,” rather than simple altruism, then **Jesus** really did deserve his crucifixion for “challenging Rome’s authority” by giving to the poor. Please remember China too was brutally colonized by the Eight Nation Alliance and then forced to endure a foreign supported Civil War in which at least 20 million innocents were killed. There is and always has been a bond shared by the common suffering of the oppressed that some, perhaps most Americans simply can not understand.

The BRI is comprised of the following 6 economic corridors:

1. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): <http://cpec.gov.pk/>
2. China, Mongolia, Russia Economic Corridor:
<https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/>
3. New Eurasia Land Bridge Economic Corridor (NELB): The New Eurasia Land Bridge (NELB), also known as the Second Eurasia Land Bridge <https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/>

4. China-Central and West Asia Economic Corridor (CCWAEC)

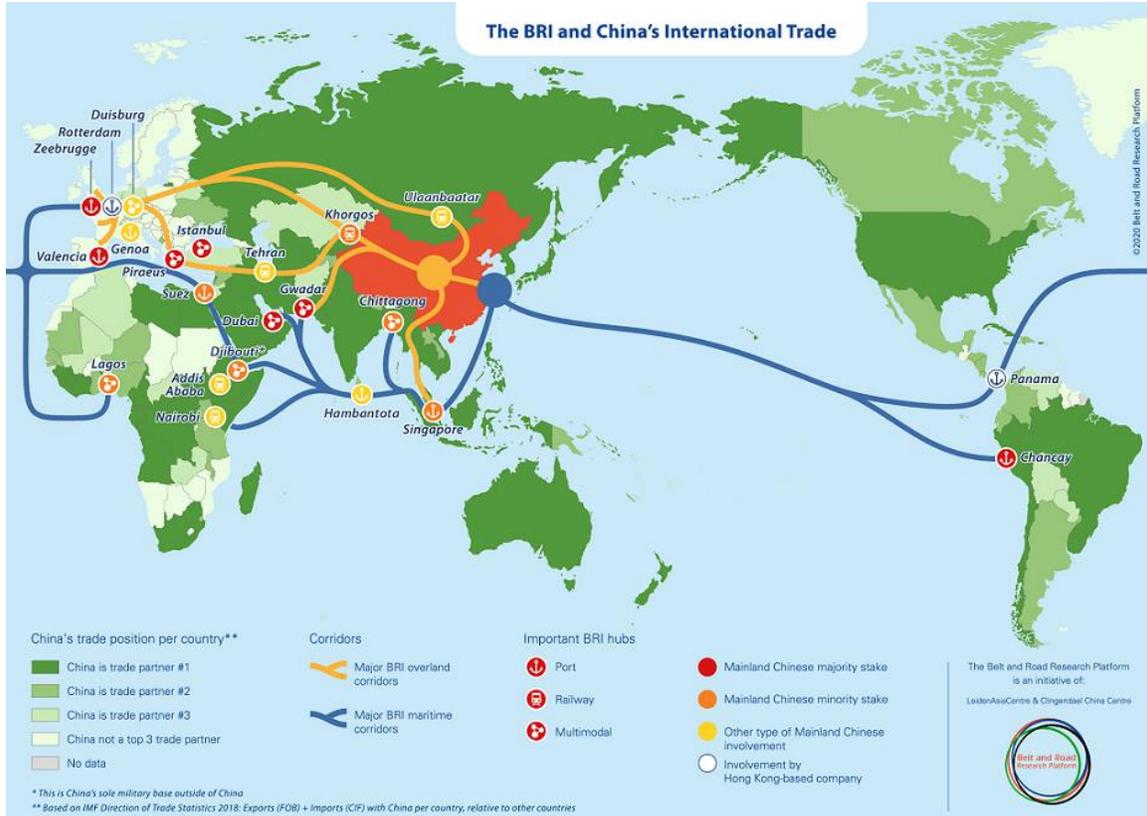
<https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/>

5. China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor (CICPEC),

<https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/>

6. Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor:

<https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/>



<https://www.clingendael.org/publication/new-map-belt-and-road-initiative>

Urumqi means “beautiful prairie” in old Mongolian. The name derives from the city’s important role as a hub on the ancient Silk Road during the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 24). However, in modern times, its geographical isolation caused the city to gradually lose its luster.

Since the Silk Road Economic Belt was proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013, Urumqi has made efforts to seize the opportunities provided by the initiative, which is aimed at connecting markets in Asia and Europe and will cover more than 3 billion people.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/top_news/2015/10/09/content_281475207597722.htm

For a partial list of institutions and mechanisms related to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) see: <https://www.beltroad-initiative.com/institutions-and-mechanisms/>

For the latest news on BRI development <http://www.xinhuanet.com/silkroad/english/index.htm> is probably the best resource.

AIIB - Separate from but related to BRI

A separate but related institution for financing development in Asia is the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). It opened in 2016 with US \$100 billion in approved capital.

AIIB is a multilateral development bank (MDB) established by international treaty and headquartered in Beijing. AIIB was founded to address Asia's infrastructure funding needs. It began operations in 2016 with 57 founding Members (37 regional and 20 nonregional). By the end of 2020, we had 103 approved Members representing approximately 79 percent of the global population and 65 percent of global GDP.

Since 2017, AIIB has received AAA ratings with a stable outlook from the top credit rating agencies— Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch. Industry recognition of our sound financial standing has enabled us to expand our presence in international capital markets by successfully issuing global bonds and has allowed us to broaden funding sources through local currency-denominated bond issuances and private placements.

<https://www.aiib.org/en/about-aiib/index.html>

The AIIB also has a COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility with an initial USD5-10 billion of financing to both public and private sector entities in any AIIB member facing (or at risk of facing) serious adverse impacts as a result of COVID-19.

https://www.aiib.org/en/policies-strategies/COVID-19-Crisis-Recovery-Facility/_download/CRF-Toolkit-Final-1.pdf

Next, without further ado, a dissection of the Strategic Competition Act of 2021's absurd fabrications regarding China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Review of Strategic Competition Act of 2021's References to the BRI

The Chinese led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was mentioned 12 times in the Senate's Strategic Competition Act of 2021 and needless to say, none of those mentions were very flattering, tsk, tsk. [Sour grapes](#) if ever there was.

SEC. 2. Findings

(15) The PRC is advancing its global objectives through a variety of avenues, including its signature initiative, the **Belt and Road Initiative** (referred to in this section as “BRI”), which is enshrined in the Chinese Constitution and includes the Digital Silk Road and Health Silk Road. The PRC describes BRI as a straightforward and wholly beneficial plan for all countries. Eventually, it seeks to advance an economic system with the PRC at its center, making it the most concrete geographical representation of the PRC's global ambitions. BRI increases the economic influence of state-owned Chinese firms in global markets, enhances the PRC's political leverage with government leaders around the world, and provides greater access to strategic nodes such as ports and railways. Through BRI, the PRC seeks political deference through economic dependence.

Before addressing the central theme of that Section it should be noted that “seeks political deference through economic dependence,” sounds like a psychological projection, rather than any objectively based provable phenomenon. Western attitudes towards domination may have been shaped by Biblical mandates giving “dominion.”

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

[Genesis 1:26 KJV](#)

In contrast, Confucius, Mozi, Lao Tze and most other great philosophers in Chinese history emphasized harmony, not domination in relationships with nature and other people. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4896957/>

China's banking and lending practices are very different from American. For one thing, they are not seeking maximum profits, but rather work with borrowers to maximize mutual benefit. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic several nations are having difficulty repaying debts and, in every case, China refinances the loans. According to independent [silkroadbriefing.com](#), “China Using Paris Club Creditor Methods to Extend Debt

Treatment For Belt and Road Initiative Repayment Holidays,” and “China is following and offering better terms than Western creditors.”

“China’s apparent adoption of debt restructuring models based upon those used by the Paris Club effectively further discounts such allegations as Beijing appears to be using Western debt renegotiation standards – and even improve upon them – specifically to avoid such criticism.”

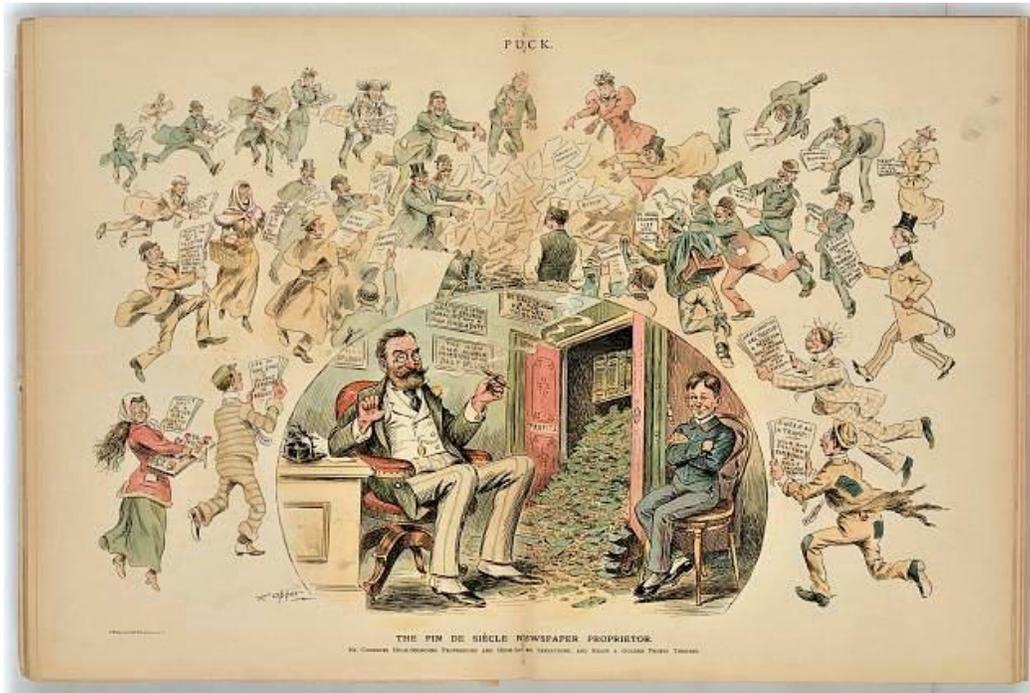
<https://www.silkroadbriefing.com/news/2021/02/18/china-using-paris-club-creditor-methods-to-extend-debt-treatment-for-belt-and-road-initiative-repayment-holidays/>

The Strategic Competition Act of 2021 does not mention that China is following a western lending model, nor that even more lenient terms are applied. This Congressional Act appears to be utilizing the tools of “yellow journalism” which were used to start the Spanish American War also based on false assertions. Debt traps caused by IMF and World Bank loans are far larger and more onerous than the much smaller, focused and productive loans offered by the BRI.

Some of the above Findings however are correct. Yes, the BRI is a “concrete geographical representation of the PRC’s global ambitions,” with those ambitions being to help other developing countries escape the poverty and hopelessness it suffered while recovering from the American sponsored Chinese Civil War 1927 - 1949.

The American leadership may find it difficult or impossible to imagine, but there is more than a little solidarity between those who have suffered under the same oppressive yoke of western colonialism - which is nothing less than racist slavery.

Some relationships forged in national humiliation and blood can never be forgotten. To China’s credit, it is taking proactive steps to lift other oppressed nations out of the 19th Century and into some hope for a better future. And for this, China is cast as a villain by corporate owned Euro-American (fake) news media, the US Congress and the US Senate Foreign Policy Committee.



