

The Rise of China

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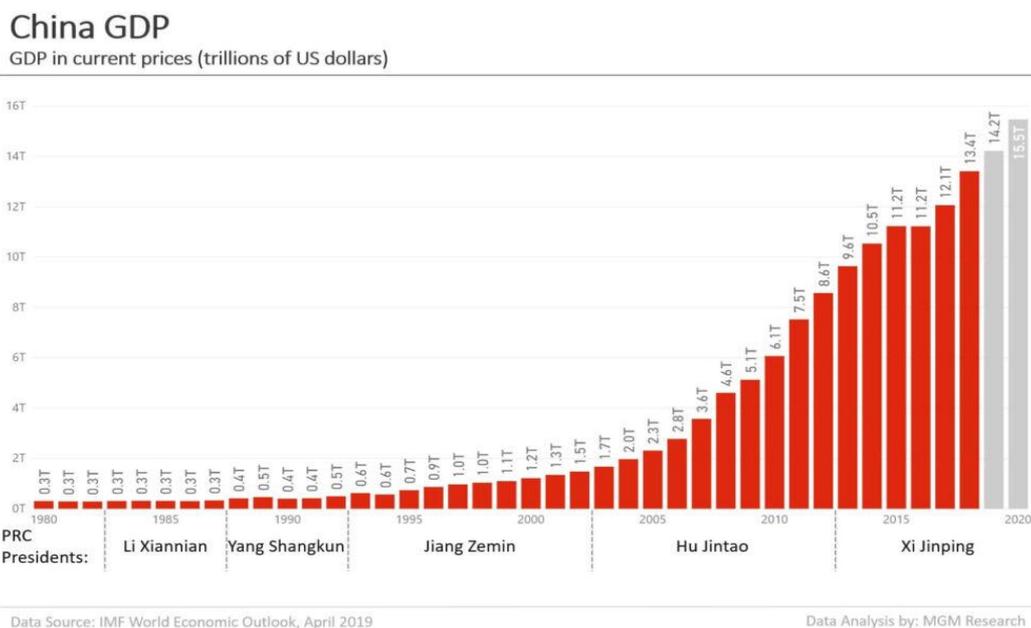
INTRODUCTION

Today, the Chinese Economy is the world's second-largest, trailing only the United States. As was foreseeable, although not so rapidly, it is all set to surpass the Sates' by 2030. China stands as the world's largest exporter as well as importer, which stands as an open testimony to the astounding levels of growth and development it has achieved just recently.

The progress showcased by the Chinese Economy during the brief period is noneless than phenomenal. The GDP growth has averaged around 10 percent a year and more than 800 million of people have been lifted out of poverty.China's economic growth has turned China from an impoverished third-world country to a global economic superpower, a regional military player, and a powerful voice in the international system.

The rise of The Chinese Economy can be further linked to the rise on the political, geopolitical, and global economic stage. China has been influential in several developing countries to such an extent thatmany of these nations are now bending laws to favor Chinese companies. These happenings can largely be accredited to the pressure these nations are under due to the jaw-dropping debts these nations owe to China.

The growth of any nation affects the global order in some manner and China's rise, mainly due to its Economic prowess, looks to have far-reaching effects on the international system. This paper examines the challenges faced by China, the apt, unforeseen rise of China on the global level, the threats it poses, and any good that has been done to the world.



THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE AFTERMATH

The Republican era of China (1912-1949) was a period of turmoil. Before the golden days of China, as we know it today, China or ROC (1912-1949) was entangled in numerous conflicts, both internal and external. There were majorly internal and were so adverse that the instability in China peaked during this time.

From 1913 to 1927, China disintegrated into regional warlords, fighting for authority, causing misery, and disrupting growth. After 1927, Chiang Kai-shek managed to reunify China. The Nanjing decade was a period of relative prosperity despite the civil war and Japanese aggression. In 1937, the Japanese invaded and laid China to waste in eight years of war.

Famine, war, and change of government had now become the norm in Chinese politics, with provinces periodically declaring "independence".

When Japan surrendered in 1945, the then government was able to recover the lost economic centers without subjecting them to further destruction. However, this ultimately made little difference given the extent of the damage caused by the war and subsequent Japanese occupation. Initially, Manchuria, which Japan had transformed into the greatest industrial center in the Far East, had escaped any large-scale destruction until the Soviet invasion in the final week of the war.

The Red Army rapidly overran Japanese forces, commencing a 3-month occupation defined by the systemic campaign of looting and destruction. Soviet Premier Josef Stalin ordered all equipment, moveable parts, tools, and even material wealth plundered from private homes, and shipped back to the USSR, what could not be pillaged was to be destroyed. When the Soviets withdrew in October, the result was near total. What had been China's industrial epicenter was reduced to rubble, virtually all factories had been destroyed and not even a single mine was operational. The war-affected territories were left even without electricity as the Soviets had dismantled or destroyed all power plants, even removing the turbines from dams.

The industry was further hampered by the Civil War as well as the inflow of cheap American goods. By 1946, Chinese industries operated at 20% capacity and produced just 25% of pre-war output. Hence, all these events collectively left little scope for significant development during this time.



