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CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES

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**RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN STUDIES
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Introduction

Simply stating the name of this vast country brings mixed feelings among Americans. On one side, Americans have benefited from the cheap goods that are imported into the United States. On the other side, China is also a large importer of technological goods from companies such as Microsoft, Motorola and Boeing (Despres). Another positive aspect of China is the cooperation they have extended to the United States after the attacks of 9/11. The day after the attacks, President Jiang Zemin gave his personal pledge to President George W. Bush that "China is ready to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the United States and the international community in combating all manner of terrorist violence" (Lampton). This gesture on the part of China is not to be forgotten and America is grateful for their cooperation.

However, on the other side, some Americans have not forgotten about the past. There are some that still have the Cold War mentality concerning China. China is the only pseudo Communistic state in the world and some Americans still believe that it is their

sole duty to “convert” the rest of the world into a democratic country. Pseudo Communistic state, means that although the government certainly fits the criteria of a Communistic government, the open markets and capitalistic stance they have taken on trade seems to be a direct contrast with the entire Communistic concept.

Other resentments that Americans have towards China are the following:

lack of human rights, lack of protection for intellectual rights, the arsenal of weapons the country holds, and is still acquiring, China’s stance concerning Taiwan, growing economic power, as well as the trade deficit that the United States experiences due to the importation of Chinese goods and the lack of exportation.

All of these issues will be discussed within the confines of this paper, as it is imperative to understand why Americans have such mixed opinions about China. The relationship between these two countries will be considered and a hypothesis concerning further relations will be made.

Importation of Cheap Goods and Technology

First, the positive aspects concerning Americans views of China should be presented. This is so that the reader is not discouraged immediately and will continue with positive thoughts. The importation of cheap goods from China is an extremely positive aspect. This keeps competitors costs low in the United States and gives more consumers the possibility of purchasing cheap labor-intensive goods.

The down side of this is the trade deficit that has emerged from the importation of Chinese goods. The United States, in 2004, had a trade deficit of over \$230 billion (Despres). It has been argued that the United States overestimates the deficit by not taking into account “the raw materials, parts, and components associated with the manufacturing of these companies and trade of the finished products” (Despres). The definition of a “country’s total trade deficit reflects the excess of its national spending over its domestic savings, and bilateral trade balances reflect international comparative advantage and consumer preference”, which some people confuse (Despres 253). However, even if this definition is forgotten by some, the deficit with China is still well into the billions of dollars. (Sino).

The trade deficit experienced by the United States is due to the mercantilist stance that China has taken in the past. Many barriers exist in China that are aimed at protecting domestic companies. However, for the rest of the world, it is explained as unfair practices. These practices that China follows are “high tariffs, lack of transparency, requiring firms to obtain special permission to import goods, inconsistent application of laws and regulations, and leveraging technology from foreign firms in return for market access”(Sino).

The good news that emerges from these extreme measures is the entrance of China into the World Trade Organization, WTO. The United States and China have been working on terms for China’s accession, which occurred in 2001, to the WTO. These terms were that China “lower its tariffs for manufacturing as well as agricultural products” (Chow). This is a step in the right direction for China because not only will it allow more countries to import into this large market, but this will also allow for competition within China which will “increase competition for Chinese manufacturers and farmers and provide cheaper products for Chinese consumers”(Chow).

On China’s importation side of trade, technology from the United States is in high demand. As previously stated, companies such as Boeing, Microsoft and Motorola benefit from the technological boom in China. In 1999, Motorola occupied 30 percent of the mobile phone market and Kodak had over 70 percent of China’s film market (Despres 243). Currently, China has the “world’s most rapidly growing [economy]... with an annual growth in trade volume of over 30 percent” (Chow). The foreign trade of this country has “increased from \$360.63 billion in 1999 to \$1.1 trillion in 2004, or at an annual exponential rate of 23.3 percent” (Chow). Being that the Chinese economy is experiencing this tremendous boom, the increase of demand for imported goods, which includes American electronics is felt internationally.

China has an abundant supply of labor, a population of 1.2 billion people which is around one-fifth of the world’s population, and the United States, has the superiority in the fields of technology and capital (Wang 265). It is clear that these two nations have complimentary economic interests (Despres 254). These two countries are able to use their comparative advantage and create a win-win trading relationship.