Opper, Frederick Burr, 1857-1937, artist

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.29087/>

Yellow Journalism: The "Fake News" of the 19th Century

How fake news was used to start the Spanish American War

U.S. Diplomacy and Yellow Journalism, 1895–1898

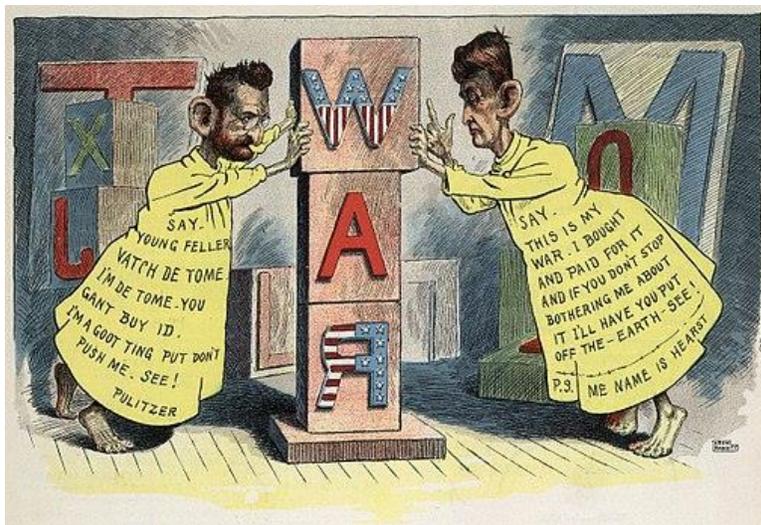
“Yellow journalism was a style of newspaper reporting that emphasized sensationalism over facts. During its heyday in the late 19th century, it was one of many factors that helped push the United States and Spain into war in Cuba and the Philippines, leading to the acquisition of overseas territory by the United States...

“The peak of yellow journalism, in terms of both intensity and influence, came in early 1898, when a U.S. battleship, the Maine, sunk in Havana harbor. The naval vessel had been sent there not long before in a display of U.S. power and, in conjunction with the planned visit of a Spanish ship to New York, an effort to defuse growing tensions between the United States and Spain. On the night of February 15, an explosion tore through the ship’s hull, and the Maine went down. Sober observers and an initial report by the colonial government of Cuba concluded that the explosion had occurred on board, but Hearst and Pulitzer, who had for several years been selling papers by fanning anti-Spanish public opinion in the United States, published rumors of plots to sink the ship. When a U.S.

naval investigation later stated that the explosion had come from a mine in the harbor, the proponents of yellow journalism seized upon it and called for war. By early May, the Spanish-American War had begun.”

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1866-1898/yellow-journalism>

American politicians wallowing in the troughs of weapon corporations appear to be using the same old tricks of yellow journalism to start a war with China. To a trial judge this Act can open the door to numerous instances of “conflict of interest” by elected officials, most of whom did not wait a year before assuming office after supposedly cutting ties with their real masters.



Leon Barritt, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

“Editorial cartoon by Leon Barritt, 1898. Newspaper publishers Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst, full-length, dressed as the Yellow Kid (a popular cartoon character of the day), each pushing against opposite sides of a pillar of wooden blocks that spells WAR. This is a satire of the Pulitzer and Hearst newspapers' role in drumming up USA public opinion to go to war with Spain.”

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:PulitzerHearstWarYellowKids.jpg>

“Yellow Journalism” was the original American “fake news.”

SEC. 132. Authorization.

(e) Countering malign influence.—In this section countering malign influence through the use of funds authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) shall include efforts to—

(2) support civil society and independent media to raise awareness of and increase transparency regarding the negative impact of activities related to the Belt and Road Initiative;

“Malign?”

Congress and other high officials may for now have [absolute privileges](#) protection from lawsuits for slander and libel, however are not above the law of public opinion and can expect no mercy from history books.

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-millionaire-who-took-on-mccarthy>

Mr. Welch: You've done enough. Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?

<https://historicipswich.org/2021/01/09/joseph-nye-welch/>

<https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/welch-mccarthy.html>

The House of Representatives passed the 13th Amendment (S.J. Res. 16) by a vote of 119 to 56.

The Senate passed the amendment on April 8, 1864, by a vote of 38 to 6 - only two Democrats, Reverdy Johnson of Maryland and James Nesmith of Oregon voted for the amendment.

Obviously, the democrats haven't changed much. The enslavement of people of color everywhere around the world by the USA is a permanent goal of US Congress and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

SEC. 136. Supporting independent media and countering disinformation

(d) Support for local media.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall support and train journalists on investigative techniques necessary to ensure public accountability related to the Belt and Road Initiative, the PRC's surveillance and digital export of technology, and other influence operations abroad direct or directly supported by the Communist Party or the Chinese government.

China has been accused of creating debt traps. Who is the biggest borrower?

The USA!

Unfortunately, very little of that borrowed money was put into infrastructure development or health care (as the COVID-19 pandemic so aptly proved), which are areas the Chinese Communist Party and Chinese government do invest in heavily both at home and abroad.

And where does half of the US federal budget go? Into the so called “defense department” so it can bully and steal resources from nations of people of color, the very same people the US Congress and Senate Foreign Policy Committee does NOT was to see develop. It’s so much easier to steal everything from countries that have no development than developed countries.

Are nations that lend the US money accused of creating “debt traps?”

Who else has huge debts as a percentage of GDP? Japan (201.4%), Greece (189%) Italy (130%), and other mostly advanced nations.

One can only hope that “journalist training” referred to in this section includes a broad perspective on borrowing, the need for development to create jobs, and even sends those eager young wanna-be journalists to live in a village in Africa, Asia or Latin America with no electricity for a year, so they can get an intimate understanding of the need for things like hydroelectric dams (that China builds), transportation systems, (that China builds), and so on.

Unfortunately, it is far more likely those aspiring journalists will be suburban kids with no intimate personal knowledge of how the world really works, and like simple robots will be programmed with hatred for those who work really hard making a positive difference in this world lifting literally billions of people out of abject poverty and the despair it so often inculcates. This will hardly be the first American lynching of Chinese.

Hells Canyon Massacre 34 Chinese miners

The date was May 27, 1887 when 34 Chinese miners were murdered, stripped naked, hacked to pieces and then thrown into the Snake River in Oregon. It was the worst massacre of Chinese in the history of the American West and the murderers got off unpunished. Today, 133 years later, we remember this atrocity.

<https://afakv.home.blog/>

McCarthy-Welch Exchange ‘Have You Left No Sense of Decency?’ delivered 9 June 1954 during the Army-McCarthy Hearings in Washington, D.C.

“And so, Senator, I asked him to go back to Boston. Little did I dream you could be so reckless and so cruel as to do an injury to that lad.... It is, I regret to say, equally true that I fear he shall always bear a scar needlessly inflicted by you. If it were in my power to

forgive you for your reckless cruelty, I would do so. I like to think I'm a gentle man, but your forgiveness will have to come from someone other than me.”

<https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/welch-mccarthy.html>

It is an unfortunate fact that one never “gets used to” the sting of the whip that leaves those scars. They are not always visible to the eye, yet they remain, and those who inflict them will not be remembered kindly in history. The ghost of Senator McCarthy still haunts those hallways of American power and now in 2021 the song of the whip is louder, more malign and better financed than ever. Corrupting the youth to follow in those ill-fated footsteps is an act of infamy.

SEC. 206. Report on Chinese influence in international organizations.

(b) Contents.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include analysis of the following:

(E) efforts by the PRC to secure legitimacy for its own foreign policy initiatives, including the Belt and Road Initiative;

As of January 2021, the number of countries that have joined the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China is 140.

One can only wonder if having most of the countries in the world sign on to the BRI could be interpreted as “securing legitimacy?” Does giving away billions of dollars in COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment and vaccines to the world’s poorest nations qualify as a foreign policy initiative (especially in view of the fact rich nations are hoarding vaccines)?

The world's richest countries are hoarding vaccines. This is morally indefensible by Fatima Bhutto 17 Mar 2021

Why does South Africa pay twice as much for vaccines as European countries? Why has Africa - home to 1.3bn people – been allocated just 300m doses?

Last year, European and North American countries managed to ignore warnings of a highly contagious pandemic – dragging their feet in setting protocols in place, delaying mandatory mask-wearing, and giving mostly miserly handouts to the millions struggling to survive in lockdown...

Rich countries with 14% of the world's population have secured 53% of the best vaccines. Almost all of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines will go to rich countries. The Moderna vaccine will go to rich countries exclusively; it is not even being offered to the poor. In fact, nine out of 10 people in poor countries may never be vaccinated at all. Washington is sitting on vaccines, making sure no one gets any while the US needs them. The European Union has exported 34m doses to, of all places, Singapore, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong – countries that have no problem sourcing or paying for vaccines. In fact, the EU sent about 9m doses to the UK, a country which, no longer in the EU, also has what amounts in practice to an export ban of its own, official denials notwithstanding.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/mar/17/rich-countries-hoarding-vaccines-us-eu-africa>

Yes, I hope they investigate “efforts by the PRC to secure legitimacy for its own foreign policy initiatives, including and especially the Belt and Road Initiative,” because those supply chains are critical for helping the neediest people in the world, the people of color who have for centuries been raped and pillaged, enslaved, bombed, libeled and defamed by those very same rich nations that are now hoarding the life-saving vaccines.

SEC. 235. Limitation on assistance to countries hosting Chinese military installations.

(a) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) although it casts the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a development initiative, the People's Republic of China is also utilizing the BRI to advance its own security interests, including to expand its power projection capabilities and facilitate greater access for the People's Liberation Army through overseas military installations; and

(2) the expansion of the People's Liberation Army globally through overseas military installations will undermine the medium- and long-term security of the United States and the security and development of strategic partners in critical regions around the world, which is at odds with United States goals to promote peace, prosperity, and self-reliance among partner nations, including through the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

(b) Limitation on assistance.—Except as provided in subsection (c), for fiscal years 2022 through 2031, the government of a country that is hosting on its territory a military installation of the Government of the People’s Republic of China or facilitates the expansion of the presence of the People’s Liberation Army for purposes other than participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations or for temporary humanitarian, medical, and disaster relief operations in such country shall not be eligible for assistance under sections 609 or 616 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7708, 7715).

(1) The United States maintains nearly 800 military bases in more than 70 countries and territories despite recently closing hundreds of bases in Iraq and Afghanistan, but China so far has only one base in Djibouti (2021/3/14). One can only wonder how long it will take the esteemed Senators on the Senate Committee on Foreign relations to count up to... one.

The United States maintains nearly 800 military bases in more than 70 countries and territories despite recently closing hundreds of bases in Iraq and Afghanistan, but China so far has only one base in Djibouti. 2021/3/4

The small East African country of Djibouti has become a significant military base for various world powers.

Growing tensions around the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden have drawn competing international powers to Djibouti and highlighted the Gulf countries’ keen interest in the region. Djibouti’s strategic location on the Horn of Africa has driven the U.S., France, and China to establish naval bases there to expand their tactical presence. The country currently hosts five military bases, in addition to a few others scheduled to be built in the future.

Since rising to power in 1999, President Ismael Omar Guellah opened up the economically fragile country to foreign powers seeking to lease land for military bases. In return, the autocratic leader, who reformed the constitution in 2010 to expand the powers of the presidency and remove term limits, gained their support.

