

# US-China Strategic Dilemma – Too Much War or Too Much Peace – The Ideal Way Forward

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The present world is a bi-polar world with US as the superpower and China as the main rival. China has made great strides in military power, Science and technology, space applications, agriculture, International Trade, Services, Manufacturing, etc. It is closely following the US and has given a stiff competition to the global superpower. As both countries happen to be very powerful, both economically and militarily, with none of the two willing to sub-serve the other, the battle for supremacy between the two is bound to hot up in the near future. So, how should the two countries DEAL with each other? Should there be coercion by military, economic and diplomatic means or cooperation through effective bargaining, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs and mutually shared responsibility?

The US considers itself to be the Watchdog of the world and wants to maintain its supremacy for all times to come. The US would not like itself to be seen as subordinate to China in the times to come. The Chinese, on the other hand, see their country as the Global Superpower two decades from now and want to dominate the world in every sphere. That is where the two countries seem headed for a deadly clash. There are many examples to amplify the point: 1. The U.S. has been repeatedly interfering in China's internal affairs like Tibet, Hong Kong, Taiwan, etc. 2. The two countries have divergent points of view regarding Indo-Pacific and the South China Sea 3. Trade war between China and U.S. has created tensions between the two rivals 4. Uncertain Strategic Weapons Doctrine of the two countries which risks a nuclear war between the two and possibly even a World War 5 Lack of faith in each other's sincerity and mutual suspicions about each other's intentions 6. Lack of consensus on issues of global importance like Nuclear Non-Proliferation, Terrorism, Climate Change, United Nations Reform, Kashmir, North Korea, Iran, etc. Therefore, it is very vital critical that the two superpowers cooperate and coordinate with each other on issues which are

mutually beneficial while avoiding confrontation on those which divide the two countries.

As a first step, the two countries should seriously consider setting up a permanent hotline at the level of President for both bilateral as well as non-bilateral civilian and military purposes. This hotline will reassure peace between the two Nuclear-Powered states and prevent any unanticipated military encounter between the two sides. It will also enable the two states to coordinate their efforts in case there is some unforeseen human emergency, e.g., situation of war between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the gruesome Pulwama Attack on Valentines' Day, Covid 19 global crisis, Nepal Earthquake, Syria, Libya, Rohingya crisis, Azerbaijan-Armenia, etc. This step will pave the way for long-term cooperation between the two sides in areas such as, but not limited to, trade, space, biotechnology, digital currency, Artificial Intelligence, Ocean Mining, Healthcare, Robotics, Quantum Computing, Public Policy, Counter-Terrorism, Global Economic Governance, Control over Internet and Disaster Management. A second step towards shared prosperity can be free movement of students, scholars and intellectuals between the two countries. Increased cooperation in education and greater exchange of ideas will enhance public relations between the two nations and strengthen the socio-politico-economic bond between the two peoples. Collaboration through pen and paper will promote a culture of tolerance for diverse viewpoints in both the countries and take them to greater heights of glory.

The third step towards a sound future is cooperation in reforming the UN. China may be looking for a Permanent Seat for Pakistan or Iran in the UN Security Council under the quota for Muslim World. On the other hand, the US will be very keen to have its long-term ally and strategic partner Saudi Arabia as the permanent member of the UNSC. AS the Muslim world deserves two permanent seats in the SC, both US and China can have one seat each or there can be negotiations between the two on the matter. For example, if China gives up its claim for a seat for Pakistan, it can be given access to the African continent through Iraq and Jordan under the Belt and Road Initiative. China, on its part, will have to support Turkey, Egypt, Nigeria or Malaysia for a Permanent Seat in the