Cooperation against International Terrorism

China has pledged their support to President George W. Bush concerning international terrorism. As stated in the "China Post in Taipei: ... 'Communism ... is no longer considered a serious threat but rather a helping hand in the new war against terrorism'" (Lampton). In the past, the cooperation between China and the United States was seen during the late 1960s and into the 1970s. This was when the U.S.S.R was seen as a threat to both nations and under President Nixon and Chairman Zedong, these two nations joined forces. Relations ultimately deteriorated after China's power had rapidly grown and the "Tiananmen bloodshed" (Lampton). However, it seems that international terrorism is now the similar threat and once again, these two nations are able to join forces to fight against a common cause.

Concerning this common cause, however, China has other issues which may affect the way that the "War on Terror" is dealt with. China must protect their national interests by not being too involved with Bush's "War on Terror". This is because there is around 19 million Muslims and this nation is not anxious to be seen by them to be fighting a religious war (Lampton). Also, China is increasingly becoming dependant on the Middle East for oil, which is accounting for "60 to 70 percent of China's crude oil imports" (Lampton). This is a major deterrence for China to engage in hostile acts against this region. However, this country has diplomatically pledged themselves to the assistance in the fight against international terrorism and, if needed, they will be called upon for assistance.

Fortunately, China is doing more than its part against the threat of international terrorism. China "contributed \$150 million of bilateral assistance to Afghan[istan] reconstruction following the defeat of the Taliban" (Sino). Also, "many PRC citizens died in the World Trade Center rubble, and mainland Chinese companies and individuals sent expressions of condolences to their U.S. counterparts" (Lampton). Once again, China extended to the United States their diplomatic reassurance and it was graciously and sincerely received. China is not immune to the threat of terrorism and "has become more concerned with its own terrorist related-problems, having suffered bombings on city buses and in busy shopping areas in cities of Xingjiang and other areas" (Wang 265). The common threat is obvious and both nations must join together in order to combat these destructive forces.

Cold War Mentality

Now, the worrisome trends that China has followed and the concerns that many Americans have voiced. The first is the Cold War mentality that is held onto by many Americans. The United States is currently the only superpower in the world. With this come many responsibilities. One such responsibility that some Americans believe in is the duty to “convert” the rest of the world into a democratic one. One such example is the war in Iraq, but this topic is for another paper. In this paper, however, it must be mentioned that this Cold War mentality is widely believed in by some Americans. This means that the pseudo Communistic China is in direct contrast with these views.

Taiwan is an excellent example of the American Cold War mentality. Taiwan is an island that China insists is part of mainland China. However, Taiwan has its own democratic political system rather than the Communistic approach that the mainland has. Some Americans may get the impression that China “is threatening a much smaller Taiwan, which has democratically elected governments” (Wang 275). This could make many Americans exceedingly wary of the Chinese.

Taiwan

Taiwan seems to be one of the main disagreements between the United States and China. An issue that seems to be fueling this disagreement concerning the status of Taiwan is that the United States is selling arms and weapons to this nation. China is deeply troubled by some former presidential candidate’s promises to involve the United States’ militarily if China decides to attack Taiwan to complete unification (Wang 271). In essence, “China sees the United States as the only real foreign obstacle to the long-dreamed of unification of Taiwan and China” (Wang 271).

After the United States’ recognition of the People’s Republic of China, PRC, and the formal announcements that these two nations would begin diplomatic relations on January 1, 1979, the U.S. has consistently reiterated to the Chinese government their position on Taiwan (Sino 8). The U.S. took the same position as China, saying that Taiwan is part of China. This position is still being held today by the White House and it was imperative to the Chinese government that this issue be agreed upon.

The United States, however, had signed an agreement with Taiwan called the Taiwan Relations Act. This Act “obliges the United States to sell arms to Taiwan” (Wang 272). Publicly, the United States pledged to China that it would “reduce the quality and quantity of arms sales to Taiwan” (Wang 272). In direct contrast with this pledge, the United States has “obligated [itself] to keeping Taiwan’s peace” (Wang 272). This places the U.S. in a rather contradictive relationship. China, in attempting to uphold international relations, has recently aided the United States in a great way.

Rather than viewing Taiwan as a goal of liberation, “China proposes that Taiwan keep its own political, legal, military, and financial systems, independent of mainland China...Taiwan would maintain its...own democratic selection of top political officials”(Wang 273). Seeing China adjust its policy on Taiwan by giving them more autonomy makes many Americans relieved and raises the status of this nation. Instead of being viewed as tyrannical, it now has a softer image of allowing democracy to thrive, rather than pushing its own views on surrounding areas.