<https://insidearabia.com/djibouti-a-busy-hub-of-foreign-military-bases-on-the-horn-of-africa/>

[For those, like me that actually love Africa, there’s a great collection of old maps that can be found at: https://lib-dbserver.princeton.edu/visual_materials/maps/websites/africa/map-s-continent/1554munster.jpg Please note the size of the Ethiopian Plateau a few hundred years ago, and the location of Somaliland. Strange things been going on there in the Motherland.]

(2) "...at odds with United States goals to promote peace, prosperity, and self-reliance among partner nations, including through the Millennium Challenge Corporation."

As with all other parts of this document one has to wonder if the writers are living in some kind of information vacuum regarding the international role of the USA since its inception. Since the signing of the Constitution of the USA it has only had **17 years of peace**. Iraq for example was not attacking the USA in 2003 when the US launched a coalition invasion based on what are now universally known to have been false pretenses. This is the norm, not the exception for American military attacks upon other nations. For this Strategic Competition Act of 2021 to claim that the United States' goal is to promote peace, prosperity, and self-reliance among any nations is an absurd misrepresentation of history, with perhaps the sole exception of Switzerland that seems to have avoided being lassoed into war by the USA. No nation, partner or otherwise will experience peace when allied with the USA. This section would be laughable were the United States of American not such a 100% reliable deadly enemy of peace and promoter of wars in all corners of the world. Responding to this statement in any further detail is beneath the dignity of a civilized person with any knowledge of American history.

2 (b) As for "Limitation on assistance," that is within the rights of the USA, however carries with it some liabilities, e.g., forces nations to choose sides in the global conflict the USA is creating. The US dollar is **rapidly losing its dominance** as the global currency sparked by it's sanctions against the purchase of Iranian oil which European, Chinese and Russian traders decided to override with alternative payment systems (**Special Purpose Vehicle, SPV**), in combination with US's **unbelievably huge debts**. Once this ongoing trend is even a bit further developed, the value of the dollar **will probably collapse** in the international marketplace. Nonetheless the US appears ready, willing and able to alienate what friends it still has on its way down to insolvency.

What's really remarkable here that nobody has written about yet, is that President **Putin** appears to have assumed the role of **global diplomat** (because the USA only promotes war) settling international military conflicts reasonably peacefully (e.g., Armenia/Azerbaijan, Libyan conflicts, and avoiding traps the US laid in Ukraine at least thus far) and China has taken on the role of providing robust **economic stability** and global supply chains, thanks largely to sound management, long history of emphasizing harmony and its BRI development. Likewise, their currencies, along with the Euro, have some credibility in the international marketplace, unlike the highly unstable US dollar.

Europe appears it will weather the upcoming economic storm and remain a stable force on the stage of the world theater, though the UK may regret the day it broke from the EU given its vast debts, political instability and long history of international aggression.

Though reading the drivel strewn throughout the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 is annoying and necessary perhaps, in the long run it appears to be a “tempest in a teapot,” something to be expected from the “boy who cried wolf,” 100 times or more too often. Given that most of the programs outlined in this document were already in operation before its creation, it appears this act was designed more as a provocation and for “intimidation purposes” than a genuine new set of guidelines. Perhaps it makes some Americans feel good to have someone else to blame for the wild spread of COVID-19 and their economic woes, rather than doing the adult thing, accepting responsibility and making the necessary internal adjustments needed to correct the problems they are currently experiencing.

SEC. 256. Strategy to enhance transatlantic cooperation with respect to the People’s Republic of China.

(a) In general.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on a strategy for how the United States will enhance cooperation with the European Union, NATO, and European partner countries on managing relations with the People’s Republic of China.

3 (E) developing a comprehensive strategy to respond to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) established by the Government of the People’s Republic of China.

What’s a bully without his gang?

The EU is a fickle mistress at best, and no doubt will endeavor to smile east and west hoping to let the clock run out on American attempts to crush China and Russia before taking a consistent position. It is unlikely they will voluntarily close doors on either side, though they may be bullied into some minor concessions to the US in an effort to keep international trade as open for as long as possible.

As for NATO, one can only hope wiser minds in the EU can keep a leash on that crusader beast and avoid getting entangled in the Third World War the US appears gleefully ready to ignite in order to hang on to its ignominious fantasy of “hegemony in perpetuity.”

In contrast to all that a multi-polar world is a vastly more stable world.

EU leaders probably know and value that above and beyond Americas’ true foreign policy makers’ megalomaniacal, hubris-driven visions of absolute supremacy for all time.

<http://www.maebrussell.com/Prouty/Harry%20Truman%27s%20CIA%20article.html>

<https://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/peter-fenn/2015/01/28/truman-was-right-to-warn-against-cia-power>

<https://mises.org/wire/truman-was-right-about-cia>

Europe got suckered into WWII, and I seriously doubt even the right-wing nationalists would relish a repeat of that absolute catastrophe on a thermonuclear scale.

SEC. 257. Enhancing transatlantic cooperation on promoting private sector finance.

(a) In general.—The President should work with transatlantic partners to build on the agreement among the Development Finance Corporation, FinDev Canada, and the European Development Finance Institutions (called the DFI Alliance) to enhance coordination on shared objectives to foster private sector-led development and provide market-based alternatives to state-directed financing in emerging markets, particularly as related to the People’s Republic of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), including by integrating efforts such as—

- (1) the European Union Strategy on Connecting Europe and Asia;
- (2) the Three Seas Initiative and Three Seas Initiative Fund;
- (3) the Blue Dot Network among the United States, Japan, and Australia; and

(4) a European Union-Japan initiative that has leveraged \$65,000,000,000 for infrastructure projects and emphasizes transparency standards.

(b) Cooperation at the United Nations.—The United States and Europe should coordinate efforts to address the Government of China’s use of the United Nations to advance and legitimize BRI as a global good, including the proliferation of memoranda of understanding between the People’s Republic of China and United Nations funds and programs on BRI implementation.

(c) Standards.—The United States and the European Union should coordinate and develop a strategy to enhance transatlantic cooperation with the OECD and the Paris Club on ensuring the highest possible standards for Belt and Road Initiative contracts and terms with developing countries.

This section can be interpreted in several ways. On one hand it appears this Act is attempting to undermine the BRI via ramming wedges between BRI participating nations and China. Likewise, it appears they are wasting no time in this effort.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/australia-cancels-victoria-states-belt-road-deals-with-china-2021-04-21/> April 21, 2021

<https://www.rt.com/news/523019-china-suspends-australia-economic-dialogue/>

<https://www.rt.com/op-ed/522804-china-australia-morrison-crisis/>

<https://www.rt.com/op-ed/523086-australia-china-kinetic-war/>

<https://www.rt.com/news/522763-teodoro-locsin-philippines-china/>

The Belt and Road in Italy: Two years later - Belt & Road News Network, by Belt & Road News Network, April 8, 2021

“A sample result of this effort was the cancellation of a potential collaboration between the Italian Space Agency (ISA) and China National Space Administration (CNSA) to build **habitational modules** for the Chinese space station Tiangong 3. Another result, which falls in line with steps taken in other EU countries, regards changes that **curtail the possibility** of Huawei participating in development of the Italian 5G network.

Admittedly, neither example cited above directly relates to the Memorandum of Understanding signed during Chinese President Xi Jinping’s state visit to Italy in March 2019. However, both are examples of a change of Italy’s position toward collaboration with

Chinese entities, whether public or private, following pressure from the United States.”

<https://www.eureporter.co/world/china-2/2021/04/08/the-belt-and-road-in-italy-two-years-later/>

The phrase used in the above quoted article, “curtail the possibility,” is rather vague. What the Italian government did is shift the decision to use Huawei’s 5-G network to private enterprise rather than make a blanket decision to ban it altogether like France. Incidentally, that cited article (<https://www.iai.it/en/pubblicazioni/europes-manoeuvring-5g-technology-case-italy>) is relevant evidence that could be used in international court against the USA supporting an allegation of a broad-based strategy of anti-competitive behaviors.

The very first Principle listed on WTO’s page on understanding the world trade system is:

Trade without discrimination

A country should not discriminate between its trading partners (giving them equally “most-favoured-nation” or MFN status); and it should not discriminate between its own and foreign products, services or nationals (giving them “national treatment”);

https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/fact2_e.htm

Also see:

https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/legal_e.htm

The “trade delegations” sent by the USA to European nations to bias them against Huawei are in violation of international trade law, principals and rules. They promote discrimination based on unproven allegations and poison the very foundation of fair international trade.

When the whole unbiased truth is told, American telecommunications (surveillance) systems are and always have been one of the greatest security risks in the world. In regards telecommunications ‘security issues,’ see this article’s rebuttal to SEC. 281 titled “**American electronic surveillance programs**,” (below) for a very, very long list of American government sponsored illegal surveillance (and sabotage) of electronic communications worldwide. Most recently:

CIA spying scandal in Switzerland shows the best way for intelligence services to read your messages is to OWN the platform,
14 May, 2021

<https://www.rt.com/op-ed/523746-cia-crypto-g-spying-encryption/>

The above linked article is certainly worth reading. It proves beyond any shadow of a doubt that even the US’s closest allies cannot trust American telecommunications systems. The “great Betrayer of Trust” in this world is not China or Huawei, but rather the USA.

Likewise, again please refer to the rebuttal to SEC. 281, American electronic surveillance programs for a long list of those American betrayals of trust.

“Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and, under a just God, cannot long retain it.”—Abraham Lincoln, letter to H.L.

Huawei in contrast has none of that duplicitous history, has been thoroughly investigated by several international government and private telecommunications regulatory organizations and never been found to contain backdoors or malware that could present the “security” risks American politicians falsely claim exist. This issue, like every other issue in this document is a case where the most egregious violator of international laws, is accusing the most innocent of nations of doing exactly what it, the USA, is, and has been for decades, doing quite openly. Those American “trade delegations” are in fact engaging in anti-competitive actions that are gross violations of international laws and norms.

On the other hand, I, and I’m sure Chinese leaders hope the US would take a more proactive and positive role in helping to build infrastructure in land and maritime Silk Roads, African and Latin American nations. There is so much work to do that even if the US and China cooperated 100% it would still take 30-50 years at least to help bring infrastructure in the developing world up to par with Europe and the industrialized nations in Asia.

It is unfortunate however that the US has such a win/lose confrontational approach to such a wonderful idea. Attempts to undermine China’s already advanced lead in this area are unfortunate for all concerned and one can only hope that at some point American foreign policy makers will realize there is work for all in this noble quest and no need to fight over who can do more.

Sixty-five billion dollars for example to help development in the “developing world,” is a fine idea, but still only a tiny fraction of the total costs involved to accomplish what all people of conscience would like to see: Greater equality all around the world. That China has a lead at this time in this effort is not the fault of China, but rather presents a role model for other nations. It should not invite illegal, immoral and shameless sabotage paraded through Congress, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the press.

It is tragic at this time western “liberal democratic” nations appear to be having a large number of domestic economic and political “issues” that might slow their participation in this worthy, but largely undeveloped concept.

The multitude of failures of western democracies at this time are interrelated, and not the fault of external parties, but rather inherent in late-stage democratic systems that have decayed into oligarchical populism and kleptocratic fascism.

It is also tragic that western nations, along with the leadership in Australia and India seem to believe it is necessary to illegally collude in an effort to sabotage China's efforts to "do the right thing" in helping other less developed nations develop.

When and if the ICC ever wakes up to the full scope of its responsibilities, perhaps justice will be done. Until such time one can only hope western nations and their allies around the world either help development in those nations that need it, or simply stand down and allow those with the motivation and resources do what they are legally and morally entitled to do, without illegal and immoral interference.