THE FIRST CHINESE REVOLUTION

As the civil war gained strength from 1947 to 1949, eventual Communist victory seemed more and more likely. Although the Communists did not hold any major cities after World War II, they had strong grassroots support, superior military organization and morale, and large stocks of weapons seized from Japanese supplies in Manchuria. Years of corruption and mismanagement had eroded popular support for the Nationalist Government.

Chinese civil war further devastated China and led to the withdrawal of the Nationalist government to Taiwan in 1949. The overthrow of the Nationalists by the Communists was anticipated and therefore, the ROC government sought Taiwan as a potential point of retreat.

After the loss of the ROC to Communism, Mao Zedong proclaimed The People's Republic of China. For the first time in decades, the Chinese government was met with peace, instead of massive military opposition, within its territory. The new leadership was highly disciplined and, having a decade of wartime administrative experience to draw on, was able to embark on a program of national integration and reform. In the first year of the Communist administration, moderate social and economic policies were implemented with skill and effectiveness.

With the chief goal of restoring the economy to normal working order, the administration moved quickly to repair transportation and communication links and revive the flow of economic activity. The government began to stabilize tax collection, establish a national budget, sponsor the construction of infrastructure such as communications and railroads, and draw up ambitious national plans, some of which were implemented just after 1949. The leadership realized that the overwhelming and multitudinous task of economic reconstruction and achievement of political and social stability required the goodwill and cooperation of all classes of people. Remarkably, the support was widespread, and the results were impressive. Zedong further reiterated and supported his motive for the country's interest by visiting Russia shortly after and signing the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance, and Mutual Assistance.



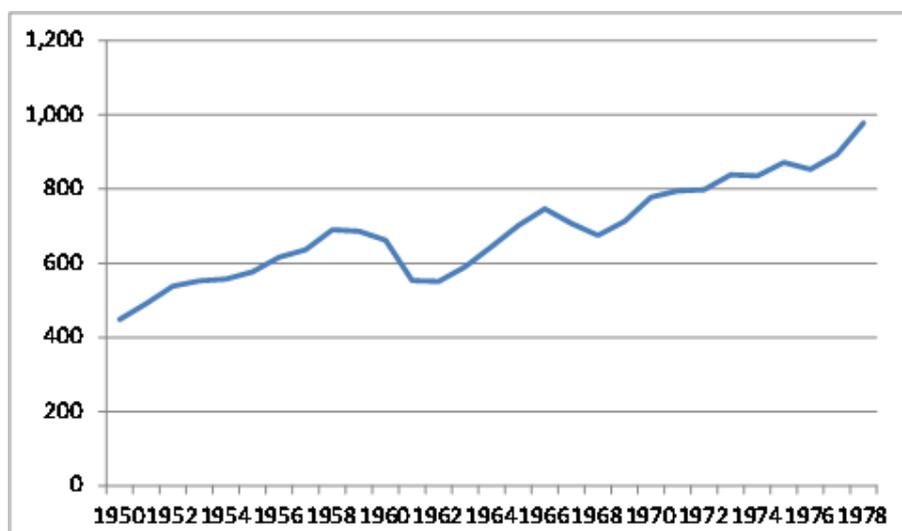
Having restored a viable Economic base by 1953, the Zedong administration introduced China's First Five-Year Plan. This plan stressed the development of heavy industry on the Soviet model. Soviet economic and technical assistance was expected to play a significant part in the implementation of the plan, and technical agreements were signed with the Soviets in 1953 and 1954. For economic planning, the first modern census was taken in 1953; the population of mainland China was shown to be 583 million, a figure far greater than had been anticipated.

Among China's most pressing needs in the early 1950s were food for its burgeoning population, domestic capital for investment, and the purchase of Soviet-supplied technology, capital equipment, and military hardware. To satisfy these needs, the government began to collectivize agriculture. Despite internal disagreement as to the speed of collectivization, which at least for the time being was resolved in Mao's favor, preliminary collectivization was 90 percent completed by the end of 1956. In addition, the government nationalized banking, industry, and trade. Private enterprise in mainland China was virtually abolished.

To support rapid industrialization, the central government undertook large-scale investments in physical and human capital during the 1960s and 1970s. Industrial production increased at an average annual rate of 19 percent between these years, and national income grew at a rate of 9 percent a year. The GDP grew at a rate of 4.4% until 1979. Despite the lack of state investment in agriculture, agricultural output increased substantially, averaging an increase of about 4 percent a year.

This period saw a gradual recovery from the turmoil China had gone through. As the early years of the PRC went by in stabilizing and rebuilding the economy, economic growth occurred but was small-scale. This can be accounted to the Korean, and Sino-Indian wars as well as the high tide of the Cultural Revolution. However, the leadership ensured that the same would not be a setback to the Chinese Economy in the years thereafter.

Hence, little economic growth during this time cannot be a reason to term Zedong's efforts as futile.



THE PERIOD OF REFORMS (POST 1978)

Eager to make up for lost time and wasted resources, China's leaders-initiated China's "second revolution"--a comprehensive economic modernization and organizational reform program. Deng Xiaoping and his associates mobilized the Chinese people in new ways to make China a world power.

