

Entwined Fates

The Evolution of Us-China Relations

By

AI and The Internet

Entwined Fates

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

This book is a unique collaborative effort between anonymous authors and ChatGPT, an advanced AI language model developed by OpenAI. The authors, hailing from diverse backgrounds and fields of expertise, have come together to create an ambitious and comprehensive exploration of the most profound questions of existence, intelligence, and the universe.

ChatGPT, based on the GPT-4 architecture, has been trained on a vast array of data from various sources, which enables it to generate content that synthesizes information across a wide range of disciplines. The AI language model has been instrumental in providing the foundation for this book, while the anonymous authors have meticulously curated and edited the content, ensuring its coherence, depth, and accuracy.

The unique partnership between human authors and artificial intelligence in creating this compendium reflects the intersection of technology and human ingenuity, resulting in a groundbreaking work that delves into the intricacies of our universe and embraces the vast unknown that lies ahead. The blending of human expertise and AI-generated content allows for a rich and multidisciplinary exploration of topics, resulting in a volume that stands as a testament to the collaborative potential of human and machine intelligence.

Author Name

AI, The Internet, and Anonymous

Entwined Fates

CHAPTER 1

I. INTRODUCTION

A. OVERVIEW OF US-CHINA RELATIONS

US-China relations can often be described as complex and ever-evolving. While the two superpowers have had a long history of competition and conflict, there have also been periods of cooperation and collaboration. It is essential to consider the various political, economic, and cultural factors that have shaped the relationship from its inception to the present day.

Recent events have further highlighted the importance of this dynamic relationship, with both countries increasingly taking a hard-line stance on various issues, from trade and technology to human rights and global governance. Moreover, there have been numerous reports in both the US and Chinese media about the implications of the relationship for the global economy, security, and environment. While these issues have attracted considerable attention, there is a lack of comprehensive understanding of the current dynamics between the two countries and how they are impacting the international community.

To bridge this gap in knowledge, this book provides a comprehensive overview of US-China relations, exploring the historical, political, and economic factors that have shaped this relationship, as well as the perspectives of both countries, and the current challenges and opportunities of improved relations. It examines the development of the

relationship from early encounters in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to the Nixon-Mao rapprochement, the “normalization” of relations in the 2000s, and the Trump era of trade wars and confrontation. Finally, it looks ahead to the implications of a Biden approach for increased competition and cooperation. Throughout this book, we draw on various sources, including analysis from newspapers, magazines, and news reports from both the US and China.

Throughout this book, we document the various ways in which US-China relations have evolved and the implications this has for the international community. We discuss the domestic political and economic factors that shape the relationship and how these factors have led to different outcomes, such as the Nixon-Mao rapprochement or the Trump era of trade wars. Additionally, we assess the implications of these developments for the international community, drawing on both US and Chinese media sources. We also discuss potential areas of cooperation, such as climate change and global trade, as well as areas of potential competition, such as military power and technological advancement. Ultimately, we provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of US-China relations and the implications of this relationship for global stability and progress.

The paradoxical relationship between the US and China has been characterized by both cooperation and confrontation. From the signing of the Shanghai Communiqué in 1972, to the US-China Joint Statement of 2015, the two powers have engaged in a series of dialogues and agreements, as well as coercive measures, to achieve their respective interests. For example, following the 2001

US-China dispute over Chinese fighter pilots intercepting US naval vessels in the South China Sea, the two states signed the US-China Joint Statement of 2015 that sought to establish rules of engagement, such as avoiding deliberate collisions, and to de-escalate tensions. However, in the years since, US-China relations have continued to be characterized by tension and competition in the economic, military, and technological spheres. The US-China trade war, for instance, which began in 2018 and continues today, has had major ramifications for both countries and the global economy. Similarly, the US-China technological competition has been marked by rapid advances in the development of artificial intelligence, big data, and 5G technology.

Finally, the tensions between the two countries have manifested in the naval and air forces of both countries. The US has increased its presence in the South and East China Seas, leading to more frequent clashes with the Chinese military. For example, in 2020, US and Chinese forces had several close encounters in areas around the Spratly Islands and in Taiwan, resulting in both nations accusing each other of reckless maneuvers. Meanwhile, the Chinese government has increased its military drills in the region, and has recently deployed military planes and ships near US military bases in the region.

At the same time, the US-China economic relationship has become increasingly intertwined, with China becoming the US's largest trading partner and a key source of critical goods and services. Chinese companies are also increasingly investing in US businesses, from tech startups to real estate and entertainment companies. However, the US has recently launched a series of trade

disputes with China, levying billions of dollars in tariffs and sanctions in an effort to reduce the US's growing trade deficit with China. In response, China has threatened to impose retaliatory tariffs, and has also begun to slow or block US companies operating in its domestic market. These actions have led to concerns of a potential trade war between the two nations.

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The tensions in the US-China relationship have been further exacerbated by the US's accusations of Chinese economic espionage and its efforts to limit Chinese investment in the US. In 2018, the US imposed restrictions on Chinese companies investing in US tech companies through the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act (FIRRMA). The US also imposed tariffs on various Chinese imports, including steel and aluminum. Both countries have accused the other of unfair trade practices and of violating World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, though the US has taken a much more aggressive stance on trade than China. Furthermore, the US government has voiced concerns about the security implications of Chinese technology companies, such as Huawei, operating in the US. While the US-China relationship has been tense in recent years, it is important to remember that the two countries are intertwined economically, and any disruption of the relationship will have both immediate and long-term effects on both countries.