Attempts to sabotage the world leader in infrastructure development in the "less developed world," is a morally repugnant act. Were western leaders not morally bankrupt and utterly shameless and corrupt they would know this.

SEC. 262. Strategy to enhance cooperation with South and Central Asia.

- (a) In general.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a strategy for how the United States will engage with the countries of South and Central Asia, including through the C5+1 mechanism, with respect to the People's Republic of China.

A report on the distribution of a) bribes, b) threats and c) other manipulations US diplomats will use to carry forward this mission would be an interesting read.

It is fairly safe to predict the leaders of those nations will smile and be polite, even excessively so in hope of avoiding CIA directed civil and international conflicts springing up as the result of being anything less than perfectly obsequious.

The bottom line is exactly how much money the US is really willing to spend to build something rather than blow things up. Likewise, timetables will have to be nailed down in writing, for the USA is long on promises and very, very short on the fulfillment of those promises.

Some Central Asian nations have well established relations with the CIA and are routinely used for transshipment of illegal weapons, drugs and human trafficking coordinated by the CIA and they well know it, as do all well-informed and interested parties. (Traveling one does stumble across the most amazing things, even when NOT looked for.) Such relationships are short-term profitable, but potential long-term liabilities considering contemporary world economic trends and the real impossibility of keeping secrets in

today's hyperconnected world. As for me, I absolutely love the Central and South Asian nations and only hope their leaders bargain well and get everything on paper, sticking firmly to infrastructure development rather than weapons to attack neighbors and other such very terrible things the USA usually dumps on developing nations.

(b) Elements.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(5) A detailed description of United States diplomatic efforts with the Government of Pakistan with respect to matters relevant to the People's Republic of China, including investments by the People's Republic of China in Pakistan through the Belt and Road Initiative.

Like almost everyone else Pakistan has to keep one eye open east and one eye open west. Anyone who doesn't hedge their bets is a fool. That said, the US has a rather bad reputation among the people of Pakistan for having killed so many thousands of civilians in drone attacks.

It will be interesting to see what good things the US is going to promise Pakistan, and if anything, will they actually deliver? The US in the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 seems like it's infinitely rich and plans to buy everyone in the world to gang up on China. Does Japan have enough money to lend the US to do that?

In fact, I feel sorry for the American diplomats stuck with this task in Pakistan. They will I'm sure be treated like visiting royalty, but the USA doing something constructive? It sounds unbelievable.

It is always best to see what sanctions the US Treasury Department has slapped on Pakistanis before venturing forward a guess as to what will happen next and the probable bargaining chips to be used.

<https://search.treasury.gov/search?affiliate=treas&page=1&query=Pakistan>

One will find at least five pages of sanctions there, mostly against individuals, some of whom are Pakistani, in addition to some companies and so on. Most of the terrorists on that list are agents of the US and have had their American bank accounts frozen. How droll. That list includes things from 2011, and one must always keep in mind any friend of former Libyan leader Muammar al-Gaddafi is a dreaded enemy of the US, even if it was a jointly owned Libyan/Paki company. Also, one must politely forget President Muammar al-Gaddafi was actually on reasonably good terms with the CIA at the time they had him tortured, sodomized and murdered. What a surprise that must have been for him, but he also knew one can never, ever, even for a split-second trust any US government official whatsoever. All that said, good luck to the US "diplomat" assigned to woo Pakistan.

Given that the CIA totally runs American foreign policy, and knowing well their modus operandi, I predict they will offer Pakistan a car factory and maybe a bridge or something, if the government will assassinate some of the American backed terrorists, while delivering

weapons and money to others. Who gets “bumped off” and who gets rewarded probably depends on the amount and quality of black market Heroin they send to the US, in addition to other little perks American authorities expect like enthusiastic young party girls. That’s S.O.P. in regards to the way the US does business in the “less developed” world.

In any event the Pakistani leadership will then have to consult with both military intelligence and ISI in order to finalize any deals. Those American “diplomats” had better bring plenty of bearer bonds. One can hope they leave their Astrazeneca Vaccines at home as personally I suspect they are loaded with all kinds of mind-bending things besides COVID-19 vaccine.

SEC. 281. Strategy to counter Chinese influence in, and access to, the Middle East and North Africa.

(a) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(3) the People’s Republic of China seeks to establish military or dual use facilities in geographically strategic locations in the Middle East and North Africa to further the Chinese Communist Party’s Belt and Road Initiative at the expense of United States national security interests; and

(4) the export of certain communications infrastructure from the People’s Republic of China degrades the security of partner networks, exposes intellectual property to theft, threatens the ability of the United States to conduct security cooperation with compromised regional partners, and furthers China’s authoritarian surveillance model.

In regards to SEC. 281. (3) During World War II Winston Churchill made the following famous statement: ‘In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies.’ In the case of the above Section the bodyguard of lies is there but the truth is entirely absent.

First, does Congress now employ psychics to know that China intends to establish military or dual use facilities in the Middle East and North Africa? Furthermore, even if, on the off chance they are right, does China somehow have less rights than the US to establish military or dual-use bases in countries that invite such bases? Does the US have unwanted and uninvited military bases in countries such as Syria and various African nations? In all of recorded history has China ever attacked the US or Europe militarily? (No.) Has the US attacked China? (Repeatedly.)

The Eight Nation Alliance Occupation of Tianjin and Beijing

The Eight-Nation Alliance was a multinational military coalition that invaded North China in 1900 with major hostilities beginning in August. After the invasion the Eight Power Allied forces occupied Baoding, Beijing, Yixian County, Yongqing, Zhangjiakou, Shanhaiguan, and other places in which they executed killing and looting and brought an unprecedented heavy disaster to the country and its people. After more than a year's invasion, the Boxer Protocol was signed in September 1901 which represented that China had become a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society.

<https://www.cnkeywords.net/cnwords-app-web/vocabulary?wordId=2be90ed3948b11e7bf390050569519c4>

Approximately 45,000 troops from the eight nations of Germany, Japan, Russia, Britain, France, the United States, Italy and Austria-Hungary participated in this colonial sacking of the north of China.

Chinese netizens, observers deride 'Eight-Nation Alliance' against China as a farce. By Liu Xin and Wan Lin Source: Global Times Published: 2020/6/6

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1190730.shtml>

Probably the writers of the above article didn't know the complete history of the activities of the Eight Nation Alliance during that occupation, or they would have used a more serious word than: "Farce." The "occupation" of Tianjin and Beijing starting in 1900 by the Eight Nation Alliance was very similar the Rape of Nanjing (1937–1938) by the Japanese.

War in China: The Ravishment of the North (2/3) - The Fate of Beijing and Surroundings, by Afakv

This section will be written with material from Sawara Tokusuke's *Miscellaneous Notes about the Boxers*, Chai E's *Gengxin Chronicle*, Peter Fleming's *The Siege at Peking*, the Qing Shigao 清史稿 (*Draft History of the Qing*) by Zhao Erxun.

Suicide before the Storm

It is August 14th; the people of Beijing wait anxiously as the armies of the West stand at the gates. The sound of Mausers and Maxims resonate against the stifling walls of the capital. The people, acutely aware of what happened to Tianjin, prepare for the worst. Some officials, fearing they would face retribution for their steadfast loyalty to the Emperor and refusal to acquiesce to Western demands, decided to take matters into their own hands. It was better to die with your honour than to die at the mercy of invading troops. Xu Tong

徐桐, the Imperial Tutor, and his whole household wished not to endure the humiliation of capture. They chose honour. Him, his wife, children, concubines and servants swayed, like the leaves of a weeping willow, from the rafters of his manor. Stools were kicked about in the room, no doubt some had regretted their decision to hang themselves and had violently tried to regain a footing, but could not (Zhao section 465).

When the Capital fell, aside from the innumerable commoners who died, countless officials committed suicide with their families as well.

Sawara Tokusuke in an excerpt from “*The Miscellaneous Notes About the Boxers*” (266)

Near the Eastern Gate of Beijing, the preferred method was to cast oneself into the well of the house. Each well was filled with dead women and dead girls. So many wells, in fact, that there was a real fear for the poisoning of the Beijing water supply. This is how much they feared what would happen if the Europeans entered Beijing.

Captain Francis Brinkley wrote that when Tongzhou fell, no less than 573 women committed suicide to prevent their honour from being sullied. Aside from those who chose death by their own hands, on their own accord, many others died at the hands of the invaders.

Some Horrifying Accounts

Reader’s discretion is advised for this section due to graphic descriptions.

The Allied forces would capture women, no matter virtuous, wretched, old or young, and would, as much as they could, displace them to Biaobei alleys and to live in row houses there as prostitutes for the soldiery. To the West end of this alley the path would have been blocked off, in order to prevent escape, the East end was the only way in or out. This way was guarded. Any person from the Allied forces could enter for pleasure and rape to his heart’s desire.

Sawara Tokusuke in an excerpt from “*The Miscellaneous Notes About the Boxers*”

Sadly, it appears those who hanged themselves could be counted among the lucky. The citizens of Beijing were subject to three days of unbridled savagery after the fall of the Beijing. The demonic

behaviour of the armies was apparent, rape was ubiquitous, so much so that among the soldiery “venereal diseases were rampant” (Fleming). There are claims it was in the interest of both the Qing Imperials and the Eight Nation Alliance that the most excessive horrors and abominable actions would be kept a secret. According to these numerous sources (the veracity of which I have been unable to verify) the military advisor and journalist known as Captain Francis (Frank) Brinkley would expose the truth in the Japan Mail editorial...

<https://afakv.home.blog/2020/01/15/war-in-china-the-ravishment-of-the-north-2-3/>

Approximately how many Chinese were killed in the American financed and armed Chinese Civil War (starting only 27 years later and lasting intermittently from 1927 to 1949)? Estimates from just the 1945-1949 segment of that war vary from **2.5 to six million**.

And yet, for all of the extreme and brutal violence by Euro-Americans, China has not struck back, preferring to establish harmonious relationships.

Tragically, since **2011** the USA has begun to undermine China in a number of important ways, with those assaults escalating rapidly during the Trump and Biden administrations. The intended endgame is a rerun of the Chinese Civil War resulting in the Balkanization of China and elimination of any real economic competition in the world.

This Strategic Competition Act of 2021 and the large amounts of money devoted to achieving its goals of silencing China in the world’s information sphere, and crushing its international trade is a significant step in that direction. There is no hint of negotiating or “harmonizing” anywhere in the 281 pages of that inflammatory document.

Finally, in regards to Section 281 (3) please recall:

Despite recently closing hundreds of bases in Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States still maintains nearly 800 military bases in more than 70 countries and territories abroad—from giant “Little Americas” to small radar facilities. Britain, France and Russia, by contrast, have about 30 foreign bases combined.

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/06/us-military-bases-around-the-world-119321>

China in comparison has one small naval base in Djibouti Africa. One might think the US should not be so terrified of China’s military bases now or in the foreseeable future as to allocate billions of dollars in an attempt to crush China’s sovereignty, communications and economy.

In regards to Section 281 (4) “degrades the security of partner networks, exposes intellectual property to theft, threatens the ability of the United States to conduct security cooperation with compromised regional partners, and furthers China’s authoritarian surveillance model,” this is just a repeat of previous unfounded accusations.

Incidentally, establishing and maintaining authoritarian surveillance models are something in which the USA has a great deal of experience. (See the next section in this article titled: American electronic surveillance programs.)

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/06/us-tech-giants-nsa-data>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/07/obama-china-targets-cyber-overseas>

The US also has a long history of initiating cyber-attacks against foreign countries.