UNSC. Now, if the U.S. gives up its demand to have Saudi Arabia as a permanent member, then China will have to support a Veto Power for India and Brazil in the UNSC. As a bonus, China can be allowed to have three permanent members of its choosing in the UNSC. There can be bargaining on a number of other issues like Kashmir, Palestine, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, etc. Terrorism is also an issue which requires consensus between the two sides. Other issues where bargaining can take place are the Rules Based World Order, Sea Lanes of Communication, control over South China Sea, voting rights for new permanent members of the UNSC, North Korea, Iran, Hong Kong, Tibet, new additions to the official languages of the UN, new organs of the UN, reformation and reorganization of current organs, New International Economic Order, New Global Culture, New Global Language, Control over Natural Resources including Sea Bed Resources, control over Internet and Airspace, control over International Institutions(like IOC, ICJ, ILO, etc.), Global Military Deployment, etc.

There are many possible equations in the present scenario: 1. The US can retain control over the internet while China will rule the U.N. or vice-versa. The two countries can also divide the world into spheres of influence. 2. English will continue to be the de-facto global language while Chinese currency will be the Standard Global Currency and Chinese food will emerge as the Royal Delicacy across the world. China can consider a balanced trade pact with the U.S. in return for a pledge of non-interference in China's internal affairs by the United States. 3. China can maintain her Air Bases bases across the world while the U.S. can keep its Submarines in all regions of the world. Both the countries can keep their Territorial Army in different zones of the world. 4. Chinese monks will get freedom to preach their religion across the world while China will also have to allow Christian Missionaries to preach Christianity in every nook and corner of China. 5. If China convinces Pakistan to allow India access to Afghanistan through its territory, then the US can offer a direct route to Africa to the Chinese through Ladakh, Kashmir, Pakistan, Afghanistan, etc. or can nudge the Indians to become part of the RCEP or BRI. If China convinces Pakistan to undertake land reforms in the country, the US can also prevail upon India to give up its offensive activities in Baluchistan and FATA. The US can also offer a Permanent Seat to Pakistan, as

desired by China, in the UNSC if China convinces it to recognize Israel as a state and allow pilgrims from India to visit Sharda Peeth in PoK. 6. Iran, which is now a strategic ally of China, can have sanctions on it lifted if China gives some concessions to the West in terms of trade, security or investment. 7. The US can tacitly allow Iran to develop, test and possess a Nuclear Weapon if China helps the US to diffuse tensions with North Korea and between North Korea and South Korea. 8. China must take care of US' concerns vis-à-vis Freedom of Speech and Expression while the US must allow Chinese Merchant ships to navigate freely in Global Waters under a Global White-Shipping Agreement. 9. The US will ask the FATF to remove Pakistan from its Grey List if China helps in resolving the Afghan crisis. In addition, China can be allowed to build bases in Afghanistan and Iraq if it gives a guarantee not to attack India at any time in future unless there are compelling reasons. 10. The West can give China access to most modern and sophisticated military and civilian technology if China considers reforming its governance structure and ensures fundamental freedoms to her citizens and those of other countries. 11. China should consider not having any bases near the US coast. In return, the US may also disband all its bases near China.

In the long-term, the two states can consider an agreement not to attack each other unilaterally. It can take the form of a treaty (like SALT or START) or a written agreement not to use Nuclear Weapons first. In order to prevent a Nuclear Disaster, the two states can also establish a hotline at the level of President. The two countries can also enter into an agreement not to resort to Chemical or Biological warfare against each other for we have seen the consequences of Corona Crisis( how it can devastate economies, cripple supply chains and create mayhem). If China agrees to join the Wasenaar Arrangement, Australia Group and Missile Technology Control Regime, it can be given the exclusive right of navigation in South China Sea, East China Sea and more or less in the Indo-Pacific Region.