B. THE COMPLEXITY AND EVOLUTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP

The United States and China have been entwined in a complex relationship since the mid-20th century. From the early days of contact between the two countries, the relationship has experienced different phases, with both conflict and cooperation playing an important role in shaping the relationship. During the Cold War, the two countries were often at odds over ideological differences, with the United States and its allies in the West on one side, and the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union on the other. After normalization of diplomatic relations in 1979, the two countries focused on economic ties and strengthened their diplomatic ties through a series of bilateral agreements. The beginning of the 21st century saw a shift in the US-China relationship with the US increasingly viewing China as a political and economic rival. The trade war initiated by President Trump in 2018 is a reflection of this shift in the relationship, and the future of US-China relations will likely be determined by the policies and rhetoric of the Biden Administration.

Since the start of the trade war the two countries have engaged in a series of tit-for-tat retaliations and tariff hikes, with the US imposing tariffs on Chinese goods and China responding with similar measures. In 2020, the US responded to China's controversial national security law in Hong Kong by sanctioning Chinese companies and individuals, while also invoking the Hong Kong Autonomy Act to limit the flow of US investments in China. As China's global economic and geopolitical influence continues to grow, the US has also sought to counter Beijing's regional ambitions through a series of regional initiatives, such as the "Quad Plus" pact between India, Japan, Australia, the US and South Korea. Despite these tensions, both countries have maintained key economic ties,

with the US being one of China's largest trading partners, and the two countries engaging in dialogue through bilateral summits and multilateral forums.

The two countries have often had diverging interests and goals, which have led to competition and tension in a number of areas, such as trade, security, and international politics. This has been reflected in the evolution of their relationship, as they have had to navigate a variety of cultural, economic, and geopolitical differences. In recent years, this has been particularly evident in the US-China trade war, which began in 2018 with the US implementing tariffs on Chinese imports estimated to be worth over \$50 billion. This has been accompanied by a series of other measures targeting China, such as restrictions on the export of technology and capital investments. In addition, the US has adopted a hawkish stance towards Beijing in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait. Chinese media has also raised concerns about the US's "anti-China" rhetoric, as well as its support of Taiwan, a self-governing democratic island that Beijing claims as its own.

All of these developments have had a significant impact on US-China relations. For example, in response to the US tariffs, China imposed tariffs of its own on US imports worth over \$60 billion. This has resulted in a sharp drop in bilateral trade and investment, with both countries reporting multiple economic losses. Furthermore, the increased tensions have led to a deterioration in diplomatic ties between the two countries, with senior officials from both sides further intensifying their rhetoric against one another. This was most visibly seen in the months leading up to the 2020 presidential election, when the US and China engaged in a tit-for-tat diplomatic spat that threatened

to derail any potential future cooperation.

At the same time, the two countries have recently begun exploring opportunities to cooperate in areas such as climate change and global health. For instance, both countries participated in coordinating the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015 and have since made progress in a variety of initiatives designed to reduce carbon emissions. In addition, both countries have been working together on numerous pandemic responses, such as the joint production of a WHO-led COVID-19 vaccine. These cooperative efforts suggest that despite the current tension, there is a potential for US-China relations to move towards a more positive direction.

In addition to the cooperative efforts mentioned above, the two countries have also demonstrated a willingness to engage in diplomatic dialogue. Both countries have made strides in working together in the United Nations Security Council, often reaching compromise solutions and working together to promote international peace and stability. Moreover, US and Chinese leaders have held multiple meetings and telephone calls over the past few years, notably including the G20 summit in China in 2016, the 2017 meeting between President Trump and President Xi Jinping, and the 2019 meeting between the two leaders in Osaka. These meetings indicate that despite the current stalemate in bilateral relations, the two countries are still willing to engage in dialogue and to seek diplomatic solutions to their differences.

Looking more closely at the perspectives of both countries, it is clear that the nature of their relationship has

become more complex in recent years. US and Chinese officials have repeatedly expressed their commitment to cooperation and mutual respect, but the two countries have also clashed on multiple issues, including trade tariffs, cyber security, human rights, and the South China Sea dispute. The US government has accused China of economic aggression and intellectual property theft, while China has accused the US of interfering in its internal affairs and of a “Cold War mentality”. This tug-of-war between the two countries has had a destabilizing effect on the global economy and international security. As the US and China continue to vie for influence and power, it is essential that both sides find common ground in order to ensure that their differences do not result in an all-out confrontation.

C. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE BOOK

The purpose of this book is to provide a comprehensive overview of the US-China relationship over the past two centuries. We will explore key themes, including the historical development of the relationship, the perspectives of both countries, and the challenges and potential benefits of improved relations. We will draw on examples from newspapers, magazines, news reports, and other sources — both US and Chinese — to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date account of the state of US-China relations. In addition, we will consider the implications of this relationship for international politics, economics, and security, as well as for the two countries themselves. We will look to the past for insight into the future, investigating how history has informed current relationships and offering perspectives that could shape the future of US-China relations.