Eighteen-page presidential memo reveals how Barack Obama has ordered intelligence officials to draw up a list of potential overseas targets for US cyber attacks

Offensive Cyber Effects Operations (OCEO) ‘can offer unique and unconventional capabilities to advance US national objectives around the world with little or no warning to the adversary or target and with potential effects ranging from subtle to severely damaging’ ...

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/interactive/2013/jun/07/obama-cyber-directive-full-text>

Given the extent of American spying on China, Chinese authorities have very right to countersurveillance operations. The US drives both arms and electronic surveillance races globally.

American electronic surveillance programs

Collecting intelligence on the activities of foreign governments isn’t necessarily illegal, unless it involves hacking or other illegal means of data collection.

In November 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted its third resolution on the right to privacy in the digital age. 35 Reaffirming the 2013 (36) and 2014 (37) resolutions on the same topic, the General Assembly expressed its concern regarding the threats posed to human rights by State-driven surveillance, interception of digital communications and data collection capabilities. (38) Specifically, this concern relates to the “interlinked and mutually dependent” (39) rights to privacy and freedom of opinion and expression, as enshrined internationally in Articles 12 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (40) and Articles 17 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights (ICCPR). (41) Both documents stipulate that “everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks”. (42)...

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/583137/IPOL_STU\(2017\)583137_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/583137/IPOL_STU(2017)583137_EN.pdf)

Perhaps the NSA didn’t know this when they engaged in this anti-competitive activity:

Outposts of the U.S. Surveillance Empire: Denmark and Beyond By Ron Ridenour, Dec. 10, 2020

Data acquired by the NSA has been used to convince the Danish government to buy fighter jets from Lockheed-Martin.

Denmark’s military allows the United States’ National Security Agency (NSA) to spy on the nation’s Finance Ministry, Foreign Ministry, private weapons company Terma,[1] the entire Danish population, and Denmark’s closest neighbors: Sweden, Norway, France, Germany and the Netherlands (NL).

Information that the NSA acquired, with the aid of Denmark’s Defense Intelligence Service (FE) under the command of the Defense Department, was used to convince the government to buy Lockheed-Martin’s Joint Strike Fighter F-35 capable of carrying nuclear weapons, albeit Denmark forbids the possession of nuclear weapons on its territory.[2]

Such favoritism for both the U.S. government and the country’s private weapons industry knocked out European competition from the Eurofighter GmbH Typhoon and Sweden’s Saab Gripen-fighter. Boeing’s Superhornet was also a competitor.

<https://covertactionmagazine.com/2020/12/10/outposts-of-the-u-s-surveillance-empire-denmark-and-beyond/>

The phrase: “Information that the NSA acquired... was used to convince the government to buy Lockheed-Martin...” implies the NSA hacked information from Lockheed-Martin’s competitors in order secure that contract. Though hacking for national security purposes may in some cases be legal, this is not one of them. This is only one of hundreds of examples of the illegal use of hacking in anti-competitive world trade by the NSA and other branches of the US government. The US government funds and coordinates a vast flotilla of domestic and international electronic systems that routinely flaunt domestic and international laws. True enough, when they started those activities, laws had not yet been written to specifically curtail such activities, however in recent years those laws have been written and enacted, and consequently those activities have become highly illegal. Yet those corrupt illegal intrusions and theft of intellectual property continue unabated. This

should be an area of “concern,” to the defense departments and industries of all nations, and citizens of the world. If any semblance of a “right to privacy” is to remain in the world, international judicial and enforcement bodies must address this issue in the near future. Not only can the NSA and other similar organization hack information from other nations’, groups’ and individuals’ computer systems, they can also plant false and incriminating information in those systems. The potential for this to trigger for example wars that would hugely benefit the defense industry is substantial, demonstrating the urgent need for international judicial and enforcement bodies to prioritize investigation and prosecution of these kinds of crimes as a strong deterrent in order to break this habit now and discourage far great crimes from occurring in the future.

The following are just some of the projects and organizations engaged in American electronic surveillance.

Codename Boundless Informant

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/06/meet-boundless-informant-the-nsas-secret-tool-for-tracking-global-surveillance-data/276686/>

Codename Bullrun, this program also includes efforts to weaken the encryption standards adopted by software developers.

<https://www.propublica.org/article/the-nsas-secret-campaign-to-crack-undermine-internet-encryption>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/05/nsa-gchq-encryption-codes-security>

Codename carnivore

<https://web.archive.org/web/20060822025113/http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,144809,00.html>

The Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative (CNCI)

<https://fas.org/irp/offdocs/nspd/index.html>

https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/privacy/privacy_cybersecurity_white_paper.pdf

Fairview is a secret program under which the National Security Agency cooperates with the American telecommunications company AT&T in order to collect phone, internet and e-mail data mainly of foreign countries' citizens at major cable landing stations and switching stations inside the United States. The FAIRVIEW program started in 1985

<https://www.propublica.org/article/nsa-spying-relies-on-atts-extreme-willingness-to-help>

https://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/16/us/politics/att-helped-nsa-spy-on-an-array-of-internet-traffic.html?_r=0

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140326201119/http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/beyond-silk-road-potential-risks-threats-and-promises-of-virtual-currencies>

<https://www.fincen.gov/>

Magic Lantern A keystroke logging software deployed by the FBI in the form of an e-mail attachment. When activated, it acts as a trojan horse and allows the FBI to [decrypt user communications](#).

Main Core A personal and financial database storing information of [millions](#) of U.S. citizens believed to be [threats to national security](#). The data mostly comes from the NSA, FBI, CIA, as well as other government sources.[26]

MAINWAY: [NSA database](#) containing metadata for hundreds of billions of telephone calls made through the four largest telephone carriers in the United States.

Media monitoring services, A proposed [DHS database for monitoring all global news sources and media influencers](#).

MUSCULAR: [Overseas wiretapping of Google's and Yahoo's](#) unencrypted internal networks by the NSA.

MYSTIC is a [voice interception program](#) used by the National Security Agency.

Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative: Under this government initiative, a [Suspicious Activity Report \(SAR\)](#) may be filed by law enforcers, public safety personnel, owners of critical infrastructure or the general public.

NSA ANT catalog: a 50-page document listing technology available to the United States National Security Agency (NSA) [ANT](#) division to aid in cyber-surveillance.

PRISM: A [clandestine national security](#) electronic surveillance program operated by the [United States National Security Agency](#) (NSA) which can target customers of participating corporations [outside or inside](#) the United States.

Room 641A: A [telecommunication interception facility](#) operated by AT&T for the U.S. National Security Agency.

Sentry Eagle: efforts to [monitor and attack an adversary's cyberspace](#) through capabilities [include](#) SIGINT, Computer Network Exploitation (CNE), Information Assurance, Computer Network Defense (CND), Network Warfare, and Computer Network Attack (CNA). The efforts included weakening US commercial encryption systems.[27]

Special Collection Service (SCS): A [black budget program](#) that is responsible for "[close surveillance, burglary, wiretapping, breaking and entering](#)." It employs covert listening device technologies to bug foreign embassies, communications centers, computer facilities, fiber-optic networks, and government installations.

Stellar Wind (code name): The [open secret code name](#) for four surveillance programs.

Tailored Access Operations: (today called [Computer Network Operations](#)) Intelligence-gathering unit of the NSA that is capable of harvesting approximately 2 petabytes of data per hour.

Terrorist Finance Tracking Program: A joint initiative run by the [CIA and the Department of the Treasury](#) to access the SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) transaction database as part of the Bush administration's "Global War on Terrorism". According to the U.S. government, its efforts to counter terrorist activities were compromised after the existence of the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program was leaked to the media.[31]

Turbulence (NSA): Turbulence is a United States National Security Agency (NSA) [information-technology project started circa 2005](#). It was developed in small, inexpensive "test" pieces rather than one grand plan like its failed predecessor, the Trailblazer Project. It also includes offensive cyberwarfare capabilities, like injecting malware into remote computers. The U.S. Congress criticized the project in 2007 for having similar bureaucratic problems as the Trailblazer Project.[32]

US Intelligence Community (IC): A cooperative federation of 16 government agencies working together, but also separately, to gather intelligence and conduct espionage.

Utah Data Center: The [Intelligence Community's US\\$1.5 billion data storage center](#) that is designed to store extremely large amounts of data, on the scale of yottabytes.[33][34][35]

X-Keyscore: A system used by the United States National Security Agency for searching and analysing internet data about foreign nationals.

Thanks to the revelations of National Security Agency (NSA) whistleblower Edward Snowden, independence-minded political leaders in Bhutan, Sikkim, and Nepal are now aware that a system code-named XKEYSCORE, which operates from a CIA/NSA Special Collection Service operations center at the U.S. embassy in New Delhi, intercepts satellite and Internet traffic transmitted to and from the Indian subcontinent, including the countries and territories of the Himalayan region. The presence of XKEYSCORE in New Delhi is primarily aimed at the strategically-important Himalayan region, as well as China to the north. Based on the close links between the CIA and RAW and NSA's use of Israeli-developed interception technology, the intelligence services of India, the U.S., and Israel have virtually unimpeded access to all the communications of the Himalayan region...

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/obamas-asia-pivot-the-himalayan-angle/5344623>

And others.

The above is a prosecutor's dream list of incriminating evidence.

But NSA and the CIA have taken the actual national security intention far beyond self-defense with the aim of spying upon the entire world, in order to influence foreign governments and private business decision-making and actions.

<https://covertactionmagazine.com/2020/12/10/outposts-of-the-u-s-surveillance-empire-denmark-and-beyond/>

The American NSA, CIA and FBI all have been spying on China for decades.

Chinese cybersecurity company accuses CIA of 11-year-long hacking campaign By Raphael Satter March 4, 2020

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-usa-cia-idUSKBN20Q2SI>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/29/world/29cables.html>

The US also spies on numerous allies also.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-usa-spying-idUSKCN0PI2AD20150709>

Today, Wednesday 8 July at 1800 CEST, WikiLeaks publishes three NSA intercepts of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, together with a list of 56 National Security Agency (NSA) target selectors for the Chancellor and the Chancellery. It lists not only confidential numbers for the Chancellor, but also for her top officials, her aides, her chief of staff, her political office and even her fax machine. The combined German NSA target lists released by WikiLeaks so far shows the NSA explicitly targeted for long-term surveillance 125 phone numbers for top German officials and did so for political and economic reasons, according to its own designations.

<https://wikileaks.org/nsa-germany/>

The “intelligence coup of the century” – as the CIA called it – evidently has far-reaching implications. It turns a spotlight on the tension-filled Cold War era, with the extent of the CIA/BND collusion casting new light on many historical events of the last 50 years. However, the extent to which recent world history needs rewriting will only become clear once the Crypto affair has been thoroughly digested. The question of whether Switzerland needs to redraft its own history is generating discussion. After all, what did

the Swiss government know about what was going on? Was our country hosting foreign intelligence activities but keeping them deliberately secret?

<https://www.swisscommunity.org/en/news-media/swiss-review/article/the-cia-used-a-swiss-company-to-spy-on-over-100-countries>

So much for their famed neutrality.

SEC. 281(4) is a highly deceptive piece of disinformation designed to paint China as the aggressor in a series of illegal endeavors in which the USA has always been the leader. Protests to the contrary are disingenuous at best. It is not beyond the capability of many of the above projects and organizations to hack an American computer control system and [plant contrived code falsely implicating](#) a foreign power in an attack on that American computer control system. “False flag operations” are ubiquitous in Euro-American foreign policy history.