In 1978, (shortly after the death of Chairman Mao in 1976), the Chinese government decided to break with its Soviet-style economic policies by gradually reforming the economy according to free market principles and opening up trade and investment with the West, in the hope that this would significantly increase economic growth and raise living standards. The year 1979 also witnessed the formal exchange of diplomatic recognition between the People's Republic and the United States.

Additionally, The Four Modernizations program which was earlier neglected (proposed under the Mao Zedong era), was formally implemented and prioritized. The Four Modernizations program stressed the four areas of development--agriculture, industry, science and technology, and defense. Deng reaffirmed the aims of the Four Modernizations, placing economic progress above everything.

Profit incentives and bonuses took the place of ideological slogans and red banners as China's leaders experimented with ways to modernize the economy. Mao's legendary people's communes were dismantled and replaced by a responsibility system, in which peasant households were given greater decision-making power over agricultural production and distribution. Farm families were allowed to lease land and grow crops of their choosing.

In the urban sector, factory managers were granted the flexibility to negotiate with both domestic and foreign counterparts over matters that previously had been handled by central planners in Beijing. The exploitation of China's rich natural resources advanced significantly in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s. As China's industrial sector advanced, there was increasing movement of the population to urban areas.

In addition, the government established four special economic zones along the coast to attract foreign investment, boost exports, and import high-technology products into China. Additional reforms, which followed in stages, sought to decentralize economic policymaking in several sectors, especially trade. Additional coastal regions and cities were designated as open cities and development zones, which allowed them to experiment with free-market reforms and to offer tax and trade incentives to attract foreign investment. Citizens were also encouraged to start their businesses.

Removing trade barriers encouraged greater competition and attracted FDI inflows. China's gradual implementation of economic reforms also sought to identify the policies that produced favorable economic outcomes (and the ones which did not) so that they could be implemented in other parts of the country.

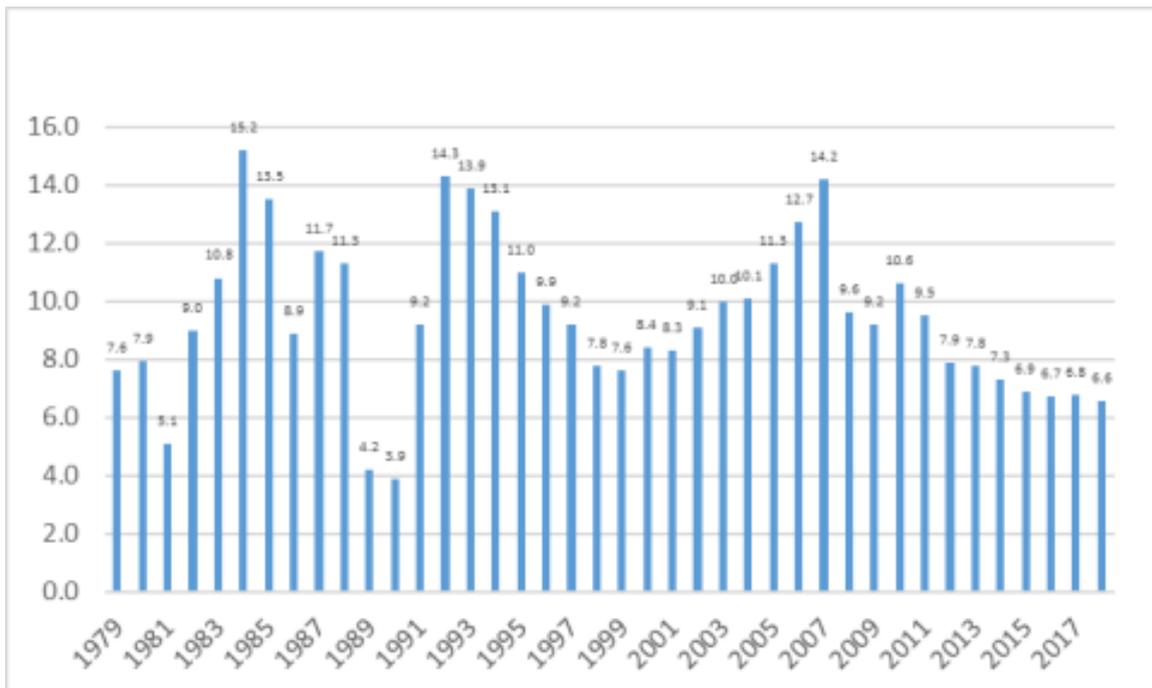
THE POST-REFORM ERA

While pre-1978 China had seen annual growth of 6 percent a year (with some painful ups and downs along the way), post-1978 China saw average real growth of more than 9 percent a year with fewer and less painful ups and downs. In several peak years, the economy grew more than 13 percent.

China's economy has grown substantially faster than during the pre-reform period, provided, for the most part, it avoided major economic disruptions.