A war over Taiwan is not in the interests of China, nor the United States. Not only would the cost be tremendous for both sides, but more importantly, the diplomatic relations would suffer greatly. Both of these great countries are members of the Security Council of the United Nations and a war against these two nations would, once again, put a deadlock within this important institution. This had happened previously during the Cold War when the former Soviet Union and the United States were unable to vote together on issues presented to the Security Council. The relations between China and the United States are critical to Chinese expansion, politically as well as economically.

Lack of Human Rights

Chinas’ lack of human rights has been a major concern for the Western powers for many years. These Western powers, as well as international organizations, have been putting pressure, and embargos, on China, attempting to make this country change its policies. Some human rights issues that have occurred in the past include the “Great Leap Forward, a policy that caused 20-30 million Chinese to die of starvation, and the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, when 400-2000 protestors were killed and 7000 to 10000 were injured”(Human 1). The numbers of known casualties varies to such an exaggerated degree due to the silence of the Chinese government.

Concerning the Tiananmen Square protests, the United States, among other nations, placed sanctions and executive orders against China. Some such examples include:

- “The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA) – new activities in mainland China were suspended from June 1989 until January 2001, when then-President Clinton lifted this suspension
 - Overseas Private Insurance Corporation (OPIC) – new activities suspended since June 1989.
 - Development Bank Lending/International Monetary Fund (IMF) Credits - the United States does not support development bank lending and will not support IMF credits to the PRC except for projects that address basic human needs.
 - Munitions List Exports – subject to certain exceptions, no licenses may be issued for the export of any defense article on the U.S. Munitions List...
 - Arms Imports – import of defense articles from the PRC was banned after the imposition of the ban on arms exports to the PRC. The import ban was subsequently waived by the Administration and reimposed in May 26, 1994. It covers all items on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms’ Munitions Import List” (Sino 9).

As stated by Secretary James A. Baker in 1995, “The Tiananmen Incident shattered the bipartisan consensus in the United States that had been carefully constructed over two decades by five administrations for engagement with China”(Wang 263). This sums up the detriment that this incident had upon international relations between these two countries.

The policy of mandatory birth control also causes many Americans to view China as a barbaric nation. A country that controls the birth rate and only allows families in urban areas to have one child is shocking to many Westerners, especially interest groups who focus on anti-abortion laws. This policy has been in effect for quite some time and China is attempting to regulate the population growth. India also has a policy aimed at limiting the population. However, the policy in effect there is one that monetarily encourages women to have a limited number of children and educate the ones that have already been born. Money is given to women who have only one child and the farther that child

goes with his/her education, the more money that person will receive to help raise that child. I believe this is an excellent policy because it encourages education for generations to come, ensuring India's growth. If China were to adopt some sort of policy such as this, the Western world would be much more relieved.

China has recently been more conscience of the lack of human rights in the country. This was proven by an amendment to the Constitution of the People's Republic of China in March 2004. This amendment says that "The State respects and preserves human rights" (Human 1). This amendment was thought of, from the Western powers, to be a change in the right direction and gave the hope of a new era for Chinese citizens. However, time has shown that, although this amendment exists in China's Constitution, it is not enforced.

Another step in the right direction, which cannot be disputed, was the release, in 2002, of a "significant number of political and religious prisoners" as well as the agreement "to interact with [the] United Nations experts on torture, arbitrary detention and religion" (Human 3).

Comparing the United States' concept of human rights and those of China's shows just how different these two countries are. The United States was founded "on Lockean constructs of government existing solely for defending individual liberties" (Human 2). As for China, as explained by early thinkers such as Liang Qichao, the concept of rights is "concentrated on the duties and obligations of citizens to ensure a prosperous and powerful state and not the obligation of government to ensure individual liberties espoused by European philosophies" (Human 2). As a result of this, the Chinese government, "when critiquing its internal situation, ...sees the rise in the standard of living of the Chinese people as an indicator of improvement of the human rights situation, and when looking at the situation abroad, often notes the high rate of crime and/or poverty in places reputedly having a high standard of human rights" (Human 2).

Some Chinese officials are said to hold the belief that human rights are a luxury that a developing nation can not afford. Many developed nations "abused human rights (through slavery, child labor and colonial exploit) as they rose to prosperity" so what is the difference if China does the same (Human 2)? However, there is a problem. This is that the lack of human rights has existed in China for centuries and now that this nation

has an increased global role, human rights must be respected. However, as the head of Beijing's premier think tank states, "We don't believe that human rights should stand above sovereignty" (Kurlantzick 272). Hopefully, some time in the near future, in the time of the current generation, the pleasure will be ours to see China respecting their citizens in the sense of freedom of speech, religion and press, to name a few.

