

Mitigating the Sociopolitical Tension Between China and the United States of America

Forum: General Assembly

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Introduction

The term sociopolitical tension is a fight between two different powers in the society or with foreign nations to gain control. Most of the sociopolitical tension between countries happens when two or more nations oppose each other and occurs when one wants to achieve a goal they have made.

In today's society, one of the biggest reasons causing sociopolitical tension between America and China is the distinct characteristics the two nations have in their government. In America, they had an aspect of capitalism where they focused more on increasing the private sector's stake. Moreover, America believes in a democracy which means that they think the country is governed by the people with free and frequent elections provided to the citizens both directly and indirectly. However, China has the opposite characteristic. In China, unlike America, they believe that all people should be equal. Moreover, the massive amount of censorship done by the government reduces the freedom of the citizens, which restricts citizens in China from having freedom of speech and expression in the country. Thus, the opposite values create higher conflict and tension between the two nations.

In addition to the contrasting characteristics, other conflicts create sociopolitical tension as well. These conflicts may include geological and economic issues occurring between the two nations that cause strict tension.

Background

The relationship between America and China worsened since the Korean war in 1950. The Korean war was against North Korea and South Korea as North Korea invaded South Korea's borders. When most of South Korea's region was about to be conquered due to the weak military force, General Douglas MacArthur led the American military across the 38th parallel and drove north towards China. Since China was fighting



Characteristic of American Government and Society



China and America placed at the top of the economy

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for North Korea and America was fighting for South Korea, tension sparked between the two countries.

After the Korean war the tension between the two countries became severe due to the increase in the economy. Starting from 1980, the economic ties increased, and different nations began to develop in the economy. Among those nations America and China were the nations that improved the economy the most. Due to the rapid development of the two countries, their relationship became one of the closest economic ties and hegemonic rivalry in the Asia-Pacific area. Moreover, this economic fight did not stop but continues until today. From 2010 to 2020, America and China were ranked back-to-back in GDP for ten years, which means they have the most impact on the world's economy. Consequently, both country's desire to develop has inevitably ignited a hegemony war toward the economy. Due to this tension between the two nations, people call this the second cold war, Cold War II, or the new Cold War to describe the heightened 21-century political tension between America and China.

Problem Raised

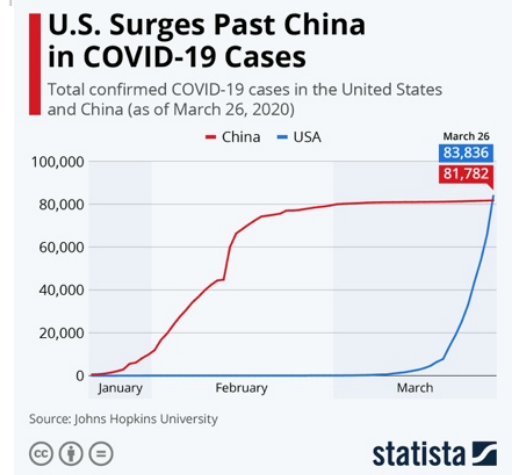
COVID-19

In 2019 November, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the tension between the two countries has exacerbated. This virus was first discovered in Wuhan, China, and spread worldwide, causing many deaths and health problems.

Today, America and China are the two strongest countries. They are also the countries fighting for the supremacy of the world. Thus, since the COVID-19 has become the most severe issue globally and there was no apparent solution relating to this crisis, the rivalry between America and China has risen higher.

The vaccine is one of the easiest ways to prevent the virus from spreading. However, because COVID-19 was a newly found disease, no vaccine was prepared beforehand to avoid the spread. For this reason, the two countries were racing to create a better vaccine that would help the people and provide them with greater wealth to their own countries. The two countries' races led to a political fight between the two courtiers. The U.S. authorities have stated that the Chinese hackers attempted to steal the COVID-19 data on treatments and vaccines.

People all around the world are suffering from the pandemic. Thus, because America and China have a high amount of infection, both countries are recruiting allies to attack the other regarding the guilt and responsibility for this situation. So, to avoid the blame, two countries are fighting on whether who is responsible for this situation, making the tension worse.