53 Admitted False Flag Attacks, by Washington’s Blog, Global Research, September 03, 2019 - first published Feb. 2015

Not Theory ... Admitted Fact

There are many documented false flag attacks, where a government carries out a terror attack ... and then falsely blames its enemy for political purposes.

In the following 42 instances, officials in the government which carried out the attack (or seriously proposed an attack) admits to it, either orally or in writing...

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/53-admitted-false-flag-attacks/5432931>

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/senate-report-russia-interference-written-disinformation-warriors-behind-alabama-false-flag-operation/253335/>

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/white-helmets-chemical-attack-idlib/249121/>

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-gulf-of-credibility-false-flag-ludicrous-allegation-iran-rescued-the-crew-of-the-japanese-tanker/5680665>

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/false-flag-chemical-weapons-attack-on-syria/5346813>

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-ghouta-chemical-attacks-us-backed-false-flag-killing-children-to-justify-a-humanitarian-military-intervention/5351363>

TITLE IV—Investing in our economic statecraft

SEC. 401. Findings and sense of Congress regarding the PRC’s industrial policy.

(a) Findings.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The People’s Republic of China, at the direction of the Chinese Communist Party, is advancing an ecosystem of anticompetitive economic and industrial policies that—

(A) distort global markets;

(B) limit innovation;

(C) unfairly advantage PRC firms at the expense of the United States and other foreign firms; and

(D) unfairly and harmfully prejudice consumer choice.

One can only wonder if killing millions of people, destroying the infrastructure of entire nations and forcing 80 million people who once had homes and jobs into becoming “displaced persons” statistics, is an “anti-competitive economic policy?” Homeless starving people can’t really compete very well. It seems to this writer that helping nations develop infrastructure improves their competitiveness in the world economy far better than fostering and funding civil and international wars. If anything, China’s development programs help to open markets in developing countries by providing jobs and stimulating their economies. As for American industries’ “limited innovation,” that’s their industries’ own fault. They can innovate all they want. How exactly is China preventing that? Did China initiate closing entire industries to the USA to for example put Apple out of business, as the USA has done to try to force Huawei out of business?

Unfortunately for the past 50 years most American industries focus on quarterly earnings rather than long-term research and development. Furthermore, the US has allowed a small cabal of monopolies to totally dominate the world information space, e.g., Google, which actively suppresses foreign and domestic competition across a wide range of industries. When it comes to anti-competitive behaviors in the international marketplace, the USA is the supreme unchallenged champion.

In regards to “D) unfairly and harmfully prejudice consumer choice,” I was in the largest electronic mall in my district of Beijing last week and was a bit surprised to find the center showcase was filled with Apple products including mobile phones. I wonder if I walked into one of the biggest electronic malls in New York if I would find the center showcase selling Huawei phones? Let’s be real here. Will the USA allow Russian Nordstrom 2 project to finish or is it sanctioning every company that wants to work on it? The USA is the KINGPIN of anti-competitive behaviors in the international marketplace.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50879435>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-nordstream-sanctions-idUSKBN29O1XL>

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/exclusive-us-tells-european-companies-they-face-sanctions-risk-nord-stream-2-2021-01-13/>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/12/18/us-sanctions-on-nord-stream-2-pipeline.html>

How many industries has the US government “helped?”

https://www.moaf.org/publications-collections/financial-history-magazine/95/_res/id=Attachments/index=0/Bailouts.pdf (Useful history - China has done nothing the USA hasn’t done before and/or isn’t doing now.)

<https://www.propublica.org/article/government-bailouts> (This list is far from complete, but interesting.)

<https://projects.propublica.org/bailout/main/timeline>

<https://www.investopedia.com/articles/economics/08/government-financial-bailout.asp>

<https://www.thebalance.com/auto-industry-bailout-gm-ford-chrysler-3305670>

Perhaps the US and Europe might rethink their government rules to allow them to help *before* those industries are drowning in debt? Maybe Adam Smith’s rules need some updating? Perhaps also American industries don’t need to pay top executives such extremely high salaries.

<https://www.investopedia.com/highest-paid-ceos-2019-4687532>

(11) The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and associated industry-specific efforts under this initiative, such as the Digital Silk Road, are key vectors to advance the PRC’s mercantilist policies and practices globally. The resulting challenges do not only affect United States firms. As the European Chamber of Commerce reported in a January 2020 report, the combination of concessional lending to Chinese state-owned enterprises, nontransparent procurement and bidding processes, closed digital standards, and other factors severely limit European and other participation in BRI and make “competition [with Chinese companies] in third-country markets extremely challenging”. This underscores a key objective of BRI, which is to ensure the reliance of infrastructure, digital technologies, and other important goods on PRC supply chains and technical standards.

SEC. 405. Debt relief for countries eligible for assistance from the International Development Association.

(1) actions that have been taken to advance debt relief for countries eligible for assistance from the International Development Association that request forbearance to respond to the COVID–19 pandemic in coordination with international financial institutions, the Group of 7 (G7), the Group of 20 (G20), Paris Club members, and the Institute of International Finance;

(4) the balance and status of repayments on all loans from the People’s Republic of China to countries eligible for assistance from the International Development Association, including—

(A) loans provided as part of the Belt and Road Initiative of the People’s Republic of China;

(B) loans made by the Export-Import Bank of China;

(C) loans made by the China Development Bank; and

(D) loans made by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank; and

(5) the transparency measures established or proposed to ensure that funds saved through the debt relief described in paragraph (1) will be used for activities—

(A) that respond to the health, economic, and social consequences of the COVID–19 pandemic; and

(B) that are consistent with the interests and values of the United States.

Debt relief can have several meanings, but the most common is “debt forgiveness.” It would be darned nice of the US to lead an effort to have all nations that owe China money simply forgive those debts to China. While China was helping to build nations, the USA was spending its money to destroy nations and now appears ready to turn those weapons on China, Russia, Iran/Syria and the last of the Palestinians that have survived the past 75 years of the US war against them.

In response to this grand gesture by the US I’ve decided to unilaterally offer debt relief to all nations that owe the USA money. In my great magnanimity I’ll start by forgiving the trillion-dollar debt owed by the UK, the 950-billion-dollar debt owed by the Cayman Islands of all places, the 620 billion dollars owed by Canada, the 410 billion dollars owed by France, and on and on. <https://www.titlemax.com/media/debts-owed-to-debts-owed-by-the-united-states.jpg>

On the other hand, perhaps the US intends to pay those debts to China by itself, or maybe in coordination with international financial institutions, the Group of 7 (G7), the Group of 20 (G20), Paris Club members, and the Institute of International Finance. That would be a

grand gesture. That would be truly wonderful. Maybe then the US would also forgive the 100-billion-dollar debt owed by Mexico. Again, that would be super!

A few notes about Chinese culture

Whoever wrote that Strategic Competition Act of 2021 doesn't know anything about China.

The writers go on about confronting Communist China again and again. The government just isn't that important in the perceptions of most people here in China in my opinion. *People tend to not notice things that don't bother them.* (Do the words: "He governs best who governs least," ring any bells?)

What people are concerned about is 1) making money, and 2) keeping their family happy. That's about it.

The reader might think people here in China are afraid of the government. That's not really the case. The regular police I've met here have all been pretty relaxed and easy going. It's not like the US at all. They really don't want to put anyone in jail if they can avoid it.

The problem with crime here is it would bring an unbelievably huge shame to the entire family. It's not fear of the government or police, instead it's a reflection of the internal strength of Chinese families.

Generally, most people here just want to get along and live a happy life. Even the language is geared for harmony. They don't say "bad," instead the compound word they use is: "not good." They avoid confrontation like the plague. Why? It's two things. 1) Confucianism is geared for harmony, not conquest. 2) China has had a relatively high population density for over a thousand years so they had to develop a culture that avoided conflict. The only answer was - harmony.

Everywhere in China is not the same however. I visited Fujian province about 7 or 8 years ago and I must say they were so different from most places in China. That's probably because I'm foreign. They were so ferocious during the war they scared the Japanese off in a few weeks. They're very proud of that. But, in the vast majority of China the people really are just not so competitive, except in business. Practically everyone here wants to start a business or own a business. Teachers are not so respected as in past centuries because we are thought of as low achievers because we don't own businesses.

When it comes to business most Chinese are incredibly creative thinkers. Most westerners don't think of Chinese as creative, but they are, not just in business but in the arts and sciences too. There is such pressure here to be successful at everything they do. That doesn't necessarily mean competition, but rather just making money. A creative thinker will come up with some new idea and succeed because there is no competition in that new field, though some will battle it out in a crowded marketplace. (Fortunately, or not business

has never been one of my special interest areas, though I do from time to time enjoy observing artists at their work, even if it is business.)

Being very selfish and big headed is really frowned on here. Strangely most Chinese people so hugely admired Americans a few years ago, but the worst predictions of some of the old people came true. The US showed its true ugly colors in the form of President Trump and all his anti-Chinese prejudice and economic sanctions.

People were just totally shocked that President Biden is continuing that terrible China bashing. Again, they just don't think much about the government and would laugh all the way through reading the Strategic Competition Act of 2021. They are not diabolical fiends out to take over the world. That's crazy talk. It's pathetic. They just want a happy life like everyone else and ditto for their government.

Sure, sometimes someone will complain about something, but generally it's low level about the same as the weather. People here are trained from childhood to not complain.

Buddhism teaches life is suffering and the cause of suffering is desire. Chinese are amazing at being able to compartmentalize their minds to focus on the positive things and simply ignore things that won't bring them the happiness and success they want. So, as a group they're pretty happy just about all the time.

The real power here is not the government or police. It's the moms. To emphasize that belief a short true story. About three years ago I met a mom at a student teacher meeting. She was a boiling caldron of fury ready to strangle anyone that impeded her son's success. In contrast her son was a super-smart easy-going guy. In any case, after the meeting I advised the son like this: "Please persuade your mom to take dance or yoga classes or something, because I'm worried about her. Her levels of anxiety and stress are dangerously high. I'm worried they can kill her. She's got to relax and enjoy life more somehow..." After the end of the semester, I didn't see that young man for a few months, but the next time I saw him he asked to talk with me privately. He said: "You were right. My mom died. How did you know?" It was obvious.

Partly I was worried about her because I had met a similar mom in Korea some years before with two super-intelligent daughters and she also died.

Korean and Chinese cultures are totally opposite in very many ways, but similar in some ways in regards to moms. When I was teaching in Korea I taught a class of military officers' wives three days a week and we had discussions about the relative advantages of "robo-mom" vs. "yoga-mom." In that class the moms were split about 50/50 between the two personality types. In China I think it's more like 60% robo-moms and 40% yoga moms.

Why the difference? It's affluence. Korea has had more money and development for longer than most Chinese. So, it's the mom's job here to whip everyone into a frenzy of success orientation. It's not the COMMUNIST government that scares everyone. It's the robo-moms. But even the yoga-moms in Korea and China keep everyone in line. The only

difference is the yoga-moms have a much nicer style of encouraging children and other people around them.

One of the really nice things about these East Asian cultures is the vast majority of parents never hit their children. Families here are tight. They really are sensitive and caring. I envy them. I think in my 12 years in China I've only been invited into three people's homes. They are private people by habit. They are cautious, except when big money is involved in which case, they can be risk takers but even then, will almost always "hedge their bets."