Policy of Abuse

The sovereignty of China allows this nation's government to rule in a way they see fit. However, criticism has mounted from the Western nations of China due to the growing economic status of this populous country. One must, however, consider the sources of the criticisms that are being ruthlessly thrown Chinas' way. According to the Human Rights Watch World Report for 2006, three major countries in the international scene have also been seen showing a severe lack of consciences concerning human rights (Abuse).

Evidence that has been reviewed by the Human Rights Watch, shows that China is not the only country with disregard for human rights and actively seeks policies of abuse. In 2005, evidence was shown "that torture and mistreatment have been a deliberate part of the Bush administration's counterterrorism strategy, undermining the global defense of human rights" (Abuse). Unfortunately, the United States has not been alone in implementing policies of abuse. It was stated by the Human Rights Watch that "U.S. partners such as Britain and Canada compounded the lack of human rights leadership by trying to undermine critical international protections. Britain sought to send suspects to governments likely to torture...Canada sought to dilute a new treaty outlawing enforced disappearances" (Abuse). With the nations involved in policies such as these, there is no need for China to heed the call of respecting human rights when the very nations making those calls are not respecting these rights as well.

A disturbing trend that has arisen from the "War on Terror" is that various nations are using this war "to attack their political opponents, branding them as Islamic terrorists" (Abuse). Countries such as Uzbekistan, Russia and China are among the nations that these serious abuses have been found to be occurring (Abuse).

China, as previously stated, has a large population of Muslims living within its borders. However, this does not mean that there is a lack of racial prejudice among the Chinese. The Human Rights Watch charges China with using the “War on Terror” as an excuse to eliminate the unwanted. The focus of the Chinese has been placed on the Uighurs, which is a “Turkic-speaking Muslim population in China’s northwestern Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region” (China 5). The use of Chinese force against this group has included “arbitrary arrests, closed trials, and extensive use of the death penalty” (China 5). It has also been reported that in “September 2004, the regions Communist Party leader reported that during the first eight months of the year fifty people were sentenced to death and twenty-two groups targeted for separatist and terrorist activities”(China 5).

China, as well as the other nations mentioned, are using the U.S. led war to exemplify this nations actions against its Muslim population that it no longer wishes to have in its nation. The other nations are doing the same, but since China is the focus of this paper, the others will not be discussed. However, using the “War on Terror” as an excuse to sentence people to death is astonishing and unacceptable. It is even more astonishing, however, that the international community seems to do nothing to aid this Muslim community and that China is “getting away” with these horrendous acts.

Trade Relations

China’s economy is growing rapidly and with that comes many more responsibilities towards the international community. Initially, China was restricting many imports, however, since joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, many of these restrictions were removed.

The United States had many different ideas and concerns that China was going to need to quell before they would be allowed to join the WTO. For many years, these two nations went back and forth attempting to agree to terms in order for membership to occur. Finally, on September 17, 2001, China became a member of the WTO. This is certainly good news for the rest of the world.

In order to become a member China had to “undertake a series of important commitments to open and liberalize its regime in order to better integrate in the world

economy and offer a more predictable environment for trade and foreign investment”(WTO 1).

Among some of the obligations that China has undertaken are:

“China will provide non-discriminatory treatment to all WTO Members. All foreign individuals and enterprises, including those not invested or registered in China, will be accorded treatment no less favorable than that accorded to enterprises in China with respect to the right to trade.

China will eliminate dual pricing practices as well as differences in treatment accorded to goods produced for sale in China in comparison to those produced for export...

China will not maintain or introduce any export subsidies on agricultural products” (WTO 2).

In joining the WTO, China has agreed to “gradually eliminate trade barriers and expand market access to goods from foreign countries” (WTO 2). This is good news for those nations who have the goods, but are subject to tariffs and other forms of discouragement. The United States will benefit greatly from this agreement because it is now able to export more goods into this large market. The entry into “ [t]he WTO ...signaled China’s willingness to play by international trade rules and bring its economy into harmony with the world” (Supachai)

Although China is making progress, there is still unrest in the United States. Many Americans believe that the reason there is no longer manufacturing jobs is due to the outsourcing these companies are performing. Some believe that China is to blame for this. With its large labor supply and lack of human rights, China is able to make their workers work long hours for minimal pay. This looks extremely attractive to many companies. An example of this is Ford Motors.

