

Comment by Michael C H Jones
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If ever there is an article that validates what ACCCI has been on about over the last decade, and certainly since 2008 with the Return of China to world leadership, it is this one on US/Japan military technology cooperation - GERG re Global Economic Relations and Governance. The restructuring of domestic economic fundamentals to the imperatives of Regional and International military-industrial alliances. The Australia-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry re Commerce and Industry has been globalised, certainly for the Great Powers of the second rank like Japan and Australia.

As the US Obama Presidency transforms global economic relations with its simultaneous Trade Pacts across both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, a maritime challenge/response to the PRC/Russian cooperation in the Eurasian continental SCO re Shanghai Cooperation Organisation; so also US military reach has been extended through various bilateral and multilateral agreements to both the borders of Russia in the Ukraine and China in the China Seas. The USA sphere of influence, militarily, remains unchallenged and it's overwhelming capacities to intrude into the affairs of other Regions encircling both China and Russia redoubled. The Military-Industrial-Complex has been revived - it's a new arms race for big big business.

Now there are a lot of "ifs" in history - too many to contemplate here. But one thing is certain, military options are an adjunct to political/diplomatic thinking. and military capabilities are dependent on industrial/technology innovation and commercialisation with government guidance, certainly in western private enterprise countries.

The Geo-political, Military-industrial, Scio-cultural etc must be viewed from a number of time-frames - short, medium and long. ACCCI has arbitrarily envisaged three benchmarks - short-term 2022 which is the 500th anniversary of globalism re the first completed circumnavigation of the world. Medium-term the 100th anniversary in 2049 of the founding of the Peoples Republic of China. And long-term in 2101 the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth of Australia. Events and Alliances in 2015 ought to be assessed in these time-frames.

The USA, the "exceptional country" with a Manifest Destiny to go West into the frontiers, and a Monroe Doctrine to "protect" all the Americas from foreign powers, and since WW2 to spread the enlightenment of freedom and liberty to all the peoples of the world, as long as they accept the American philosophy of private enterprise, free trade, and cultural "decadence". Those Nazis, Emperor worshipers, Soviets and the rest were put in their place, although a few got away like the Chinese, North Koreans, Vietnamese etc. The muslims have always been a problem - and the anchors to US led security in Israel, Turkey and Egypt in the West, and "undecided" India in the East are for different reasons politically shakey to say the least. Bloody Iran - the US had a great government there until President Jimmy Carter allegedly blew it? However the Saudis remain solid as a peace loving, tolerant and democratic ally!!

Unfortunately the Chinese, Russians and arguably most of humanity disagree. Australian PM Tony Abbott is onside with the Anglo-sphere but when you have friends like that - well? Great Powers have an overwhelming industrial and technological base domestically. The US is likely to remain the predominant military-industrial global power well into the mid and possibly late 21st century - I have written and spoken that for years. However at the margins it will have to adjust - a nice diplomatic word for give up - some military and political control. This means Ukraine and the Baltic nations as neutral, non-aligned countries and similarly along much of Russia's borders, including a neutral re-unified Korea. Unless we talk of China - here there is a medium-long term possibility of real tension, particularly in East Asia. China demands "space" - what I talked about in last year's Observations - or its own Monroe Doctrine in the China Seas and possibly Seas Routes through ASEAN and to West Asia? Chinese Taipei/Taiwan will at least long term, and perhaps by 2049, be re-united with the mainland, hopefully peacefully but a million dead in a PLA invasion is not historically unthinkable.

To break the US encirclement China requires a number of short/medium/long term strategies with varying tactics that recognise the contradictions of diplomatic policy so well understood by the CPC. To the East the USA re Taiwan, to the South ASEAN, to the North Japan, Continental Asia Russia, and in the Indian Ocean definitely India and perhaps Australia. Bottom line is that China will secure its borders independent of any thinking, alliances and actions of the USA.

So to Japan as the Northern arm of the USA in the Pacific/East Asia, in conjunct with Australia as the Southern arm of the Pacific/ASEAN, and more recently the most likely base for the East Indian Ocean naval strategies of the US. Indonesia remains a unsolvable challenge for America short/medium term, and Singapore is totally unviable as a military option.

Chamber will track with intense interest the machinations of present and future US-Japan governments in not only their military alliances but the linking, indeed integration, of their industrial and technological capacities, especially those private Multi-National Companies. Japanese submarines for Australia? ACCCI is ready as we have enormous expertise in PPP re Public Private Partnership negotiations and management.