There are other potential areas of cooperation between the two sides. If the Chinese convince Pakistan to change its First Use Nuclear Weapons Policy against India, then the US can also ask India to consider giving some concessions to Pakistan on Kashmir which may be Joint Control, Plebescite, Demilitarisation or

the Irish Model. But Pakistan will have to stop exporting terror in that case. India will also have to return the MFN status to Pakistan under such a DEAL, resume cricketing ties and allow free movement of men, money and material between the two countries. India will also have to enhance its trade with Pakistan to unprecedented levels and allow free cross-border movement of students, scholars, pilgrims and tourists. The two countries can also explore the possibility of turning the two sides of divided Kashmir into a Tourist Hotspot of Global Repute where travellers from across the world can roam, relax and sooth their soul. China can also invest in the Hydropower and Tourism sectors in Greater Kashmir. It will give it strategic leverage in South Asia and create employment for the wretched Kashmiri people. China can later consider building bases in the Greater Kashmir Region which will make it the de-facto Global Superpower.

The two states, China and US, can also enter into a tacit agreement not to attack each other's satellites and other space-based objects subject to overriding considerations of national security and integrity. Apart from that, the two can also agree not to target each other's assets (human, economic, military and cultural) through overt and covert means. The two rivals should also undertake not to attack each other's civilian areas and assets in times of war or external aggression. The two nations must also undertake not to attempt to unilaterally alter the Rules Based World Order and Global Balance of Power. The United States must also respect China's right to defend its national sovereignty and integrity through the Policy of Minimal Deterrence Capability. China, on its part, must ensure that the U.S. does not fall victim to Chinese hegemony or China's thirst for power. The United States of America, in turn, has to ensure that China gets its due share in shaping the New Global Order. Both countries need to downscale their respective defence budgets to prevent the excessive militarization of the planet and in the supreme humanitarian interest of Global Peace and Security. The two powers should also take steps to de-escalate the Cold War situation between them which has been existing for some years now. As a first step in this direction, the two nation-states should consider limiting the number of their respective Nuclear Warheads. In the medium to long term, the number of warheads can be brought down.

The two countries can also cooperate in the areas of Agricultural Research and Extension. The two states should learn from each other's experience and undertake joint research projects in New Plant Varieties, Genetic Engineering, Food Security, Pest Management, Organic Farming, Zero Till Agriculture, Drip Irrigation, Green Agriculture, Horticulture, Sustainable Development, etc. Another potential area of cooperation is education. China should allow US-based universities like Harvard and Stanford to set up its campuses in the country like India has done. Similarly, Chinese universities should also set up their campuses in the USA to promote blending of Eastern and Western learning and syncretism of Chinese and Western values and ideologies. Both countries should increase the number of scholarships offered annually to students of the other. Collaborative Research Projects in areas such as Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Block-Chain Technology, Economics, E-Governance, Public Policy, Space Science, Health Science, Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Geology and Mining, Remote Sensing, Nuclear Medicine, etc. should be undertaken by universities from the two countries. The two Global Powerhouses should also cooperate and coordinate their efforts in the area of Nuclear Power Generation. As the global demand for energy is expected to rise substantially in the coming decades, sharing of expertise and best practices in Nuclear Power Generation will help to bridge the gap between total production of electricity and projected demand for it in the decades to come. The two nations should also cooperate in the area of Pharmaceuticals. Joint efforts should be made to find possible cure for diseases such as cancer, AIDS, Hepatitis C, Schizophrenia, Heart Attack, Diabetes, etc. In order to promote friendly relations between the two countries and to set an example for the world at large, bilateral sports events between sportsmen of the two countries should take place regularly on a large scale. The two sporting powers should take cue from Australia-England and India-Pakistan cricket series. The two great allies must also cooperate in mapping and exploration of minerals, Disaster Management, Global Poverty Elimination, Administrative Reforms, Intelligence Sharing, Cyber Security, Global Human Rights, Eradicating Illiteracy, Climate Change, Water Security, Eradication of Global Malnutrition and Hunger.

