

# THE SINO-AMERICAN RIVALRY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR AUSTRALASIA

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- I. US VIEWS OF CHINA 1776-1911
  - A. Trade: THE "Open Door" policy and the Delano family
  - B. The Missionary Impulse
    - 1. Peter Parker
    - 2. Baptists
  - C. Chinese excluded from immigrating to the US in 1888
  - D. US participates in the International force to suppress the Boxer Rebellion (1900)
- II. THE US-JAPANESE CONFLICT OVER CHINA 1914-1945
  - A. Flying Tigers as volunteers before start of World War II
  - B. US policy during the war
  - C. US policy and the Chinese Nationalist-Chinese Communist conflict
- III. THE IMPACT OF THE KOREAN WAR 1950-53
  - A. Chinese Communists capture Beijing in 1949 and take power in China
  - B. Initial US expectation was that Mao Tse-Tung would be an independent Communist leader like Josef Tito in Yugoslavia
  - C. When North Korea invaded South Korea and China later sent "volunteers" to aid North Korea, China is perceived as part of the Sino-Soviet Bloc threatening the US
  - D. US vows to protect Taiwan and sends aid to the Chinese Nationalists there
  - E. US puts a total trade embargo on China and has no diplomatic relations with it
- IV. POLICIES OF EISENHOWER AND DULLES (Secretary of State) (1953-1961)
  - A. Increase in aid to Taiwan
  - B. Dienbienphu and the French defeat in Vietnam in 1954, followed by the Geneva Conference that divides French Indo-China into four parts (North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia)
  - C. The offshore islands crises of 1954 and 1958

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V. POLICIES OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND LYNDON JOHNSON

- A. Beginnings of the Sino-Soviet Conflict
- B. Intervention in South Vietnam, in large part to contain China

VI. REVERSAL OF POLICY UNDER NIXON, KISSINGER AND FORD (1969-77)

- A. China seen as a potential ally after the Sino-Soviet border clashes in 1969, and a potential mediator in Vietnam war
- B. US lifts trade embargo
- C. Sale of "dual-use" equipment such as high-speed computers
- D. Rejection of Soviet calls for a preventive strike against Chinese nuclear weapons

VII. THE CHINA POLICY OF CARTER (1977-1981) , REAGAN (1981-99) AND BUSH SR.(1989-93)

- A. Carter's initial unwillingness to sell arms to China lest the USSR be antagonized was reversed by Soviet aggressiveness in Africa and its invasion of Afghanistan. The US sold over-the-horizon radar to China as well as other equipment.
- B. Formal diplomatic ties were established in 1979 but the US Congress followed with the Taiwan Relations Act which committed the US to provide Taiwan with the arms it needed to protect itself from a Chinese attack
- C. Under Reagan there was talk about greater military cooperation, but nothing was consummated
- D. Under George H. W. Bush the Tiananmen Square massacre chilled relations and the policies of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev removed the USSR as a threat

VIII. BILL CLINTON, GEORGE W. BUSH AND BARACK OBAMA-THE SEARCH FOR A NEW POLICY

- A. Engagement—the hope that China, through increased trade and membership in international organizations such as the WTO would moderate its policies
- B. Containment—the expectation that China would be a formidable competitor in Asia, if not a rival (1996 crisis over Taiwan)
- C. Barack Obama tried both policies simultaneously—the US "tilt to Asia" with its naval build-up and cooperation with China over climate issues, even as China began to build up military positions on reefs in the South China Sea

IX. DONALD TRUMP AND THE CHALLENGE OF CHINA

- A. Negative comments about China during the election campaign such as "currency manipulator" and "unfair trader" [China's trade surplus with the US in 2016 was \$347 billion]
- B. Positive meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jin-Ping in Florida in April 2017
- C. Central issues in Sino-US negotiations : (1) North Korea (2) Trade (3) Freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and (4) Taiwan