People usually start working at new jobs before actually quitting and leaving old jobs and that's accepted behavior. Driving cars people don't want accidents because the percentage of blame here tends towards 50/50, unlike the US. The culture and government are unified in finding ways to avoid confrontation. Euro-Americans may think I'm brainwashed, but I firmly believe the 2,500 years of Confucian philosophy has vastly more influence over people's lives and behavior than the government.

Another example. One of the five classic novels of China is called "Romance of the Three Kingdoms. In that rather long book, three heroes fight against Cao Cao who had usurped power from the emperor. Cao Cao in most respects comes across as a deplorable character, but still the Chinese people I've discussed him with will never say he's bad. They seem to have a reflex to see both sides of everything simultaneously, a marvelous mechanism for promoting harmony. Perhaps it is summarized in the Yin/Yang symbol. Perception chops things into dichotomies, but being trapped totally on one side has too many potential liabilities its best to see the whole. Something like that. Western literature and movies tend to have starkly good and bad characters. Chinese literature and books are more likely to have more balance.

The whole Strategic Competition Act of 2021 entirely misses the point in dealing with Chinese. First, it's the biggest bunch of ridiculous lies I've ever had the misfortune to read. Second, I don't think anyone who knows what's going on in the world outside the US will believe any of it. Even the majority of American policy makers must know its hogwash, but blindly saying: "Yes Boss!" is the secret to success in most places. It's an infinite tragedy that it has become the *sine qua non* characteristic for survival in the US. I think the transition from a "free society" to a militarized hierarchal structure happened during the Reagan years. That's when the Salafist-like philosophy of: "You're with us or against us" completely took over; a divided highway perspective on life; the creation of fanatics on both sides of the great divide. That one of the top 10 reasons I don't want to live in the USA.

The US can and will no doubt bully, bribe and otherwise manipulate some weak **allies** into going along with the illegal schemes outlined in the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 to some extent. The French and British of course worship at the altar of American hegemony vicariously reliving their own hegemonic colonial eras.

But in the end this scurrilous Act is a counterproductive move in terms of opening new markets and developing resources around world that isn't going to work in a world of adults.

Industrial nations need new markets. China already has the structure in place to keep the world economy moving forward and most European leaders know they simply can't rely on the US for anything sane, or stability, or growth. The US simply doesn't have the transportation and supply chains to keep the world economy moving forward and that's what everyone needs, especially now in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, whether they like it or not.

The US can promise to build infrastructure in less developed nations, but has fallen short on every promise made thus far regarding such investments. (Though they did build a few of car factories in Central Asia many years ago.) The transnational costs of shipping materials for large scale infrastructure projects are simply beyond the USA and its few remaining allies at this time. "That ship has sailed," as the old saying goes. It would be global economic suicide to try to impede the best developed global infrastructure building projects at this time. The world needs to open new markets or stagnate and go into a tailspin of decline.

There are altogether too many reasons even American European allies can't rely too heavily on the US. The US will be extremely lucky if its entire economy doesn't crash in the coming year or two. Starting WWII will not help – and trends suggesting that's exactly what their foreign policy makers intend to do should terrify everyone on the earth enough to try to talk some sense into American Congressional leaders.

Why can't the American government consider cooperation for a change? That would be so refreshing. If the USA wants to help development in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, wonderful! The needs are so huge even working together it would take China and the USA 50 years to rebuild the less developed world. This doesn't have to be some life and death combat as to who can do more. That's ridiculous.

I think all responsible adults worldwide will agree: It's time the political establishment of the USA grow up. They really should stop a) reflexively rejecting alternative forms of government, b) lying, c) bullying and most importantly d) killing people.

They promise every nation they invade to rebuild and fail to do so.

Most European countries have viable socialist parties that sometimes do attain political leadership. It is a logical form of government when intelligently applied that helps the people and the world, and whatever it is they're doing in the USA these days clearly isn't working very well at all.

China isn't perfect, it's got real problems too including some very poor provinces, supply chain issues because of American sanctions, large tracks of desert and broken ecologies (as 5,000 years of civilization plus 100 years of wars during the past 170 years, does take a toll on the environment), a feeling of betrayal by a former good friend the USA, and so on. But,

compared to the US it is a virtual saint. Drug use is very rare. Incarceration rates are very low. Home ownership is very high. Violence is very rare. Racism just isn't part of their world-view (having 56 ethnic groups here might have something to do with that). I go jogging regularly in different parks and people smile and give me "thumbs up" even though I don't exactly look Chinese and could be... American(!) while at the same time Asians in the USA are being savagely attacked and murdered. Who's the grown-up in this situation?

Sensitivity to the needs of other developing nations is increasing among the people and the American betrayal has in some ways been good for the Chinese people reminding them that they are not part of the predatory Euro-American global hegemonic blob, but rather part of a much larger collective around the world that seeks freedom from the tyranny of the white supremacist Euro-American slave masters. Too many Chinese had forgotten the history here in my opinion and I hope this new turn of events helps Chinese people rediscover their own roots and culture that was being so rapidly eroded by America's totally plastic and ultimately meaningless cultural trends.

Being a part of the western hegemonic blob demands forgetting and scorning all Confucian virtues:

Benevolence (ren 仁), righteousness (yi 義), propriety (li 義), wisdom (zhi 智), and trustworthiness (xin 信).

The blob is based on arrogance, domination, greed, cruelty and betrayal. It's Macheavellian in the extreme.

Confucian Musings: Leading with Humility, Roi Ben-Yehuda, Oct 30, 2018

"Zohn You asked about governing and the Master said: 'Put others first and give credit where credit is due.' When Zhon You asked further, he said: 'Do these two things tirelessly.' Analects 13-1

"When we think of leadership, we often think of big personalities and even bigger egos. Figures such as Steve Jobs, Elon Musk, Bill Gates, and Jeff Bezos loom large. We celebrate individuals –heroes! — whose brilliance and direction single-handedly erected modern industry.

"Yet for Confucius, the essence of leadership is other-centered: recognizing other people's contributions and putting their needs before your own. It's about giving of your time and energy to help people learn and grow. It's modeling the type of humble behavior you want to see around you.

“Elsewhere Confucius says: ‘A benevolent person wishes to establish himself by establishing others, and to achieve through helping others achieve.’ Analects 6:30

“Confucius is also aware that the tendency of those in power is to aggrandize themselves. He therefore charges leaders to turn ‘servant-leadership’ into habit: ‘Do these two things tirelessly.’ Analects 13–1

<https://roiby.medium.com/confucian-musings-leading-with-humility-45291931dc88>

Also see: https://www.academia.edu/40650075/Humility_in_Early_Confucianism

Egoism, megalomania and greed form a nasty cluster of attributes that form the foundation of unrestrained capitalism and will ultimately lead to global catastrophe and mass slavery. Humility is also a central virtue in Buddhism, Chán (Zen), Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, though many espousing these great religious philosophies have forgotten this central element.

A few notes about the American political establishment and unrestrained capitalism

Is America's democracy real? Is it possible a "coup" already happened a long time ago and nobody is talking about it?

When a small collection of corporations owns 90% of the news media, and the news media determines who the voters like and vote for, that's not a real democracy. That's corporate rule.

These 6 Corporations Control 90% Of the Media In America, by Ashley Lutz, Jun 14, 2012

...That's consolidated from 50 companies back in 1983...

<https://www.businessinsider.com/these-6-corporations-control-90-of-the-media-in-america-2012-6>

Is it possible the CIA has applied what they know about taking over foreign governments inside the USA?

How many governments has the CIA tried to overthrow?

The U.S. tried to change other countries' governments 72 times during the Cold War, By Lindsey A. O'Rourke, Dec. 23, 2016

What do we know about covert political warfare?

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/12/23/the-cia-says-russia-hacked-the-u-s-election-here-are-6-things-to-learn-from-cold-war-attempts-to-change-regimes/>

How many former CIA officers and affiliated intelligence organizations' associates are members of Congress?

Their new mission? Foil Trump. Ex-intelligence officials run for Congress as Democrats. They've hit the campaign trail, fed up with what they see as the president's disdain for the intel community. By Adam Edelman, Sept. 8, 2018

Fed up with what they see as Trump's disdain and distrust of the intelligence community — and his refusal to embrace fully the conclusion that Russia interfered in the 2016 election — an unusually large number of former intelligence officers and operatives are campaigning for office as Democrats in this fall's midterm elections, according to experts.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/their-new-mission-foil-trump-ex-intelligence-officials-run-congress-n907291>

Does the CIA follow the mission it was originally given?

- <http://www.maebrussell.com/Prouty/Harry%20Truman%27s%20CIA%20article.html>
- <https://archive.org/details/LimitCIARoleToIntelligenceByHarrySTruman/mode/2up>
- <https://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/peter-fenn/2015/01/28/truman-was-right-to-warn-against-cia-power>
- <https://truthout.org/articles/trumans-true-warning-on-the-cia/>
- https://www.nytimes.com/packages/pdf/national/13inmate_ProjectMKULTRA.pdf

...or has it gone so far beyond that mission so as to have become the supraordinate criminal organization in the world?

Drawing a Line in a Time of Moral Decay: The Mission of William Alberts by Jeffrey St. Clair, April 2, 2021

Americans want to be loved, yet are feared almost everywhere in the world. Americans see themselves as just and righteous, yet daily countenance harrowing transgressions of international law and basic human rights.

We believe ourselves to be agents of freedom, yet most of us refuse to reflect on the ethical consequences of our imperial aggressions. We prefer not to know what is done in our name, not to see the mounds of corpses that litter the distant rims of the world from American missile and drone strikes. We don't want to know, because such an inquiry threatens the essential tenets of our self-identity, undermines the comforting fabric of our beliefs, shatters the spectral illusion of our national psyche.

What does it take to excite America's moral nerve endings?

Bombing kids with cluster bombs or shredding wedding parties with drone attacks doesn't seem to do it any more. Nor does torture. Oh, sure, there was a collective gasp when lurid photos of American soldiers laughing as they prodded naked Iraqi captives with electrodes or threatened anguished prisoners with snarling German shepherds. But the outrage soon faded, the scenes soon acquiring the familiarity of a re-run of the Sopranos. Torture, naturally, is nothing

new. One of the darkest threads of US imperial history has been the CIA's involvement with torture, as an instructor at the School of the Americas, as a practitioner, or a contractor to experienced hands in Egypt, South Africa or Honduras. Since its inception the CIA has taken a keen interest in torture...

The CIA as Organized Crime: How Illegal Operations Corrupt America and the World by Douglas Valentine

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/33780311-the-cia-as-organized-crime>

The CIA: 70 Years of Organized Crime, by Douglas Valentine – Lars Schall, September 22, 2017

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2017/09/22/the-cia-70-years-of-organized-crime/>

The Politics of Heroin: CIA Complicity in the Global Drug Trade, Afghanistan, Southeast Asia, Central America, by Alfred W. McCoy, Chicago: Lawrence Hill, 2003, <http://www.organized-crime.de/revmcc01.htm>

How a C.I.A. Coverup Targeted a Whistle-blower - When a Justice Department lawyer exposed the agency's secret role in drug cases, leadership in the intelligence community retaliated. By Ronan Farrow, October 30, 2020

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/11/09/how-a-cia-coverup-targeted-a-whistle-blower>

Transnational Organized Crime and International Security, by Allan Castle

Other variables are perhaps less problematic but still warrant discussion. The role of states in certain spheres of criminal activity is well-known, whether as part of the covert activities of security forces (for example, the role of the CIA in the Iran-Contra affair during the 1980s, or the sale of weaponry by the Russian military) or as a result of direct or tacit government involvement in criminal activities (e.g. facilitating the practice of money laundering by known traffickers, the turning of a blind eye to international prostitution or pedophilia rings, or the refusal to participate in extradition processes or to sign extradition treaties where a state is known to be harboring persons guilty of major crimes). Thus, the transnational nature of much criminal activity is not merely the extension of criminal activity beyond the boundaries of the nation-state to which cooperative international responses must be

developed. In some cases that cooperation itself is the primary obstacle, rather than the criminal behaviour...