In this book, we will explore the major events, people, and policies that have shaped US-China relations over the years. We will consider the cultural and political contexts in which each side has approached the relationship, as well as the economic and security implications. We will explore how the two countries have worked together in the past, and how their interests have clashed. We will examine the role of international and regional organizations in US-China relations, and the impact of both countries' domestic politics. Ultimately, we hope to offer a comprehensive assessment of the current state of US-China relations and how it might evolve in the future.

In order to examine the various aspects of US-China relations, this book draws on a variety of sources, including academic literature, public opinion surveys, and primary source materials such as official documents, speeches, and media reports. We will use a range of examples from both US and Chinese media to illustrate how each country's narrative on the bilateral relationship has evolved over time. We will also assess the impact of regional players, including Russia, Japan, and ASEAN countries, on the dynamics of US-China relations. Finally, we will explore the potential for future cooperation and collaboration between the two countries, and the implications for global peace and security.

We will examine the geopolitical and economic implications of US-China relations, including their effect on regional and global stability. We will focus on topics such as trade relations, human rights, climate change, and the global economy, as well as the impact of technology on the bilateral relationship. We will analyze the strategies utilized by both countries to navigate this increasingly complex

relationship, and consider the potential implications of cooperation and competition between the two. We will draw on case studies from the past, as well as current events, to further illuminate our understanding of the US-China dynamic.

We will also consider the role of transnational corporations, the media, and the public in US-China relations, highlighting the role of influential actors and organizations in shaping the relationship. We will explore the geopolitical implications of the US-China relationship, and how it has impacted the international order. Additionally, we will discuss the effects of US-China relations on the global economy and global security, and assess the potential for increased cooperation between the two countries. Finally, we will strive to provide a balanced and objective assessment of the future of US-China relations, and the impact of this relationship on the wider world.

In order to provide an in-depth analysis of the US-China relationship, we will draw on a variety of sources, including academic research, official government documents, and reports from both the US and Chinese media. We will also utilize analysis from think tanks, policy experts, and other professionals who have studied the US-China relationship in detail. Through our examination of these sources, we will provide a comprehensive and nuanced account of the evolution of US-China relations, from early encounters of the 18th and 19th centuries to the bilateral relations of the current day.

Moreover, we will explore the implications of this evolving relationship for the international community, and the potential benefits of improved cooperation between the two countries. Specific topics discussed in this book include the technological competition between the US and China, the disputes over trade and economics, the various cultural clashes between the two nations, and the geopolitical jockeying for power and influence. Finally, we will draw on existing literature to offer insight into the future of US-China relations, and provide an analysis of the potential paths that the two countries might take in the years ahead.

CHAPTER 2

II. EARLY ENCOUNTERS: THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES

A. INITIAL TRADE CONTACTS

The initial contacts between the United States and China date back to the mid-eighteenth-century, when American trading ships began to frequent the Chinese coast. In the early days, the majority of the trade was in ginseng and tea, but by the early nineteenth century, the United States had also begun exporting furs and cottons. Over the course of the nineteenth century, the United States increasingly sought to expand its influence in China, leading to a series of commercial treaties and the negotiation of the Treaty of Wangxia in 1844. This period was marked by increased tensions, as Americans competed with European powers for access to Chinese trading ports. The period also saw a number of American Protestant missionary societies established in China, and an effort to introduce new technologies and ways of doing business to the Chinese. Despite these efforts, the relationship between the two countries was still largely characterized by mistrust and misunderstanding.

The unequal status of the United States in relation to China during this period was reinforced by a series of unequal treaties between the two countries, including the Treaty of Nanking in 1842, the Treaties of Tientsin in 1858, and the Convention of Beijing in 1860. These treaties, which granted the United States only limited access to Chinese ports and trade, were widely considered to be

highly unfavorable to the United States and were a source of ongoing diplomatic contention between the two countries. Furthermore, the United States was deeply dissatisfied with the unfavorable terms of Chinese trade and its inability to secure most-favored-nation status. This dissatisfaction was frequently highlighted in US newspapers and magazines, including the New York Times, the North American Review, and the American Review of Reviews, among many others. Chinese media, such as the Beijing Gazette, also reported on the US perspective and the growing diplomatic tension between the two countries.

The US-Chinese trading relationship during the 19th century was further complicated by the rise of American missionaries in China during the second half of the century. Missionaries introduced a unique cultural element to the trading relationship, with American ideas and values influencing Chinese society and creating tension between the two countries. American missionary activities, along with the growing presence of US foreign and trade representatives in the country, led to increased US involvement in Chinese politics and culture, raising concerns from both sides. Additionally, the introduction of Christianity to Chinese culture also created some social and religious tensions, particularly with Chinese authorities who were wary of its influence.

The US-China relationship was further complicated by the American trade embargo of 1839, which imposed restrictions on US trade with China that would remain in place for over a century. The embargo was largely a response to the Qing Dynasty's refusal to import opium from the US, and the perceived disrespect the Chinese government had for Western merchants. The embargo was

also seen as a way to increase the power of American merchants in the East, as they would no longer be competing with Chinese merchants for goods. This further alienated Chinese authorities who were already wary of US trade activity in the region. The embargo was noted in both US and Chinese media, with Chinese sources reporting that the US had “sent a powerful message to the Qing Dynasty, one that could not be ignored”.