More than that, the two Powerhouses should also cooperate in the areas of prevention of Global Drug and Sex Trafficking, Illegal Arms Trade, Sea-Based Piracy, Loss of Biodiversity, Desertification and Religious Bigotry. The two friends would also do good to cooperate in Job Creation, IPR Protection, Regulation of Trade in Dual Use Goods, Prevention of Bio-Piracy, etc. Film Industry is also an area where not only the two partners but the whole world stands to gain from their cooperation. Joint production of movies by filmstars of the two countries will cater to the eclectic needs of Global Audience with a Global Outlook. Last, but not the least, the two countries would stand to benefit immensely if they take steps to strengthen and ratify the International Convention on Torture. The two countries must also propose a Global Treaty to put a ban on Innocent Killings by Overt and Covert State Institutions To Prevent Wanton Death and Destruction in the World. The two countries should also take the lead in strengthening the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by adding more rights to it and making it strongly binding upon all countries. They ought to strengthen the UNHRC to make it worth its name and beyond manipulation which otherwise is useless. The two countries must also take the lead in establishing a legally binding Global Convention on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children and on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Women for Commercial Gain Against Their Will. The China-U.S. duo are under a moral obligation to propose the following binding global Conventions for the supreme benefit of the human race:

1. Convention on Prevention of International and Intra-national Sex Trafficking and Sexual Violence
2. Convention on the Eradication of Global Poverty and Hunger
3. Convention on the Eradication of Global Starvation Deaths
4. Convention on the Eradication of Global Joblessness
5. Convention on the Free and Compulsory Education of Every Global Child
6. Convention on Non-Manipulated, Free and Open Internet(Through Global Consensus and Global Control)
7. Convention on Eradication of Racism and Other Socially-Harmful Practices
8. Convention on Abolition of Religious Intolerance and Religious Fundamentalism and Extremism

9. Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism(both International and Intra-national) in all its Forms and Manifestations
10. Convention on Delinking Terrorism from Religion
11. Convention on the Suppression of Global Supply of Illegal Drugs and Narcotic Substances
12. Convention on World- Wide Land Reforms(on the basis of globally agreed terms and conditions)
13. Convention on the Eradication of Slavery and Slave Trade
14. Convention on Universal Basic Income
15. Convention on Elimination of Corruption and Corrupt Practices
16. Convention on the Global Elimination of Restrictive Trade Practices and Anti-Competitive Business and Trade Measures
17. Convention on the Universal Right to Health( Ayushman Bharat in India being an example)
18. Convention on Guaranteed Essential Services, e.g., Electricity, Natural Gas, Macdamised Roads,Clean Drinking Water, Banking services, etc.
19. Convention on the Universal Right to Healthy Environment
20. Convention on the Universal Right to Marry the Person of One's Choice
21. Convention on the Universal Right to Privacy
22. Convention on the Political, Social and Economic Empowerment of Women
23. Convention on Free Cross-Border Movement of Labour, Capital and Wealth
24. Convention on Eradication of Malnutrition and Stunting Globally
25. Convention on the Universal Right to Food, Shelter and Clothes
26. Convention on Prevention of Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing(Rohingya Muslims being an example)
27. Convention on Joint Global Response to Natural and Man-Made disasters
28. Convention on Universal Respect for all Religions and People of All Religious Denominations
29. Convention on Non-Discrimination in Employment on the basis of Caste, Creed, Colour, Race, Religion or Region
30. Convention on Universal Respect for People of all Races and Ethnicities
31. Convention on SOPs for Overt and Covert State Institutions
32. Convention on Free Movement of Tourists Across Borders

33. Convention on Abolition of Forced Dowry, Dowry Deaths, Bride-Burning, Domestic Violence and Big Fat Weddings
34. Convention on International Cooperation in setting up transnational universities, colleges and schools and research institutions(like United Nations University, SAARC University and United Nations Colleges)
35. Convention on Animal Rights including birds(Terrestrial, Aquatic and Aerial)
36. Convention on Food Safety Standards and Abolition of Adulterated Foods
37. Convention on the Sustainable Use of Nature and Natural Resources
38. Convention on Peaceful Uses of Cross-Border Water Resources
39. Convention Personal Hygiene and Clean Surroundings (Swacch Bharat Abhiyan of Government of India being an example)/ Convention on Cleanliness in Public and Private Spaces
40. Convention on Non-Governmental Organisations and Ownerless Property
41. Convention of Ban on Killings by Covert Institutions to Achieve Policy Objectives (Let all countries change their policy on national security to avoid killings through joint comprehensive consensus)
42. Convention on Abolition of Abortion and Pre-Natal Sex Determination (it creates imbalance in sex ratio and is a morally wicked practice)

