American Vision and Chinese Mission

Will President Xi’s New Silk Road Create a “Pacific” New World Order?

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NB: The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are of the author and do not represent the policies of his affiliated institutions or the U.S. Government.
The American “Empire of Liberty”
“Hamiltonian Means to Jeffersonian Ends”

The U.S. Constitution
“To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.”
The “Experiment” of the United States
The American “Experience” of the Pilgrims and Colonists
Chinese Culture and Confucian Governance

On *Culture*:

“Chinese are regarded as an ancient and highly civilized nation.”

On *Confucius*:

“What Confucius proposed to the princes:” moral governance “according to this [Confucian] model” for a “happy and flourishing empire” in America.

~Dr. Benjamin Franklin, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 1737
Philadelphia and Peking (Beijing)
The 40th Degree N. Latitude

“This country may be improved beyond” what “might have been expected” if we could be “so fortunate as to introduce the industry of the Chinese, their arts of living and improvements in husbandry, as well as their native plants, America might in time become as populous as China, which is allow to contain more inhabitants than any other country, of the same extent, in the world.”

~Charles Thomson
Secretary “Prime Minister” of the Continental Congress
Chinese Manners and Morals

The Chinese were “a people of mild manners and of good morals.”

~Thomas Paine, Author of Common Sense, 1776
“Past is Prologue”

Searching for Inspiration:

“America would in time come to possess much likeness in the wealth of its industries to China.”

~Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Circa 1771
The U.S. wanted “the most direct and practicable water communication across this continent, for the purposes of commerce” with China.

~President Thomas Jefferson
The Westward Journey

“Go West, Young Man, and grow up with the country” Horace Greeley, 1865
The Pacific “Railroad” Civilization

Union Pacific Railroad

American symbol

Northern Pacific Railroad

Chinese symbol
The One Belt, One Road Initiative (BRI)

- The Silk Road Economic Belt – “The Belt”
- The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road – “The Road”
“The Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation”
President Xi Jinping

Western Han Dynasty, 206 BC-24 AD
Admiral Zheng He’s Seven Voyages

“WESTERN OCEAN”

Ming Dynasty, 1371–1433
Reviving the “Celestial Empire”
“Monks” and “Merchants” in the Middle Kingdom

“Journey to the West”
Zheng He’s “Western Ocean”

“Trade for Peace”
Revival of the Silk Road
History Matters . . . to “Make China Great Again”
To “Make America Great Again”

“I love [China] . . . their leaders are much smarter than our leaders.”

Donald Trump, July 5, 2015
Foreign Policy on “Shared Interests” with China

“We desire to live peacefully and in friendship with Russia and China. We have serious differences with these two nations, and must regard them with open eyes, but we are not bound to be adversaries. We should seek common ground based on shared interests.”

~Donald Trump, April 27, 2016
The Founding Vision and “Commercial” Interests

“Commerce with all nations, alliance with none, should be our motto. Money, not morality, is the principle commerce of civilized nations. Peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations; entangling alliances with none.”

~Thomas Jefferson, March 12, 1799
Non-interventionist Foreign Policy

[The United States] “goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own.”

~President John Quincy Adams, July 4, 1821
Championing “America First”

The US should abandon the “dangerous idea that we could make Western democracies out of countries that had no experience or interest in becoming a Western democracy.”

~Donald Trump, April 27, 2016
Policy on “Non-interference”

“How the feet know if the shoes Fit.”

~ President Xi Jinping
March 25, 2013

Will President Trump’s America be Compatible with China?
Founding Wisdom and Pragmatism?

Trump is using the “Hamiltonian vision”—like Deng Xiaoping did—for a better Sino-American relationship.

- Twitting on China as a “currency manipulator” and the builder of “a massive military complex” in SCS
- Challenger to U.S. companies to “compete” in China
- Imposing “tariff” on Chinese imports
- Phone calls with the presidents of Taiwan and Pakistan
Friends in “Trade” and Commerce

Gov. Branstad is a “old friend.”
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beijing

President Xi is a “longtime friend.”
Gov. Terry Branstad, U.S. Ambassador to China

“One of the most important relationships we must improve—and we have to improve—is our relationship with China.”

~President-elect Trump, Dec 8, 2016
Bilateral Approach; Not Isolationism

- Precedence over national interests and state sovereignty
- Respect for diversity among nations
- Recognition of cultural integrity and traditions

- Not enforcing uniform trade rules
- Less recognition of multilateral institutions
- Primacy of bilateral arrangements and treaties
Will President Trump “Make China Great Again”? 

China and U.S. must get it right; otherwise trade wars, geopolitical hostilities, and even military conflicts ensue…
Thank You

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