Ford Motors Company Chairman Bill Ford, Jr. flew to China in October to visit new factories that he is building in China (Tonelson). This country will be heralded as the “world’s second-largest national auto market (after the United States)” (Tonelson). The Chinese market is now a haven for companies, such as Ford, where they are hoping to make more profit by not only paying less for production, but also by selling their products to the vast population.

Currently, Mexico and China are competing for manual laboring jobs and both want companies to choose their country. However, with so many people and so few rights in China, it seems to be an easy decision for international corporations to make. Even though the race is on for companies, does this really affect Americans? The truth of the matter is that the United States is currently experiencing an unemployment rate of around five percent. This is extremely low. Also, China is the “fourth largest trading partner of the United States” and the “United States is China’s second largest trading partner” (Despres 238). This shows that both countries are experiencing the benefits of having trade relations. It is believed that Americans should not be concerned by the shift of manufacturing jobs. The truth is that “[g]iven China’s abundant labor supply and U.S. superiority in technology and capital, the two economies are complementary to each other” (Despres 254). As each country specializes in the goods that they produce the best, a comparative advantage is born which will, in time, increase productivity (Chow 2).

Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol was created with the hopes that the major international players will sign, as well as developing nations, so that the emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants will be decreased. This is in order to stop global warming and other harmful effects of industries that are ruining the environment. Signing the Kyoto Protocol has increased the international popularity of China, while the United States, under the George W. Bush administration has refused to sign, which has decreased its popularity.

The United States is the world’s biggest polluter and China comes in second in terms of the production of carbon dioxide emissions. That is why it is necessary for at least one of these nations to join this Protocol in order to give it some validity. However, China is considered a developing nation, which means that it “is not bound by the goals for restraining carbon dioxide emissions” (Kyoto 3). So it seems that China has no real obligations for the reduction of carbon dioxide being that it is a developing nation.

Unfortunately, carbon dioxide is not the only problem that China has. When discussing other forms of pollution, such as acid rain, this nation is one of the worst that has been recorded. A survey that was performed in “1997 shows more than one-third of monitored urban river sections are seriously polluted...[and] in many major cities, such

as Hangzhou and Yibin, over 70 percent of rainfall is acid rain. The frequency of acid rainfall in some cities, such as Changsa and Zhuengyi, reaches 90 percent” (Wang 282). However, being that the international community works on “baby steps”, maybe Kyoto is a movement in the right direction? Currently, there is much discussion in the United States over China ratifying this Protocol and what will happen when the Kyoto expires in 2012? On the side of the United States, this country has pledged to reduce emissions on its own accord and “conduct research into technologies like “carbon sequestration – burying CO₂ rather than emitting it” (Clayton 2). This pledge is something that one can say, “I will believe it when I see it”. However, if the United States does indeed follow up on its pledge, it would be a giant step in the right direction. On the side of China, no such promises have been made and it seems like the popularity this nation is experiencing because of signing this Protocol seems to be mainly hype.

The United States, although a pledge was made, is already rallying the support of China and India to “block European Union’s (EU) efforts to start talks on how to reduce greenhouse gases after 2012”(Rallies). This is a clear-cut example of how nations say one thing, and yet do another. The United States is guilty of making pledges that it does not intend to keep. The United States is already gathering nations together to block talks concerning the reduction of greenhouse gases. How does this nation expect to implement any sort of technology aimed at environmental reconstruction if they are already blocking talks? The United States wishes to protect its domestic industries and does not seem to care what the consequences are.

Unfortunately, there are more troublesome trends ahead. By the year 2012, plants are three countries, India, China and the United States, are expected to be built and “emit as much as an extra 2.7 billion tons of carbon dioxide”(Clayton 1). These plants will be new “coal-fired plants, which would pump up to five times as much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere as the Kyoto Protocol aims to reduce” and China seems to be leading the way (Clayton 1). This country “is on track to add 562 coal-fired plants – nearly half the world total of plants expected to come online in the next eight years”(Clayton 1). Now, if China were so concerned about the environment, why would it be planning on building such detrimental plants? It is obvious that these three nations are solely concerned with domestic industries.

The United States should be pleased about the building of these plants in different nations. As the U.S. is “often called the ‘Saudi Arabia of coal’”, this will mean large profits for this nation due to its 250-year supply (Clayton 3). As prices rise for natural gas, many nations, as many as 58, are pushing for new coal plants to be built in their nations of which, Germany, Turkey and Japan are included, to name a few. Since the United States is currently the leader in pollution, it will not be such a stretch to build these coal plants and pollute even more. However, the United States may not be the leader in pollution in the near future. It is estimated that “[t]he Chinese will surpass the coal-fired generating capacity and the CO₂ emissions of the US in the next couple of years” (Clayton 3). The bottom line is that “with China and the others ... the cheapness and security of coal [are] just overwhelming the desire to be clean” (Clayton 3).

