

How far is China behind the West?

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Some excellent answers here, but the majority are written by people who live outside of China, and are making judgments based on pre-COVID impressions. So many of the written up answers reflect a *dated* impression.

Those of us inside of China have a saying "China changes every six months, any impressions that you have that is older than that window is obsolete".

The pure and real fact is that China has made some amazing changes since Covid hit, and the government, the people, the institutions and the society has adapted in ways that are astounding. Simply astounding.

In the last three years, China has "leap-frogged" many of the Western institutions. China is at a gallop. The various platforms; industry, technology, military, social, education are all *renewed*.

I will answer this question on some points contemporaneous with late Summer 2023. As this is approximately six months after the reopening of China post-Covid, and based upon the "shake down" of industry, education, society, and technology that took place during the three year Covid lock-downs. To ignore those shake-downs is misleading and dangerous.

The shake downs have been stunning in scope and fundamental in the NEW China that exists today.

Yes. Make no mistake.

The China of 2020 is an OLD China. While the China of today, late 2023, is a "NEW" China.

So let's talk about some of the changes, and the under-reported drivers of this change... relate to the standing-still "bench-mark" of the United States; the undisputed self-proclaimed "leader" of "the world".

The USA; seemingly “frozen in time” with 1960-era global standings, while ignoring the progressive changes that wrecked havoc throughout society since the early 1990’s. Indeed, the United States of today is not recognizable compared to that of 1990. Things change. China has changed, and so has the United States.

How big is the gap?

Is China still “catching up” to the United States” standard?

EDUCATION

During the Covid lock-down, China made some very draconian laws regarding education. This was brought about due to misuse of the for-profit education, poorly vetted international teachers, an over-reliance on rote memorization, and a failure to institute fair and level educational standards.

China “cleaned up its act”, and “upped its game”.

Education is now fair and affordable for everyone. The “edge” that the wealthy used to have by hiring expensive tutors, and attending special school programs is over. A more holistic and balanced approach is now the norm. With elements of Northern European “rounded” and “grounded” educational systems employed alongside that of the more traditional rote memorization of Chinese characters and history.

Further, rules are in place to severely limit social media and video game access to school-age children. This is also coupled with the decision to provide military training in schools starting in first grade and continuing through to High School graduation. This training instills discipline, teamwork, basic military protocols and behavior along with the standard weapon, fighting, and squad level training that you associate with the military.

China still maintains a merit driven education system, and there are no exceptions. You either know the content, and can use it, train with it, apply it, or you cannot. There are no prizes for second best. And thus competition for grades is very hot throughout school, but the new rules have included the more European “soft” approach to education less stressful to the Chinese student.

When you compare the baseline NEW Chinese educational system to the Progressive American public school system, the difference is astounding.

In the United States you have “diversity initiatives”, “gender reassignment to include forced medical changes”, for-profit diet plans, a de-emphasis on hard science (math, physics, biology) and an emphasis on social and cultural issues. It is a sad state that High School graduates no longer can read, tell time on a clock, and cannot point to a map of the world and locate where the United States is.

Conclusion, as far as education is concerned, China is “light years” above and beyond the best available public education in the United States. The gap is huge.

MILITARY

I have written in great depth on this particular issue. But today, well, I want to concentrate on what happened in regards the Chinese military during the Covid crisis.

The United States has a reputation of mythical "secret" wonder-weapons, an army of Rambos all supported by hundreds of military bases, global reach, a massive logistic capability, and a very enormous secret CIA and other alphabet presence. Couple this with a network of US Senators that are rabid in their hate and fury at China. The anger, hate and snarling is very pronounced and has frightened the Chinese leadership to their soul.

Make no mistake, a neocon led-Trump administration, followed by a neocon-led Biden administration has galvanized China and put it on a war footing.

Love him or hate him, Biden single-handedly brought Russia and China together. And today, they share all things military. And that is reflected in the rapid military technological developments during the Covid years. Two gigantic military behemoths working together in self-defense. The result over the last three years has been astounding.

Thus, today, China is at the very least peer-capable with the United States military, and actually above-peer in more than a few very important military elements.