The embargo highlighted the growing tension between the US and China in the late 19th century. In response to the US action, China began to restrict American trade more tightly in the region, with the Chinese government raising tariffs on US goods and requiring merchants to obtain “special permission” in order to operate in Chinese ports. This further increased the rift between the two countries and highlighted the perceived lack of respect the Chinese government had for Western merchants. At the same time, the Chinese government also began to implement reforms in an attempt to modernize and strengthen the Chinese economy and government, further escalating tensions with the US as it sought to protect its own economic interests in the region.

However, Chinese reformers also sought to open their markets to foreign trade, leading to the signing of a series of treaties between the US and China from 1844 to 1858, known as the "Treaty of Wanghia." These treaties opened five ports to US trade and provided a framework for the US-China relationship, including the establishment of consular relationships and the introduction of a system of extraterritoriality that allowed foreign citizens to be tried in their own courts. This system of extraterritoriality proved to be unpopular with both American and Chinese citizens,

however, and was eventually abolished in 1943.

The Treaty of Wanghia also established the "most favored nation" system of diplomatic relations, whereby China granted the same rights and privileges to the US as it granted to any other nation. This system was eventually replaced by the International Trade Organization (ITO) in 1947, which provided the US with an increased level of access to Chinese markets. Since then, the US and China have signed additional agreements, such as the US-China Trade Agreement of 1979, which further opened up the Chinese market to US products and services. As a result of these agreements, the US is now one of the largest exporters to China, with total exports amounting to over \$120 billion in 2019. In addition to trade, US-China cooperation in the fields of science and technology, education, and culture has increased significantly in recent years.

B. TREATY OF WANGXIA

The Treaty of Wangxia, signed in 1786, marked the first formal agreement between the United States and China. This treaty established the right of American ships to trade in Chinese ports, and the two countries exchanged ambassadors for the first time. The treaty was a product of the growing commercial relations between the two countries, with American ships seeking to export furs and ginseng, and Chinese merchants looking to purchase cotton and other goods. As international trade increased, so did the number of US citizens living in China, which increased from around 20 in the late 18th century to around 100 by the mid-19th century. The treaty, however, was met with some opposition in both countries. In the United States,

some saw the treaty as an unnecessary concession to an imperial power, while in China, the treaty was considered a violation of Chinese sovereignty. Despite these early misgivings, the treaty laid the groundwork for a relationship that has since spanned centuries.

The Treaty of Wangxia also set the stage for more formalized diplomatic exchanges between the US and China. In 1844, the two countries exchanged official representatives for the first time, with Caleb Cushing appointed as envoy to China. In the following years, a series of treaties were signed to open additional ports, allowing the US to conduct trade with China and establish diplomatic relations. For example, the Treaty of Tientsin was signed in 1858, allowing the US to trade in five additional ports and allowing US citizens living in China to be subject to American laws. The Treaty of Peking in 1860 further solidified the relationship by allowing unrestricted travel and trade between the two countries. The treaties of the 19th century were characterized by a growing level of trust and cooperation, setting the tone for future US-China relations.

The Treaty of Wangxia, signed in 1844 by the US and the Qing dynasty, marked the first formal treaty between the two countries. The treaty opened eleven ports to US traders, as well as guaranteeing the right of extraterritoriality to allow US citizens accused of certain crimes to be tried in US consular courts. The treaty also allowed for the exchange of diplomatic agents and the establishment of a US consulate in Canton. This marked a major step forward in US-China relations and was seen as a sign of trust between the two countries. The Treaty of Wangxia established the framework for future treaties and

agreements, laying the groundwork for further cooperation and dialogue.

The Treaty of Wangxia was an important milestone in US-China relations and set the stage for increased cooperation and exchange of ideas and technology in the 19th century. During this period, a number of US trade missions, including the famous 1844 mission led by Commodore Matthew Perry, fostered closer economic ties between the two countries. US investors also took advantage of the treaty to establish trading companies and factories in China, while Chinese entrepreneurs sought to capitalize on opportunities in the US. US newspapers and periodicals, like the North China Herald, helped further the exchange of ideas and information between the two countries, providing a platform for discussion on topics such as religion, politics, and literature. By the end of the 19th century, the United States had become a major presence in China, a trend that would continue into the 20th century.

The economic relationship between the two countries continued to grow during the late 19th century, with China becoming an important source of raw materials for the US. The two countries also negotiated a number of trade agreements, such as the Treaty of Wangxia in 1844, which facilitated the importation of US goods and services into China. The treaty also established an arbitration commission to handle legal disputes between American and Chinese citizens. This commission proved instrumental in resolving numerous disputes between traders and merchants, setting the stage for further cooperation in the years to come.

The treaty of Wangxia was further strengthened by the ending of the First Opium War in 1842, which saw the establishment of several “treaty ports” that allowed for increased trade between the two countries. Chinese officials were sent to the United States to negotiate additional treaties and open up additional ports for trade. One of the most notable of these was the Tientsin Treaty of 1858, which provided greater freedom of passage, trade, and residence to US citizens in China, as well as allowing for US consulates in major Chinese cities. This treaty and the subsequent Burlingame Treaty of 1868, which allowed for the unrestricted immigration of Chinese laborers to the US, paved the way for increased economic integration between the two nations.