China’s Military Expansion

China is currently building up its arsenal of arms and weapons. This is to be expected being that the nation is growing rapidly and the current defense system is either outdated, or in serious need of repair. Even though it is every sovereign nations’ right to defend themselves, the United States is concerned over the military buildup of China. Another concern of the United States is where China is buying their weapons. It is estimated that “some 45 percent of Russia’s arms exports go to China ... [and] ...[s]ince 2000, Russia has delivered weapon systems to China - - including fighter aircraft, submarines and destroyers”(Haas). Russia is wary of Chinese military buildup as well. Russia is “reluctant to provide China with its state-of-the-art products. This is due to Russia’s caution that if Sino-Russian relations may deteriorate, China may use these weapons against them. However, it is still clear that China has a strong desire to build up its artillery.

In August of 2006, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was stated as saying “finally there’s the question of Chinese military power; and yes, to many, including to me, it looks outsized. The Chinese military modernization looks outsized for its regional interests” (Blasko 263). However, the lack of detail that the Chinese government gives provides little information about just how much the Chinese military has grown and the specifics of their precise acquisitions is unknown.

In a poll performed by GlobeScan in conjunction with the Program on International Policy attitudes (Pipa) for BBC News, it was found that “48% of people polled in 22 countries said China's role was mainly positive. Only 30% saw it as mainly negative” (Positive). However, “far fewer people wanted to see an increase in its military might” which shows that the world is still unsure of China's motives concerning its military build-up (Positive). In this same poll, “[o]nly 24% of respondents said a rise in China's military power was a positive development, while 59% said it was negative” (Positive 2).

The People's Republic of China's “investment in its military is growing at a fast rate. The United States' along with independent analysts, remain convinced that PRC conceals the real extent of its military spending...[and] concerns by the United States that the PRC is attempting to challenge the United States or threaten their neighbors” is extremely prevalent in today's society (Sino 11).

Conclusion

China is growing, not only economically, but also militarily and their international image has grown in a positive direction as well. The United States is currently the only superpower in the world and seems to want to keep it that way as China is the largest developing country. The United States is also keen on converting other political structures into democratic ones. This is so that they will be able to be more compatible with the American model and easier to control.

Many issues exist between these two nations. However, it is clear that these nations need to have a positive relationship. The United States currently has a large trade deficit with China. However, now that China has joined the WTO, who is to say if this deficit will not go in a positive direction rather than staying in the negative? It is pure speculation, but the opening up of China's borders for trade introduces a very large market that can, and should, be taken advantage of. Also, the importation of technology from the United States aids the economy of this country and allows the rivalry from China to keep prices lower and rival markets competitive. Although some companies are outsourcing to China, the labor there is not skilled. Therefore, if China takes over the labor-intensive manufacturing jobs, then the United States will be there to fill in the gap for technologically skilled work.

The military expansion of China is something to keep an eye on. However, China is currently in the “War on Terror” with the United States. Therefore, to put a positive spin on it, if the need arises in the near future, China is there for the United States and with a stronger military, the U.S. will not have to go into nations alone.

As for the lack of human rights, this is something that must be remedied. The United States has a history of meddling into other nations’ affairs, and it must be agreed upon that this meddling is for a good cause. The Chinese people deserve the right to freedoms that the Western world enjoys. The fact that China has allowed Taiwan autonomy is a great leap in the right direction. Taiwan has a democratic system and the hope is that these freedoms will “rub off” onto the Chinese people and possibly change the current system.

China is making efforts to change their past problems. Although signing the Kyoto Protocol did not really drive China to make any real changes, it is a start. Hopefully, the United States will take the initiative and start an environmental program and show China the benefits. China still has a way to go, but the strides that have been made so far are mind-boggling and tremendous.

Only time will tell what the relationship between China and the United States will be, but one can always hope for the best. As stated by David Shambaugh “If the United States treats China as an adversary, it will become one” (Wang 288). On the flip side of that, if the United States treats China as a friend, it will likely act like one (Wang 288). The growth as well as future actions of China depends on how it is treated and what its national interests will develop into. War is costly in terms of lives as well as monetarily. Neither nations want this and with a steady, honest relationship these two nations will be able to cooperate and both reap the benefits.

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