COVID-19 in America and China on March 26, 2020

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Trade

From 2010 to 2020, America and China were the two countries that actively traded the most with other countries. In 2018, China had 12.8 percent of sharing of global exports of goods, and while America had 8.5 percent. In other words, the trade market was skewed significantly to China.

Hence, to balance out the trade, the president of America, Donald Trump, started a trade war between America and China in 2018. Once the trade war was declared, twenty-five percent of the traffic was imposed on Chinese imports of around thirty-four billion dollars.

However, both countries have suffered from adverse effects of the trade war. Due to the economic fluctuation on both sides, other countries started to divert their trade flows away from America and China. Accordingly, the trade war did not balance out the trade market as expected.



Trade War between America and China

Places of High Concerns

South Korea

South Korea is in an ambiguous position between America and China. South Korea is an ally of the United States of America under the 1953 Mutual Defense Treaty. Since the Korean war, South Korea has gained many benefits and support from America; citizens in South Korea even viewed this positively. According to the Pew Research center, eighty-four percent of citizens in South Korea have a favorable view towards America and the people in America. However, though the relationship between America is good, South Korea also has a kinship with China. South Korea and China show a positive relationship in trading and economic areas. China is South Korea's largest trading partner, as China imports goods worth \$160 billion from South Korea in 2018, which is twenty-eight percent of the total export in South Korea in 2018. Thus, since America and China have sociopolitical tension, South Korea stays between the two countries and cannot support either side due to political and economic issues that South Korea might have to face.

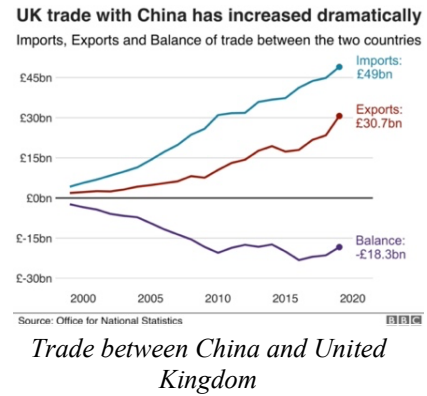


China, South Korea, United States of America

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is also in an ambiguous relationship between America and China. The U.K shows a very close relationship with America. Starting in 1940, America and U.K. became close military allies supporting each other as a member of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). Also, as they have fought together as an alliance in the Korean conflict, the Persian Gulf War, in Operation Iraqi Freedom, they have made a close relationship. Moreover, these two countries share

their thoughts on global issues and work together in solving the ongoing problems around the world. However, the U.K has a fellowship with China. China is playing a vital role in the development of the U.K in business areas and economic areas. Thereupon, U.K tries to maintain a positive relationship with China which creates an ambiguous relationship.



Possible Solutions

Though there were many conversations between the two nations, the tension between America and China is worsening. Moreover, though the two nations are aware that tension between them will harm their economy and political areas, and it is better to maintain peaceful relationships, the two nations still show sociopolitical tension. Thus, though we cannot force the two nations to take action, there are still some ways we can mitigate the conflict. These means include:

1. The two nations can create an international law that both countries agree with. The international laws might include both nations setting a rate towards the arms expansion and providing a negative effect when one nation goes over a certain percentage of a rate that they have agreed on not going over. Since most of the tensions happen due to the ambition, if there is a international law that controls that ambition, the rate of tension between the two countries will reduce.
2. Request nations in a neutral position such as Finland, Switzerland, and other nations that are in neutral position to form an organization to check the tension between the two countries. They send an annual report to the UN, analyzing political, military, and economic moves. If they find some actions that might create tension between the two nations, the organization can prevent the pressure by using the report they made.
3. Create a meeting every half year with the president of the two countries to solve the issues or complaints they have to each other so that the problem does not get severe but can be solved verbally.

Glossary

Capitalism: An economic system where private individuals or businesses own capital goods.

Democracy: Government by the people, both directly or indirectly, with free and frequent elections provided to the citizens.

Hegemony War: Hegemony War is triggered by changes in power distribution within the international system. The result could lead to new political, economic, social, or technical conditions or development, or even natural factors such as natural disasters that exceed human control.

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Supremacy: is when the state or country becomes superior to all other countries in power and authority.

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization): It is an international political and military organization providing security and freedom to its members through political and military means.



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