Curious about why China has done so well, an IMF research team recently examined the sources of that nation's growth and arrived at a surprising conclusion. Although capital accumulation--the growth in the country's stock of capital assets, such as new factories, manufacturing machinery, and communications systems--was important, as were the number of Chinese workers, a sharp, sustained increase in productivity (that is, increased worker efficiency) was the driving force behind the economic boom. During 1979-94 productivity gains accounted for more than 42 percent of China's growth and by the early 1990s had overtaken capital as the most significant source of that growth. This marks a departure from the traditional view of development in which capital investment takes the lead. This jump in productivity can be majorly accredited to the economic reforms that began in 1978.

Some more successes of the economic reforms include the improvements in both rural and urban life, adjustment of the structures of ownership, diversification of methods of operation, and introduction of more people into the decision-making process. As market mechanisms became an important part of the newly reformed planning system, products circulated more freely, and the commodity market was rapidly improved. The government sought to rationalize prices, revamp the wage structure, and reform the financial and taxation systems.



THE COST OF THE MASSIVE ECONOMIC REVAMP

As we eye China as a rapidly emerging Economic and Global Superpower, it may have been made possible only at the cost of its people (exploitation). The poor performance of China in The Human Rights Index widely supports this statement.

China may proclaim itself as a socialist democracy or a republic; it is an authoritarian state characterized by a dictatorship. It is a one-party state and the same party- the Chinese Communist Party or the CCP has been ruling ever since the formation of the PRC. Hence, heavy censorship, repression, and oppression are accompanied.

Even worse, the censorship laws and the punishments are so strict and harsh that a person may think twice before debating over something or expressing his/her views publicly. Protests and opposition against government decisions are non-existent.

Large protests developed in the PRC in 1989. The protests were precipitated by the death of pro-reform Chinese Communist Party (CCP) general secretary Hu Yaobang in April 1989 amid the backdrop of rapid economic development and social change in post-Mao China, reflecting anxieties among the people and political elite about the country's future. The reforms of the 1980s had led to a dawning market economy that benefited some people but seriously disadvantaged others and the one-party political system also faced a challenge to its legitimacy. Common grievances at the time included inflation, corruption, limited preparedness of graduates for the new economy, and restrictions on political participation.

However, one could not imagine the government tackling the situation in such a dreadful manner. The PLA (People's Liberation Army) was called in, and troops armed with assault rifles, accompanied by tanks, fired at the demonstrators and those trying to block the military's advance into Tiananmen Square (where massive protests took place). Estimates of the death toll vary from several hundred to several thousand, with thousands more wounded. Quite predictably, this tragedy, termed as the Tiananmen Square Massacre was enough to instill a sense of fear of the government in the common man. This fear can be observed in the Chinese population to date.

The Chinese government has long kept tight reins on both traditional and new media to avoid potential subversion of its authority. Its tactics often entail strict media controls using monitoring systems and firewalls, shuttering publications or websites, and jailing dissident journalists, bloggers, and activists. Most platforms that are accessible easily to us today, remain out of the common Chinese' reach. As good as all the media in China is directly or indirectly controlled by the Chinese Government.

Authorities regularly harassed, detained, or prosecuted numerous people for their online posts and private chat messages critical of the government, bringing trumped-up charges of "spreading rumors," "picking quarrels and provoking trouble," and "insulting the country's leaders." A 2021 Wall Street Journal report found that 58 Chinese users

were punished with prison sentences between six months and four years since 2017 for their posts on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube—all platforms banned in China.

Additionally, an increasing number of people were punished for speeches deemed "unpatriotic." In February, at least seven people were detained for comments about the border clash with Indian troops.

Consequently, there remains no opposition even to the arbitrary policies implemented by the CCP such as the one-child policy, illegal detention, and so on.

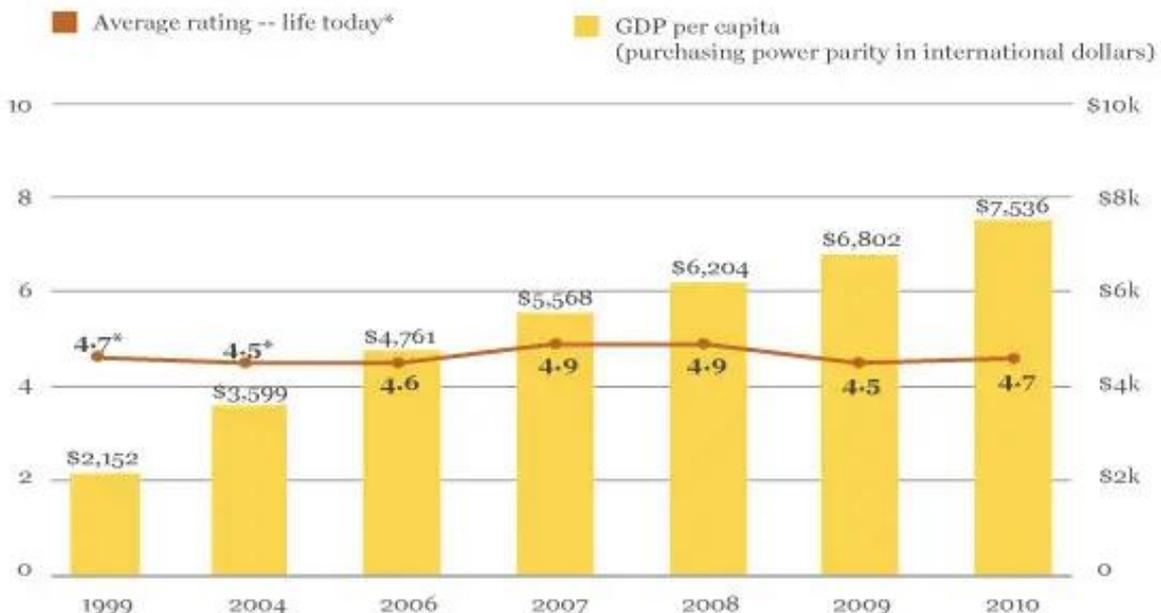
The issue of forced labor, widely rampant in China goes on about being disregarded. A report documented the abuses faced by the common worker in China. Abuses included unpaid wages, wages below contract pay (after deduction of various fees, deposits, and "fines"), unsafe working conditions, brutally long hours, and involuntary confinement. The stories are horrendous, especially those concerning migrant workers, whose local rights are limited. Many of the recorded abuses violate national laws, sometimes with the complicity of local government officials or police.

