



## China Rise Lecture, 1/16/13, Southlake High School

**Resolved: On balance, the rise of China is beneficial to the interests of the United States.**

### **Good for U.S.**

1. Some argue that now is a key opening – Lots suffered under Mao and are now in positions of power. This may make them more receptive to the U.S. and allow the U.S. to promote democracy and human rights in China (core foreign policy objectives).
2. Largest market for U.S. goods and services. Wealthier Chinese families equal a larger demand for American products and labels – like McDonald's, iPods, music, etc.
3. Chinese investment in the U.S. strengthens our economy. Wealthier Chinese investors may put their capital into American start-ups, helping the economy.
4. Security cooperation and regional security.
  - a. Takes pressure off the U.S. to be a regional "police officer."
  - b. Can broker talks with allies we don't have in common, like North Korea.
  - c. Collapse leads to lashout – Some argue that now that the economy is booming, allowing it to collapse may trigger aggressive actions by the CCP to cement primacy.
5. Global problems. Not all solutions lend themselves easily to the U.S. trying to lead on its own. Partnerships with China are critical to solve transnational threats, such as.
  - a. Warming.
  - b. Environment.
  - c. Pandemics.

### **Bad for U.S.**

1. Currency manipulation – Some say China artificially undervalues their currency. This allow China to sell goods and services very cheaply on the global market, giving China an unfair advantage. If they continue to grow, they may continue to maintain their currency as undervalued.
2. IPR issues. Chinese companies sometimes violate the intellectual property of U.S. companies and sell knock-off products cheaply. This costs American companies lots of money.
3. Pollution – Laws restricting environmental damage in China are not as strict, so development of the industrial base may be very damaging to the global environment (and thus not in the interests of the U.S.)
4. Security issues – China is modernizing the military. Some analysts say it's mostly defensive; others disagree.
  - a. Alliances with Iran may provoke conflict or miscalculation with the U.S.
  - b. Resource interests in the South China Sea (natural gas etc), territory interests the Spratly Islands and economic interests in the sea lanes are all contested. China may behave aggressively, provoking U.S. response.



- c. N. Korea. China is a key ally that may bolster, rather than temper the regime's nuclear/aggressive ambitions.
- d. Make a play for Taiwan. A resurgent China may dislike the idea of Taiwanese quasi-independence and provoke conflict, forcing a U.S. response (the U.S. is an ally of Taiwan).
- e. Miscalculation – A resurgent China may not be aggressive, but the U.S. will be more wary and thus more likely to mistake innocent military testing, etc. for aggressive actions.
- f. Russia alliance. China may ally with Russia in an attempt to counter-balance the U.S.
- g. May make our allies doubt our ability to protect them and seek weapons of their own (South Korea and Japan). Proliferation is arguably bad – it increases the volume of nuclear weapons and undermines stable deterrence by breeding mistrust internationally.