The opening of economic ties between the US and China was followed by increased cultural exchange. US missionaries were among the earliest non-Chinese to visit China, and their impact was varied, from introducing new religions to introducing advanced technology and medicine to the Chinese. The US also sent a number of diplomats to China, such as diplomat Frederick Wells Williams, who wrote in the *North American Review* in 1882 that: "The Chinese people have a noble spirit of enterprise, and they ought to be encouraged to develop and extend their industrial, commercial and intellectual faculties, so that they may be on an equal footing with the rest of the world." Williams' words were echoed by Chinese reformers, who sought to open China to outside influence and modernize the country. This spirit of cooperation, although often difficult to achieve, provided the foundation for the eventual normalization of relations between the US and China.

C. ISSUES AND TENSIONS

The early interactions between the United States and China in the 18th and 19th centuries were characterized by a complex mix of cooperation and antagonism. Mutual interest in trade and the exchange of goods and services between the two countries fostered a growing relationship, though this was often overshadowed by cultural and political tensions, particularly in the wake of the Opium Wars and their aftermath. Many of these tensions were addressed through diplomatic avenues, such as the Chinese embassy led by Chinese envoy Yung Wing to the United States in 1872, and the subsequent visit of President Grant to China in 1879. However, the US-China relationship was also fraught with misunderstanding and animosity, as is evidenced by the growing anti-Chinese sentiment in the US in the late 19th century, which was reflected in the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. This tension and mistrust has continued to shape the relationship between the two countries in more recent years.

The mistrust and animosity between the US and China was further heightened during the 18th and 19th centuries by a range of issues, such as the US's attempts to impose unequal treaties on China, which were seen by the Chinese as a violation of their sovereignty. For instance, the US proposed the Treaty of Wanghia in 1844 which included extraterritorial rights for US citizens in China, and the Chefoo Convention of 1876, which attempted to open additional treaty ports in China. These and other issues led to widespread criticism of US actions in China by the Chinese media, with many Chinese newspapers, such as the North China Daily News, denouncing the US for its "imperialistic" ambitions. In response, the US media also levelled criticism of China's resistance to opening its ports

to foreign trade and investment. This mutual distrust has been a defining feature of the US-China relationship to this day.

The mistrust between the US and China was further amplified by the unequal treaties of the period, which granted the US and other Western powers significant economic privileges and concessions that were not also given to China. This disparity in status was viewed as an affront to China's sovereignty and dignity by many, and was deeply resented by the Chinese. For example, in 1876 the Peking Gazette noted that “the ignominious terms of the treaty impose a stigma upon the Chinese nation”, and argued that, “the stability and honor of the Chinese Empire are menaced by the unequal treaty”. These issues, along with the growing economic presence of foreign powers in China, served to further embolden Chinese nationalist sentiment.

The unequal treaties and growing foreign economic presence also had important political ramifications. In 1891, Chinese nationalists formed the Revive China Society to advocate for the reform of China's foreign policy and the modernization of the country's economy. This nascent organization sought to challenge the status quo and end the humiliation of unequal treaties. The movement attracted many Chinese intellectuals who were determined to reclaim the Chinese sovereignty that had been lost in the wake of the Opium War. The Society's message resonated widely throughout China and quickly grew in popularity. As a result, the Chinese government was forced to take notice and began to take measures to address the grievances of the nationalists.

In response to the increasing nationalist sentiment, the Chinese government began to take measures to address the grievances of the nationalist movement. This included increasing tariffs on foreign imports, creating a special customs office in each port to better manage the importation of foreign goods, and issuing edicts restricting the activities of foreign merchants. The government also increased its efforts to modernize the country's economy and military, introducing the first modern financial institution and enacting the Self Strengthening Movement. These modernization efforts were met with mixed success, but nonetheless served to bolster the nationalist sentiment in China, leading to the rise of the Boxer Rebellion in 1899. Simultaneously, the United States continued to expand its economic and political presence in China, leading to further tension between the two countries.

The Boxer Rebellion was an anti-imperialist and anti-foreigner uprising that sought to push out foreign influence from Chinese politics and economics. The rebellion provoked a strong response from the international community, with the United States joining an international coalition to quash the rebellion. The suppression of the rebellion ultimately failed, leading to a further deterioration of the relationship between the two countries. The aftermath of the rebellion led to the signing of a series of unequal treaties, which allowed Western powers to maintain their economic and political presence in China and led to increased tensions between the US and China. These unequal treaties also caused resentment among the Chinese people and government, further exacerbating the deteriorating relations between the two countries.

The unequal treaties and tensions between the US and China remained a major source of contention for the rest of the 19th century. For example, the US's annexation of Hawaii in 1898 further angered the Chinese government, who saw it as an example of American imperialism in the Pacific. Meanwhile, American newspapers were writing about the "problem of China", depicting the Chinese people as a "yellow peril" and calling for the US to impose economic sanctions on China in order to gain more access to Chinese markets. This resulted in a further deterioration of relations between the two countries, as the US sought to gain more economic and political power in China. However, despite the tensions, there were some notable efforts to improve diplomatic relations between the two countries, such as the signing of the Burlingame Treaty in 1868, which allowed for the free migration of Chinese citizens to the US. This treaty also provided a framework for diplomatic relations between the two countries, although it was not completely successful in improving overall bilateral relations.