The availability of cheap and compliant labor is the chief reason for such rapid growth and inflow of foreign investment in China. This brings down the manufacturing costs for companies considerably, and as a result, more and more companies seek to invest and shift production to Modern China.

This argument starts to even makes more sense on why the standard of living has not improved in China despite the drastic Economic growth over the years. The truth is that a great deal of the Chinese population lives in miserable conditions, and even the richest ones lead a life that is highly controlled by the Chinese Government.

How Chinese Rate Their Current Lives

Average life ratings in China have remained stable since 1999, despite a dramatic rise in per-capita GDP.



Source: GDP per capita (purchasing power parity in international dollars): World Bank
 Average rating -- life today: Gallup

*Surveys conducted in 1999 and 2004 used a 1-to-10 scale rather than the current 0-to-10 scale

GALLUP

PRESENT-DAY CHINA

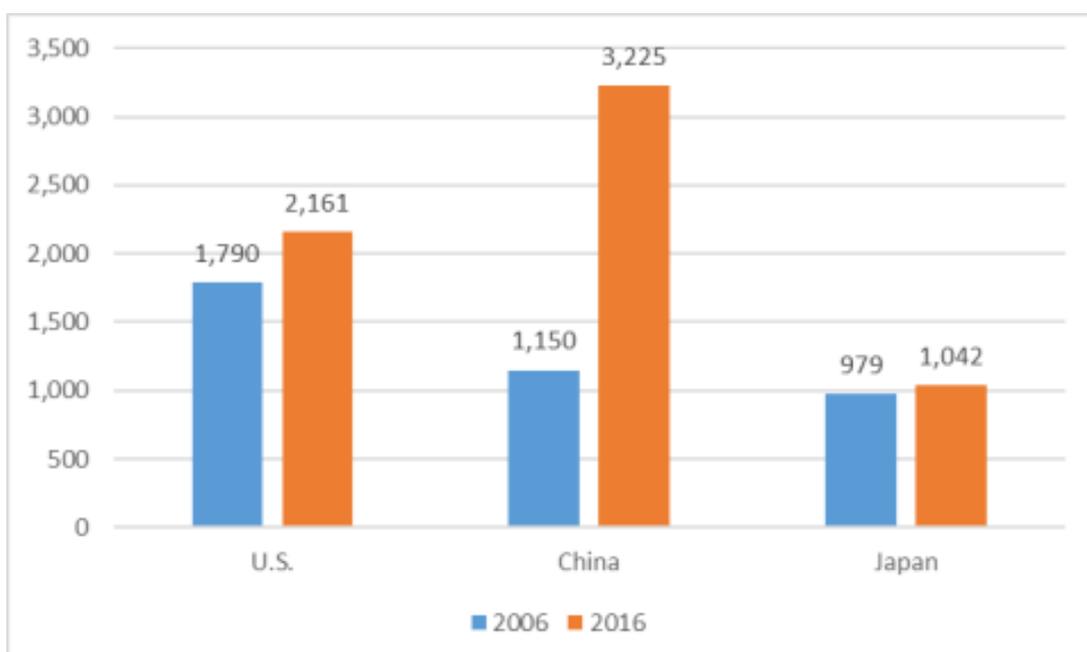
The minimal developments after 1947 to the major ones after 1978, all of them compound to form present-day China. Today, China boasts of having the world's second-largest GDP at 12 trillion USD. It is among the fastest-growing economies with the growth projected to slow down gradually. It is even the world's most populous country, which can be key to the disillusioning levels of GDP per capita.

China has even emerged as the world's largest manufacturer according to the World Bank. China is also the largest producer of grain, coal, fluorite, and several metals. Today, Chinese goods dominate the markets in most of the countries.

China developed a network of economic relations with both industrial economies and those constituting the semi-periphery and periphery of the world system. Due to the rapid growth of China's economy, the nation has developed many trading partners around the world. China posts new records of trade surplus' each year with them amounting to as high as 420 Billion USD. This is enough to suggest that the Chinese Economy is loaded with cash. China's foreign reserve, the highest in the world (at 3,480 Billion USD) is sufficient to verify this claim. China even funds many projects such as the BRI- an initiative to make Chinese Markets more accessible to more countries.