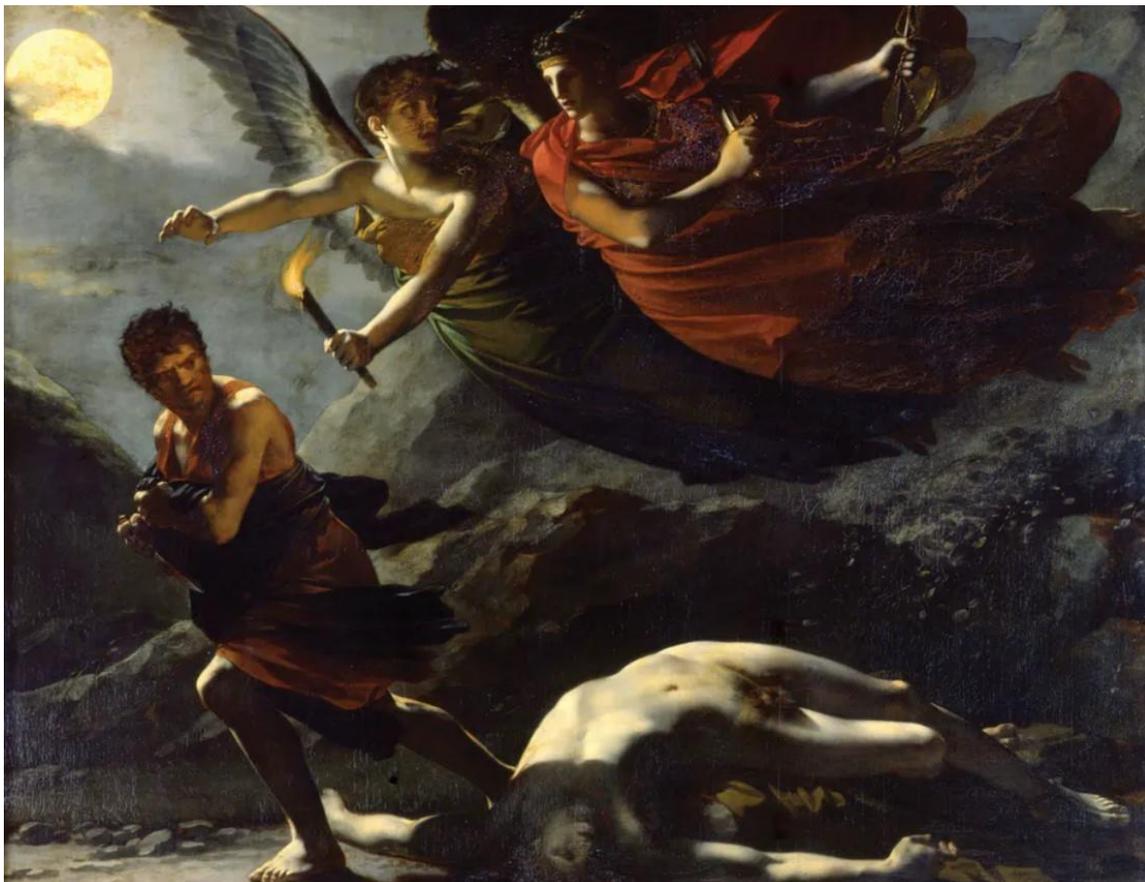
<https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/46409/WP19.pdf>

Intersectional Torturers, Caitlin Johnstone, 2021, May 4

<https://caitlinjohnstone.substack.com/p/intersectional-torturers>

Let's be honest, the democracy is lost. They have turned the USA into a predatory corporate driven Leviathan (AKA, "the blob") that is ready to trigger WWIII in order to attain a megalomaniacal fantasy of world domination forever.

That is "comic book crazy," and consistent with objective criteria for assessment of psychopathologies defined in the American Psychological Associations' *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-5). Unrestrained capitalism has divided/polarized the USA and world to such an extent, violent implosions are daily events now and in a thermonuclear armed world that represents a potentially fatal form of hubris.



Justice and Divine Vengeance Pursuing Crime painting by [Pierre-Paul Prud'hon](#), Date 1808, Source: Musée du Louvre. This work is in the [public domain](#) in its country of origin and other countries and areas where the [copyright term](#) is the author's life plus 100 years or fewer.

Hubris and the danger of leaders with extreme self-regard, January 21, 2017

Hubris is a dangerous cocktail of overconfidence, overambition, arrogance and pride fueled by power and success. When found alongside contempt for the advice and criticism of others, hubris causes leaders to significantly overreach themselves, taking risky and reckless decisions with harmful, sometimes catastrophic consequences for themselves, their organizations, institutions, and even for society...

...Positive self image is psychologically healthy, and self confidence, proper ambition and authentic pride are necessary qualities for any successful leader. However, in the hubrist these qualities morph into excesses, and the hallmark of hubris is contempt. The result is that – one way or another – hubristic leaders end up overreaching themselves and, as we know, the retribution served by Nemesis is likely to be severe.

<https://theconversation.com/hubris-and-the-danger-of-leaders-with-extreme-self-regard-71548>

This Strategic Competition Act of 2021 is based on ridiculously transparent falsehoods, wild exaggerations and other bold but poorly engineered distortions. It appears to have been written by malicious children, not mature adults. Its intent is to provoke, one of the primary tools of the criminal empire that the US government has become at least since being led by the CIA. Likewise it was designed to leverage more tax money from an already beleaguered US public for defense, the last thing the American people need now.

To those ends, the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 is a 281-page hate crime and criminally malign attempt to smother the communications and block the ability to do business of a nation that is the undisputed world champion in building infrastructure for and giving free COVID-19 vaccines to human beings in the poorest parts of the world.

Green with envy due to their own abject and longstanding failures in these areas, US policy makers can only think of attacking China instead of actually doing something concrete to help the poor themselves, like for example removing the deadly economic sanctions they have imposed on [one third of the world's population](#), and the poorest third at that.

US foreign policy makers need to grow up and think of cooperative win-win solutions for a change, if they really “care about” helping the poor around the world.

There is room for everyone to help the poor and downtrodden, but first the USA has to get its Jackboots (Marschstiefel marching boots to be precise) off the necks of the majority of people in the world.

Neoliberal economic policies are fine for the rich but they create living hells, hopelessness and often death for everyone else. The era of unrestrained capitalism must end or the well-developed technologically imposed Dark Ages will swallow us all - perhaps for centuries.

Please carefully read the citations above relating to President Truman's strong misgivings regarding creation of the CIA above. He and President Eisenhower apparently predicted this day was coming and the end results are almost inevitably going to be far more catastrophic than even they could have imagined.

Conclusions

After the end of the exceptionally deadly 300-year Wars of Religions in Europe (1414-1713) they could and should have created an organization with goals like that set forth in the original UN Charter but chose not to. Why not? The answer is obvious: They had full intention to continue their colonial wars against people of color in what are now called "less developed nations." An earlier version of UN Charter with any teeth would have precluded that colonial intent.

This Strategic Competition Act of 2021 is a poorly conceived disinformation campaign in anticipation of another colonial war.

This is not a wise endeavor given that those nations not-aligned with the USA and Western Europe have thermonuclear parity with the USA and Europe.

Current and former colonizers of Europe and the USA owe restitution to the rest of the world until such time as economic and infrastructural parity is attained. This is not the "end of history," but could be the beginning of a vastly more egalitarian world that respects international law and the rights of all people and nations to self-determination, if and when Congressional representatives let go of their self-destructive hubris.

How many people must die for that to happen, is as yet, unknown.

Author's Note

Reading that vile document erroneously titled: Strategic Competition Act of 2021, anyone with even a smattering of legal knowledge and/or moral integrity instantly realizes it is loaded with criminal, anti-competitive intent. In no way does it improve American ability to compete, rather it outlines a vast scheme to "take out the competition," via a labyrinth of criminal enterprises. A multitude of US government laws and regulations can and should be streamlined to assist in helping the US become competitive in the international marketplace. This process can and should obviously begin by breaking up some of the larger (illegal) monopolies, streamlining the tax code, modifying inheritance taxes to ensure a greater redistribution of wealth and closing loopholes for the rich, aggressively hunting trillions of dollars in untaxed offshore accounts, offering real assistance to small business development (not just loans), reducing trade barriers, modernizing most industries, improving supply chain infrastructure, eliminating political corruption, bringing the

meaning of the word “diplomacy” back from endless bullying and aggression to “diplomacy,” encouraging the defense industries to diversity into Construction and Engineering to rebuild the nations they have shattered, or just cut their budgets to nothing, stop giving vast sums of money to fascist states so they can murder their neighbors, and so on. Simply doing a mafia-style hit job on foreign competition isn’t going to change the root problems at the foundation of the American economy. That hit job will only benefit Europe as genuine hatred for the USA will mushroom even further than it has already around the world.

Ω

If the reader finds this writer’s summaries to be “preachy” or overbearing, please understand my parents started the Department of Religious Studies at our university when I was quite young, and the diverse and inclusive moral philosophies I learned as a youth can only be expected to become more manifest as I age, especially having personally experienced and witnessed too many very long chains of extreme abuses of power by corrupt organizations within the American government in many countries. Thus, my “righteous indignation” at the shamelessness and illegality of the Strategic Competition Act of 2021 is morally justified and a natural consequence of my personal experiences and learning in life.

I only wish members of Congress had such a broad and well-traveled background, for if they did, there is no chance they would allow this farcical Strategic “Competition” Act of 2021 to travel any farther than on its way to the trash can of history where it belongs.

The Entire World Should Be Laughing at America For Pretending to Care About Muslims in China, by Caitlin Johnstone, March 27, 2021

“The current representative of the US empire finally held his first full press conference yesterday, an embarrassing and undignified affair which saw a gaggle of obsequious imperial stenographers gather round to make believe that important policy decisions about the operation of the most powerful government in the world are actually being made...

“Once again we heard the **US** empire **babbling** about the plight of Muslims in China, with **the words** tumbling out of Biden's dementia-addled brain that he ‘made it clear that no American president, at least one did, but no American president had ever backed down from speaking out of what’s happening in the Uyghurs.’

“By ‘what’s happening in the Uyghurs’ Biden was attempting to articulate a concern for the human rights of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province, a talking point the US empire has been **fallaciously** and **dishonestly** pushing with more and more aggression as attempts to halt the rise of China **escalate in urgency**. And **literally seconds later**, Biden made it clear that that is exactly what this feigned concern for Muslim lives was indeed really about...

“This would after all be the same religious population which the US has been cheerfully **slaughtering by the millions** in its campaigns of military mass murder, just since the turn of this century. The same religious population the US has displaced by the **tens of millions** in its campaign of terrorism called the ‘war on terror,’ also just since the turn of this century. The same religious population the US has **sadistically tortured** in facilities like Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib. The same religious population who was terrorized by an **escalation in hate crimes** in the United States itself due to propaganda campaigns for George W Bush's wars, wars which were **enthusiastically supported and facilitated** by the current invalid-in-chief.”

<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL2103/S00094/the-entire-world-should-be-laughing-at-america-for-pretending-to-care-about-muslims-in-china.htm>