TECHNOLOGY

The technology sanctions and suppression made by the United States are literal acts of war. China recognizes this fact.

For the last five years, China has been on a massive program of technological advancement. There are many aspects to this. From infrastructure, the construction of industrial complexes, a free-rolling open innovation system, advancement in technological development streamlining, and much much more. And all these efforts are paying off.

Generally, overall, from chemical, to AI, to integration to computers, China is ahead and more advanced in technology than the United States. The handful of remaining bastions of American (read: proxy nation) advantage are quickly eroding, and the United States government is in a complete panic. This has resulted in foolish decisions by both the Biden administration as the Congress.

In three to five years, China will dominate ALL technology, and be able to design, manufacture and implement quicker, cheaper, and better than anything the United States can.

MANUFACTURING

China is the undisputed leader in manufacturing. This is in cost, size, scope, logistics, personnel, and supply chain. What remains of manufacturing in the United States is trivial.

SOCIETY

China is the obvious leader, by far. Newcomers to China confirm that the West is so far behind that it is not even debatable.

Comments

Felix Su

I don't think the Chinese leadership is all that surprised by the US antagonism. They have known about this for decades.

They have been preparing for decades. This is why Chinese missiles of all type have much greater range than US missiles.

This was intentional. They studied the US Air Sea Battle and have been preparing to beat it completely.

Adrian Lacno

Yep. During the Jiang Zemin as president, he had military training at the China Taiwan Strait. Bush sent air craft carriers there. He receded. Since then China studied US military strategy. China noticed one thing, when US wanted to threaten a country militarily, 1st thing they would do was send their aircraft carriers. This is why China has been building satellite to track their navy. China in the past decade had been developing and stockpile their DF-31. US satellite spied on China's test the DF-31 missile test at Gobi Desert. US saw that China drew the size and shape that resemble one of US Gerald Ford carrier and saw the size of the explosion made by the DF-31. US nicknamed it "carrier killer". This is what US called it while China still calling it as Dong Fang 31. So now what China has their strategy. In any conflict, all China needs to do is use satellites to scout and seek where every US carriers are and have all their strategic planned DF-31 missiles lock in target. This is why past year after Pelosi visited Taiwan, China held military with lives round and US dared not to move their carriers any close to it. As we saw on news, US had to order all navy away from the exercise. Chinese are prepared. And they dont want to be bullied again as they still remembered their history.

Paul Denlinger

I'm convinced the Biden administration knows that China is already ahead, which leaves them with war as the only option.

Kevin Lam

Sounds like a replay of WW2, with US in the role of Imperial Japan, in some gamble to kneecap the competition before the opportunity is gone. Unfortunately, most high-risk, high-rewards gambles have not pan out well in the last 50 years.

An industrialized Japan cannot match up to the USA because of population and geography issues. Japan is a resource poor country and lacked manpower during WW2 which required them to draft many Korean or Taiwanese soldiers. An industrialized and modern China can match the USA in every industry and the sheer manpower and size of the country as well as its resources allows this to happen. Although China's demographic issue is of concern, USA also has the same demographic issue but is leveraging immigration to supplement the demographic crisis in the USA. This is changing the USA culturally and also leading it to more or less be taken over later once the elderly gentry of WASPs die off.

As telling as these videos are, I still see some people claiming these are "CCP Propaganda". I mean, how stupid can people get?

Further, rules are in place to severely limit social media and video game access to school-age children. This is also coupled with the decision to provide military training in schools starting in first grade and continuing through to High School graduation. This training instills discipline, teamwork, basic military protocols and behavior along with the standard weapon, fighting, and squad level training that you associate with the military.



Demo days are pretty common, but that is not what I am referring to. I am referring to the school curriculum. It is now para-military training with at least once a week roll call, at least in kindergarten. It's universal throughout China. My little girl is in Kindergarten. And she wears camo, does roll call, and knows how to march. When she goes to elementary school, this level of discipline will be built upon.

Looks pretty good for bunch of 1–3 graders. I would offer that you want to peel behind the shooters, not in front of them.