Consequently, the PLA, or the People's Liberation Army remains unchallenged as the world's largest fighting force. Moreover, the Defense Expenditure documents new peaks each year.

The arms race, one of the scanty domains where China doesn't have a foothold, seeks to now win it. It becomes quite noticeable in the global arms export market with time. Furthermore, the nuclear stockpile of the country has also been growing ever since. It is all set to quadruple its nuclear stockpile in the current decade. According to the US Department of Defense, China expects to possess close to 1,000 warheads by 2030.



It may look like that China is in the abundance of both wealth and power. But with great power and wealth, comes great responsibility and China may have failed to fulfill that.

THE EXERCISE OF POWER

The rise of China in no way can be mistaken as a Peaceful Rise of China. China desires to exercise control not only within its bounds but beyond it as well. All the activities of China in the past years are influenced by its national motives or the CCP's motives. FBI Director, Christopher Wray says that the Chinese government poses the biggest long-term threat to the economic and national security of Europe and elsewhere.

The combination of stunning economic growth and unpredictable political governance causes deep concerns about China among the nations in the world. The Chinese leadership has realized the urgency to calm down these concerns and to build a supportive international environment for its ascendancy. At the same time, the Chinese government is seeking to become the world's greatest superpower through predatory lending and business practices, systematic theft of intellectual property, and brazen cyber intrusions. This can be verified by the tendencies observed in the exercise of power by China.

Diplomatic Measures

In formal respects, China's diplomacy has truly gone global. Over the past forty years, China has traveled a path from a nation isolated from the international community to one integrated into it. Today, Beijing enjoys diplomatic relations with 175 countries, is a member of more than 150 international organizations, and is party to more than three hundred multilateral treaties. It receives far more visiting foreign dignitaries every year than any other nation, and its leaders travel the world regularly.

China has the largest diplomatic network in the world, overtaking the USA in 2019.

It's a permanent member of the UN Security Council, a member of the G-20 and other key global bodies, and a participant in all major international summits. On the other hand, Chinese officials remain remarkably reactive and passive in these venues and on many global challenges.

China is also a staunch believer of the Wolf-Warrior Diplomacy. Wolf warrior diplomacy has become the shorthand expression for a new, assertive brand of Chinese diplomacy. In the past, Chinese diplomats tended to keep a lower profile and to be quite cautious and moderate in the way that they interacted with the outside world. Recently, however, they have become far more strident and assertive—exhibiting behavior that ranges from storming out of an international meeting to shouting at foreign counterparts and even insulting foreign leaders.

The Chinese diplomats are more active than any other of their counterparts on Twitter and other social media. Their diplomats are continuously working to put their narrative to the world. This practice helps China to evade the truth and portray CCP as a messiah to the Chinese people. It is even effective in its propaganda (displaying the world against China and Chinese People) to instill a sense of nationalism. China is banded together only through nationalism. The recent forthcoming of GlobalTimes, a Chinese State's Official Media House emerging as one of the most powerful Media Houses is a part of this policy. GlobalTimes has been long used as a fruitful tool used by the Chinese Government to lay out its influence in the world.

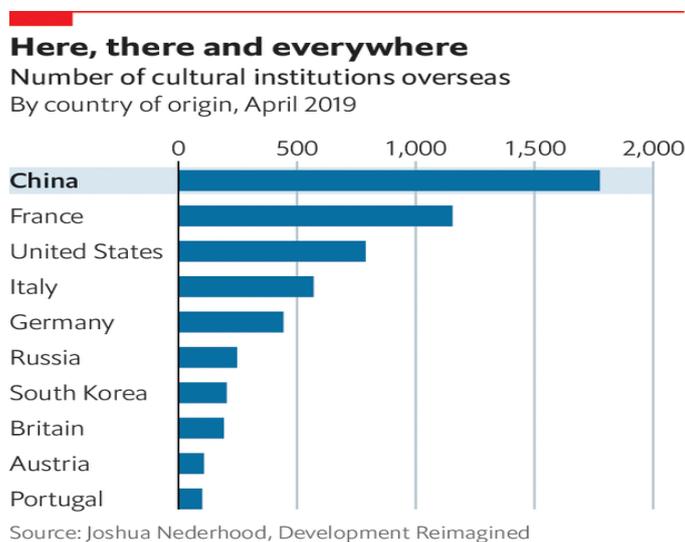
Soft power exercised by China has significantly evolved over the past decade. Today, China is one of the largest trading partners of around 100 countries in the world. China is well aware that its decisions directly or indirectly affect these countries.

China is acquainted with the consequences of military force to contain economies and therefore, it often uses its economic superiority over nations. It frequently plays the 'Sanction Card' to punish nations uncooperative with China.

Hit increasingly hard by Washington's sanctions tool as relations with the Trump administration unraveled, Beijing has learned from its scars. Noticed little by the press, China quietly moved past its historic distaste for restrictive measures and began building a sanctions toolkit. Several regulations and rules have been passed in recent years, however, the most threatening is the Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law, which came into play recently.

