

Comment by Michael C H Jones

It is always unwise to come out of the blocks too quickly on political matters. Nailing one's colours to the mast extraordinarily early is a recipe for looking extremely foolish sometimes in the very near term. However backing your judgement takes decades to perfect along with the "balls" to do it - Sarah Palin or no Sarah Palin.

In my view the early campaigning for the Republican Nomination for the US Presidential Election in November 2012 has already become a two-horse race between front-runner former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and the about to nominate dark-horse, former Utah Governor Jon Huntsman. Both are liberal republicans and favour "civility" in their politics.

A key factor is going to be China expertise where Huntsman has the decided edge as Democratic President Obama's recently retired Ambassador to China. He is possibly the only candidate on the Republican side with real Foreign Policy experience. Given the likely continuing economic Rise of China and it's assertion of both a sphere of influence, a Monroe Doctrine of the Western Pacific, and the right to protect its strategic resources supply routes across the seas of Indauspac, flash-points are inevitable not only with ASEAN countries, Japan and the Koreas, but also in West Asia particularly concerning Iran and Israel and the current social revolutions of the Arab Spring.

As the Communist Party moves towards the PRC's change of leadership in late 2012 the full range of policy issues will become a little more transparent in China - international and domestic. Only Obama and Huntsman are intellectually equipped to give a substantive US response.

Huntsman could be a good Vice Presidential candidate if he cannot galvanise sufficient Republican Party support for the Presidential nomination.

References:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitt_Romney

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon_Huntsman,_Jr.