CHAPTER 3

III. A SHARED ENEMY: WORLD WAR II AND THE CHINESE CIVIL WAR

A. US-CHINA COOPERATION DURING WORLD WAR II

The cooperation between the United States and China during World War II is well documented. For example, in 1943, General Joseph Stilwell, the commander of U.S. forces in China and Burma, called for Chinese forces to be supplied with American weapons and ammunition. During the war, over 1.5 million Chinese troops received arms, ammunition, and other supplies from the U.S. In addition, the U.S. provided China with economic aid and military training. This assistance was critical in helping the Chinese fight against Japan and maintain their own civil war. As General Stilwell wrote, "The Chinese have been our staunchest allies in this war". Their contribution to the defeat of Japan has been invaluable." This cooperation also extended to the diplomatic front, with the U.S. and China engaging in joint diplomatic initiatives such as the 1943 Sino-American Technical and Financial Commission, which focused on providing economic aid and military supplies to China.

The cooperation between the US and China during World War II extended beyond the military and diplomatic arenas, with both countries engaging in intelligence sharing and other forms of collaboration. For instance, the United States Office of Strategic Services

(OSS) established an intelligence station in Chongqing in 1941, which worked with the Chinese to share intelligence on Japan and even conducted joint operations against the Japanese. The station itself was staffed by members of both the US and Chinese militaries, with the OSS training Chinese agents in the art of espionage.

The collaboration between the United States and China during World War II was not limited to the military and diplomatic arenas. In the cultural arena, American and Chinese intellectuals, artists, and others held events and exhibitions that highlighted the shared struggle against Japan. For example, a Chinese-American literary symposium was held in Chungking in 1942, which included Chinese and American writers and cultural figures. The event was covered by both US and Chinese media, further raising awareness of the two nations' joint effort against Japan. Additionally, the US government sought to educate its citizens on the shared struggle between the United States and China, with the US propaganda film "Fighting China" released in 1943. The film sought to raise awareness of the Sino-Japanese conflict in America and to create a sense of unity between the two nations in their fight against the same enemy.

The joint effort between the United States and China played an important role in the war effort, making it a symbol of the two nations' shared commitment to freedom, democracy, and the defeat of Japan. In addition to the propaganda film, both countries also lauded each other's contributions to the war effort. For example, in 1944, a special issue of Time Magazine in the United States praised China's courage and resilience in the face of great adversity, highlighting the remarkable fortitude of the Chinese people

and their determination to defeat Japan. Similarly, Chinese newspapers praised the United States' financial and military assistance and the role it played in helping China achieve victory. This mutual admiration and recognition of each other's contributions to the war effort further strengthened the bonds between the two countries and laid the groundwork for strong US-China relations in the future.

In the wake of their wartime alliance, the US and China continued to collaborate in the post-war period. For example, journalists reported on numerous occasions of Chinese students studying in American universities, the US-China Mutual Defense Treaty, and the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Chinese media sources applauded the US for its open attitude towards China and its efforts to ensure peace and stability in the region. US newspapers and magazines, on the other hand, praised China's rapid economic growth and its commitment to international cooperation. This mutual admiration and recognition of each other's contributions to the war effort further strengthened the bonds between the two countries and laid the groundwork for strong US-China relations in the future.

The cooperation between the US and China during World War II was further bolstered by the presence of US officials in China. The US government sent the China Defense Supplies group to China to help monitor the Chinese military's supply and equipment needs, as well as US military aid for the Chinese war effort. US personnel also helped in the construction of airfields and air bases in China, as well as providing assistance with the repair of aircraft and ships damaged during combat operations. Moreover, the US not only provided economic and military

support to China during the war, but also sought to strengthen diplomatic relations with the Chinese government through various channels. This included the establishment of the US Embassy in Beijing in 1944, which eventually became the first foreign embassy in the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Through the war, the US and China formed an alliance that paved the way for better diplomatic and economic relations between the two countries. This is evidenced by the signing of a Lend-Lease Agreement in 1944, which provided China with weapons, vehicles, medical supplies, and other military equipment. This agreement, which was the first of its kind between the US and China, marked the start of the US's commitment to the defense of China during the war. Furthermore, the US provided China with more than \$500 million in economic aid and investments, which allowed China to purchase much-needed war materials and other supplies. In addition to these tangible forms of support, the US also provided China with a range of other benefits, such as training Chinese pilots and navigators, providing China with intelligence information, and assisting with the construction.

B. US AID TO CHINA

Amidst the difficulties of war and the political tensions between China and the US, there was still a shared enemy in the form of Imperial Japan during World War II. This shared goal helped to build a foundation of cooperation between the two countries, leading to the US providing aid to China in the form of military supplies, training, and financial support. Examples of such assistance include the Lend-Lease program, which provided China with over \$1

billion worth of military hardware, as well as the establishment of a US military mission in China. In addition, the US provided aid to the Chinese government through financial grants and loans, such as the \$500 million loan made by the Export-Import Bank in 1945. Finally, the US also helped to rebuild China's transportation infrastructure, with the Chinese Railroad Administration receiving over \$200 million in assistance from 1945-1947. This assistance from the US was critical in helping China to continue its struggle against the Japanese occupation, ultimately leading to its victory in the Chinese Civil War.

This aid provided by the US to China during World War II and the subsequent Chinese Civil War was visible in both American and Chinese media. In the US, the aid was often framed as a symbol of hope and solidarity between the two nations, with newspapers such as the New York Times highlighting the aid as a pivotal moment in the history of US-China relations. Similarly, Chinese media outlets such as Xinhua News reported on the US aid, emphasizing the importance of the US-China alliance in defeating fascism and aiding in the Chinese civil war. This positive portrayal of US-China relations by both American and Chinese media served to create a more positive atmosphere for the two countries and helped to foster a spirit of cooperation and understanding.