According to the legislation, the AFSL grants the PRC the right to take corresponding countermeasures if a foreign country violates international law and basic norms of international relations, adopts discriminatory restrictive measures against Chinese citizens and organizations, and interferes in [the PRC]'s internal affairs. The broad language of the AFSL suggests the willingness of the PRC to adopt other necessary countermeasures for acts that endanger China's sovereignty, security, and development interests.

The Chinese Government also set up Confucius Institutes around the world to teach its language and culture. This is an easy and effective measure to spread widespread propaganda. The enrolment of Foreign Students in Chinese Universities is also on the rise. China's Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has huge contribution to achieving this feat.



Cyber Warfare

China, in recent years, has indulged extensively in unethical, Cyber Warfare. The potency and overwhelming lethal effects of cyber warfare have outpaced the technological development in conventional military weapons space, changing the very character of future wars, and the role of cyber warfare in them.

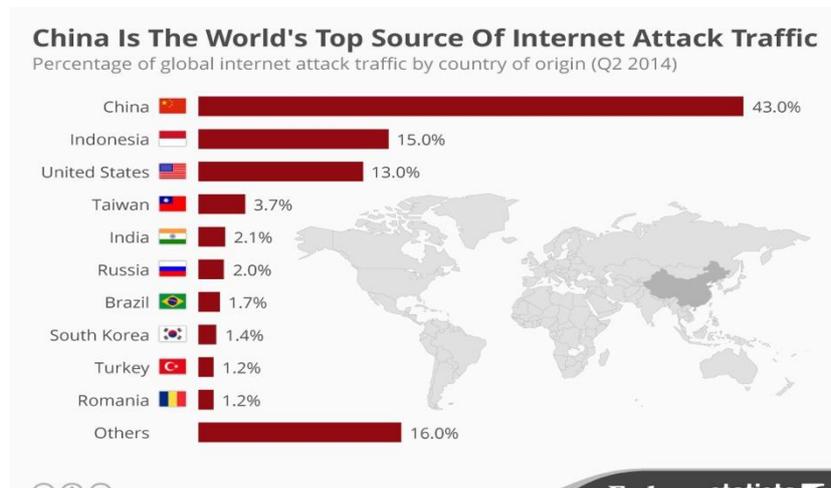
The Chinese government engages in malicious cyber activities to pursue its national interests. Malicious cyber activities attributed to the Chinese government continue to target, a variety of industries and organizations all over the world, including healthcare, financial services, defense industrial base, energy, government facilities, chemical, critical manufacturing (including automotive and aerospace), communications, IT (including managed service providers), international trade and law firms. Primary victims of China’s cyber-attacks tend to be their ideological opponents.

On March 3rd, 2021, Microsoft’s email and calendar service “Exchange” was hacked, potentially giving the perpetrators access to millions of emails. Over 60,000 organizations are believed to have been affected. The perpetrators are believed to be the hacker group "Hafnium", a group with known connections to the Chinese government. This was a massive attack. With over 60,000 organizations known to be hacked, the Chinese-sponsored hackers have stolen millions of emails. This attack is merely one of many conducted by the Chinese government or its sponsored actors in recent years.

These instances stand as an open testimony to the capabilities possessed by these hacker groups under state funding and protection.

Chinese organizations are at the forefront of cyberwarfare innovation. They hold powerful hacking techniques and viruses. Their ability to control information, spread propaganda, and disinformation, and keep their people blind to the outside is nearly unstoppable. Their cyber espionage ability is unparalleled, and it is only getting stronger. As they develop more strategies, create more accounts, find more exploits, and strengthen their firewall, they will continue to grow in power.

China presents a prolific and effective cyber-espionage threat, possesses substantial cyber-attack capabilities, and presents a growing influence threat.



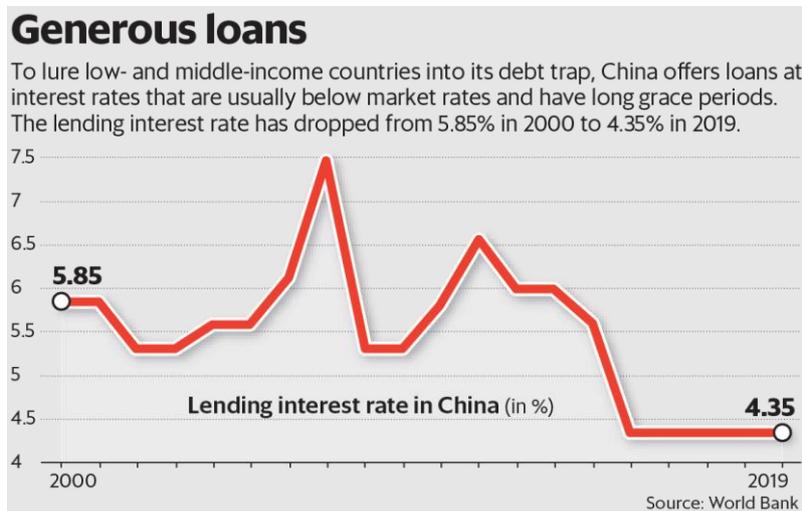
The Debt Trap Strategy, Exploitation and Admonitions

With its international loans surpassing more than 5 percent of the global GDP, China has now eclipsed traditional lenders, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and all the creditor nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) put together. By extending huge loans with strings attached to financially vulnerable states, it has not only boosted its leverage over them but also ensnared some in sovereignty-eroding debt traps.