The two Economic Giants should also cooperate by:

Setting up a Global Organisation on the pattern of Scouts and Guides with Universal Representation

Setting up Global Universities offering free Co-Ed education on the pattern of United World Colleges with 4 to 5 in every continent

Making education in United World Colleges free for students who are from disadvantaged groups

Setting up International Schools of Eminence offering free education with representation from across the world (40 to 50 in total across all continents)

Proposing up an International Disaster Response Force under the auspices of the UN

Proposing to set up a UN Army to intervene in Armed Conflicts across the World with its strength of jawans drawn from all major countries and

reflecting the standards which army men are sworn to uphold across the world (to prevent what happened in Syria and Libya)

Proposing a UN Commission to Review Rape Laws in Every Country to make them more stringent

Establishing National and Global Programs like Ship for World Youth whereby youth from different countries can explore the world, for example,

Setting up a tour program for Global Youth from China to Europe through the China to Europe train with stopover in every country on the way to help them embrace and celebrate the cultural diversity of various countries (with 10 students from every country of the world – 5 boys and 5 girls)

Holding a World Tour for Youth every year under the auspices of US-China Cooperation

Setting up a Global Stock Exchange in China

Setting up a Global Nuclear Power Research Institute to conduct research in Nuclear Power Technology

Setting up Global Research Institutes in areas of AI, Agriculture, Plant Sciences, Genetic Engineering, Veterinary Sciences, Theology, Peace and Conflict Studies, International Relations and Diplomacy, Engineering, Architecture, Medical Science, Accountancy, Aerospace, Railways and Motor Vehicles, Comparative Law, Public Policy, Shipping, etc.

Setting up jointly funded not-for-profit hospitals offering free healthcare for all diseases in every country of the world (Imran Khan's hospital for Cancer Treatment in Pakistan being an example)

Setting Up a UN Commission to Review the Working of Constitution of Every Country

Setting up a joint US-China Global Scholarship Program and propose a similar program under the auspices of the UN

War between the two superpowers is not an option when both the countries have Nuclear Bombs enough to devastate the world and finish the human race for all times to come. War will only bring untold miseries to people of both the countries and may even turn into a World War which will result into absolute death and destruction. Even a conventional war will cause immense death and

destruction on both sides and Economic Regression of a very high scale. War between the two will also result into collapse of the Global Order which will lead to chaos and confusion in the world. Confrontation between the two will also create more theatres of conflict in the world which will breed more hatred and therefore more acrimony between the two. Conflict between the two will also lead to de-globalisation which will ultimately result into lack of incentive to modernize, thereby killing human ingenuity. Trade wars over IPR and marketshare will severely reduce the ability to compete with rival producers in the long term. Trade Wars resulting from protectionist measures like Quotas and Tariffs will decrease the range of choices available to consumers in a country thereby reducing the quality of life of citizens there. War through modern-age technologies such as SuperComputers, Waves, Social Networks, Laser Guns, etc. will lead to loss of human lives on both sides. Diplomatic war will also increase tensions between the two sides and do more harm than good. War between the two states (whether overt or covert) indicates lack of Statesmanship among leaders of the two countries. War should be used as as the option of last resort under extra-ordinary compulsive circumstances, in retaliation but not in anticipation. Invitation to war by one side and acceptance of the offer by the other will mean that forces inimical to one or both the sides have prevailed over saner voices in both the states which amounts to darkness prevailing over light.

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