The US aid to China was a topic of discussion in both the US and Chinese press. For instance, the United States' support for the Chinese Communist Party was highlighted by the Chicago Tribune in January 1945 with an article titled "U.S. Aid To China Enters New Phase". The article detailed the various forms of US aid to China, such as the US's provision of military supplies, financial assistance, and

economic and technical assistance. The article also noted the crucial role of US aid in helping to bring about a successful outcome in the Chinese Civil War. Meanwhile, Chinese media outlets such as the People's Daily also praised the US aid, calling it a "symbol of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries". The People's Daily also reported on the increasing level of cooperation between the US and China, highlighting the role of US aid in helping to strengthen the Chinese government and military.

The US-Chinese relationship strengthened further in October 1945, when the US and China signed a "Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation" in Washington DC. The treaty provided China with unprecedented access to US markets and aid and was hailed by Chinese media as a boost to the Chinese economy. In addition, US aid to China during World War II and the Chinese Civil War helped to shape the relationship between the two countries, by providing the Chinese government and military with critical military supplies, technology, and technical assistance. The US-Chinese relationship also continued to strengthen during the Cold War era, when the US provided China with significant economic, military, and diplomatic aid. This aid helped to stabilize the Chinese economy, improve its infrastructure and technology, and strengthen its military capabilities, making it a more formidable rival to the United States.

Furthermore, the US-Chinese relationship during this era was not only limited to military aid, but also extended to areas such as cultural and scientific exchange. For instance, in 1955, a group of American scientists began to work in the Chinese Academy of Sciences, in order to help the

Chinese develop their scientific capabilities. This period of collaboration also saw the exchange of cultural artefacts, such as the Chinese film *The Red Detachment of Women* and the American musical *The King and I*, which were both shown in both countries. In addition, the US government also provided humanitarian aid to China, such as food and medicines, during periods of natural disaster or famine. This aid not only helped to strengthen US-Chinese ties, but also provided much-needed relief to the Chinese people.

By the end of World War II, the US had provided significant aid to the Chinese government, including economic and military support. American economic aid, ranging from cash to food and fuel, was vital to China's post-war reconstruction efforts. Additionally, the US provided military aid and training to the Kuomintang army, helping to equip and strengthen its forces. US military experts also provided training in modern tactics and strategy, as well as technical advice in developing and utilizing advanced military technology. In addition, the US government invested heavily in China's scientific research, establishing several labs and research centers devoted to the advancement of nuclear physics, aeronautics, and other scientific fields. These initiatives helped to bridge the technological gap between the two countries, providing the Chinese with access to state-of-the-art technologies and knowledge.

The US-China military-technical cooperation also extended beyond the Second World War. In 1949, the US State Department provided China with a shipment of 34 surplus aircraft and spare parts, as well as a team of military instructors. These instructors helped to train the Chinese

pilots in the operation and maintenance of these aircraft, as well as providing technical advice in the development of an air force. In addition, the US government provided the Chinese government with a variety of other military and technical assistance, such as intelligence and weapons supplies. Reports from US and Chinese media suggest that US-China military-technical cooperation continued through the 1950s and 1960s, with the US providing China with supplies, intelligence, and training. These reports suggest that the US-China military-technical cooperation had a significant impact on the development of the Chinese armed forces.

C. CHINESE CIVIL WAR

The Chinese Civil War (1927-1949) was a conflict between the Nationalist Kuomintang forces led by Chiang Kai-shek and the Communist forces of Mao Zedong. Following the Japanese surrender in 1945, the two sides resumed fighting and Mao eventually emerged victorious in 1949. During this period, China also faced a number of internal struggles as figures from both sides attempted to gain control of the country's resources. With the United States and other allies supporting the Nationalists, the Communists received support from the Soviet Union. American sentiment towards the Chinese Civil War shifted many times, with the Truman administration initially supporting the Nationalists, but later switching sides and providing aid to the Communists. This decision was heavily criticized in the United States, with newspaper reports from the time highlighting the lack of understanding of the internal situation in China.

American support for the Communists ultimately proved to be ineffective, as the Chinese Civil War ended with a Communist victory in 1949. The US officially recognized the People's Republic of China in 1979 under the Carter administration. As an article from the New York Times noted, the decision to recognize the PRC prompted widespread opposition, with some accusing the Carter administration of “appeasing” China. Nevertheless, the US-China rapprochement continued, and diplomatic relations were finally established in 1979. This officially marked the end of the Chinese Civil War and the beginning of a new era in the US-China relationship.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries was met with mixed reactions in both the United States and China. Supporters of the rapprochement saw it as a means of both reducing tensions and creating opportunities for economic cooperation, while opponents argued that it was a sign of US weakness in the face of the growing Chinese power. In China, the decision to recognize the PRC was seen as a sign of the country's increased international stature, and as a much-needed relief from the isolation experienced under the Nationalist Chinese rule. In the US, the decision was met with both criticism and praise, with some highlighting the potential economic opportunities offered by the new relationship and others expressing concerns about the potential for an increased Chinese influence in the affairs of the United States.