China’s overly accommodating persona, characterized by the extending of easy loans to financially vulnerable countries has left the world bewildered. Instead of first evaluating a borrower country's creditworthiness, including whether new loans could saddle it with an onerous debt crisis, China is happy to lend. The heavier the debt burden on the borrower, the greater China's leverage becomes.

A new international study has shed light on China’s muscular and exploitative lending practices by examining 100 of its loan contracts with 24 countries, many of which participate in its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), an imperial project that seeks to make real the mythical Middle Kingdom. The study found that these agreements arm China with considerable leverage by incorporating provisions that go beyond standard international lending contracts.

Such is the lopsided nature of the Chinese-dictated contracts that, while curtailing the options of the borrowing nations, they give China's state-owned banks untrammelled discretion over any borrower, including the power to scrap loans or even demand full repayment ahead of schedule, according to the study. Despite of these manipulative terms, many governments and corporations still pursue to get hold of these debts due to their enticing nature.



The seizure of Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka, for a period of 99 years, with a possibility of the seizure lasting another 99 years by China, is an appropriate example of the nature of the debts. Hambantota was consequentially seized due to defaults on the repayment of the 1.3\$ USD debt by Sri Lanka. The Hambantota Port gives unparalleled access to China to the strategic advantages exhibited by this location. The value of the edges this seizure grants in the national interests of China is much less than China's actual bad debt. However, this strategy is not new to China.

One of the earliest successes of China's debt-trap diplomacy was in securing 1,158 square kilometers of strategic Pamir Mountains territory from the Central Asian nation of Tajikistan in 2011 in exchange for debt forgiveness. Tajikistan's unending debt crisis has also forced it to grant Chinese companies rights to mine gold, silver, and other mineral ores. As the Chinese military base in the Badakhshan region underscores, China has expanded its foothold in Tajikistan, thanks to a corrupt power elite there.

Interestingly, China has given more such exploitative debts to cash-stripped nations such as Pakistan, Maldives, Solomon Islands, and so on. Moreover, terrific debts have extended to African nations and have recently skyrocketed as well. The situation is so dire that the tiny Balkan republic of Montenegro has mortgaged itself to China.



Furthermore, China has always been tensions at a peak in the South China Sea and the Indo-Pacific regions. Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam frequently report breaches of both airspace and territorial by the Chinese Air Force and Navy respectively. The Chinese usually exit the breached area after nations respond to this crisis. But what are these breaches or violations for?

China certainly seeks to showcase its growing military might that it possesses. It even desires to instill a sense of fear of the mighty China in these smaller (comparatively) nations. Military drills around Taiwan and Naval Parades have come to be increasingly frequent despite international criticism. Regular drills occur just to convey a stern message to the 'assumed opponents of China and Chinese People'.

CONCLUSION

While China's beginning was substantially turbulent, it has still emerged as one of the global superpowers today. China lost immeasurable time and money on countless wars; its starting from scratch in the mid of 1900s is greatly commendable.

Although China occupies a unique niche in the world's political economy--its vast populace and large physical size alone mark it as a powerful global presence--it is still possible to look at the Chinese experience and draw some general lessons for other developing countries. Most importantly, while capital investment is crucial to growth, it becomes even more potent when accompanied by market-oriented reforms that introduce profit incentives to rural enterprises and small private businesses. That combination can unleash a productivity boom that will propel aggregate growth. China's strong productivity growth, spurred by the 1978 market-oriented reforms, is the leading cause of China's unprecedented economic performance.

For countries with a large segment of the population underemployed in agriculture, the Chinese example may be particularly instructive. By encouraging the growth of rural enterprises and not focusing exclusively on the urban industrial sector, China has successfully moved millions of workers off farms and into factories without creating an urban crisis. Finally, China's open-door policy has spurred foreign direct investment in the country, creating still more jobs and linking the Chinese economy with international markets.

Although China has become the world's largest economy, it remains a developing country and its GDP per capita ranks at only about 100th in the world. Poverty and backwardness are still found in many parts of the country. Promoting democracy, improving the legal system, and strengthening effective oversight of power remains a long and arduous task for the nation. The more participation of people in public affairs, the greater success in the field of social progress.

On the contrary, for decades, the main avowed priority of China's communist regime has been to fully incorporate Hong Kong and Taiwan into the communist regime. These goals have been hammered in by the propaganda for decades and have acquired "sacro-saint" status.

The same ideology is implied by China to the rest of the world as well. To the world, China's development is an opportunity, rather than a threat. This expansionist ideology ought to be ceased right away for the sake of avoiding unnecessary conflict.

Prosperous and developing China, a democratic and harmonious and stable country under the rule of law will make more contributions to the world. China has the potential to change the world for a better cause.