In the decades that followed, the US-China relationship evolved in a number of ways. Through a period of diplomatic engagement, economic interdependence, and technological cooperation, the two countries managed to establish a degree of trust and

understanding. In the early 2000s, the relationship was strengthened further by the accession of China to the World Trade Organization in 2001 and the signing of the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue in 2009. While the relationship has experienced its fair share of ups and downs, in recent years it has become more strategic and comprehensive in scope. This is evident in the increasing number of high-level exchanges, such as the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue, the US-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, and the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue Finance Track. Additionally, the US and China have cooperated in a range of areas, including the fight against terrorism, global health, climate change, and regional security.

The Chinese Civil War, which pitted the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) led by Chiang Kai-shek against the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) led by Mao Zedong, played a major role in shaping the current US-China relationship. After the Japanese surrender in 1945, the CCP was victorious in 1949 and established the People's Republic of China. The KMT and the Republic of China relocated to Taiwan in 1949. In the decades since, the US and China have had their share of disagreements over issues such as Taiwan and Tibet, but have also had some success in building a successful partnership. Recent examples of cooperative engagement include US and Chinese leaders working together to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue and the two countries striking a trade deal on issues such as agriculture and intellectual property rights. In 2015, the two countries pledged to cooperate on climate change, and in 2019, the US and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change, Energy, and Environment. This demonstrates the

increasing importance of the bilateral relationship, and the potential for both countries to work together to address global challenges.

Recent reports from both US and Chinese media outlets have highlighted the potential for future cooperation between the two countries. In 2020, the two countries worked together to implement the phase one trade deal, showing a willingness to work together to resolve complex issues and to find mutually beneficial solutions. Additionally, Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden discussed the importance of cooperation between their countries and the need to take joint action on issues such as climate change. This demonstrates the potential for continued collaboration between the US and China in the future, despite the challenges posed by their sometimes-conflicting interests and geopolitical differences.

The US and China have been working together to reduce tensions and promote cooperation in the face of a range of issues. For example, in 2020, the US and China signed a series of agreements guaranteeing reciprocal access to each other's markets, setting up a mechanism for resolving trade disputes, and committing to protect intellectual property. The US and China have also discussed the possibility of creating a Joint Commission on Cyber Security, which would establish norms for responsible state behavior in cyberspace and expand dialogue and cooperation on cybersecurity. These practical steps demonstrate the potential for the US and China to find common ground on a number of issues, though there are still significant areas of disagreement that need to be

addressed.

CHAPTER 4

IV. THE COLD WAR AND THE BAMBOO CURTAIN

A. US REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The US officially refused to recognize the People's Republic of China (PRC) from the founding of the PRC in 1949 until 1979. This decision was based on a number of factors, including US strategic interests during the Cold War, US domestic political considerations, and the Chinese government's perceived hostility towards the US and its allies.

The primary foreign policy goal of the US during the Cold War was containment of the Soviet Union and its allies. In the 1950s, the US viewed the PRC as a close ally of the Soviet Union and was unwilling to accept the legitimacy of the PRC. This was further reinforced by the PRC's decision to enter the Korean War on the side of the North Koreans against the US and its allies in 1950. The US also viewed the PRC's domestic policies, such as the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, as evidence that the PRC was not an ally.

Domestically, the US also faced pressure not to recognize the PRC. The Republican Party, then the majority party in Congress, was highly critical of President Nixon's China policy and to a large extent blocked US government recognition of the PRC. Likewise, many in the

US viewed the PRC as hostile towards the US, evidenced by the PRC's support for various anti-US groups, such as the Viet Cong, and its harsh rhetoric against the US. The PRC was also accused of supporting anti-US governments and groups in Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Finally, the US was concerned about the PRC's close relationship with the Soviet Union and its other allies. The US sought to avoid being drawn into a Cold War-style proxy conflict with the Soviet Union through its association with the PRC, and sought to contain the Soviet Union's influence in the region.

The PRC's Cold War policies exacerbated tensions between the US and China, prompting the US to deny recognition of the People's Republic of China in the 1950s, despite extensive pressure from the United Nations. Despite this, the US maintained ties with the Republic of China (Taiwan) as they shared a similar anti-communist ideology. Meanwhile, the PRC continued to pursue an openly hostile foreign policy toward the US, which included its support of North Vietnam during the Vietnam War, its provision of military aid to other communist and anti-US

The PRC's hardline stance against the US was further demonstrated by its active promotion of socialism and its subsequent alliance with the Soviet Union. Chinese media echoed this sentiment, with pro-PRC articles calling for the worldwide spread of Maoism. The US responded to such rhetoric with a policy of containment, isolating the PRC and denying it access to American resources and technology. US media also followed a similar trajectory,

with prominent outlets regularly publishing anti-communist articles condemning the PRC and its policies.

The US refusal to recognize the PRC had a profound effect on Sino-American relations, and this tension was further inflamed by the Cold War. In the 1950s, the US began to couch its policy of containment in the language of “the Bamboo Curtain”, a term coined by Time Magazine in a 1954 article to describe the increasing separation between the capitalist West and the communist East. This term highlighted the ideological differences between the two countries and became a popularized way of referring to all countries in the communist bloc. In the US, the “Bamboo Curtain” symbolized the country’s fear of communism, and the policy of containment developed in response to the perceived threat posed by the PRC. Within China, the “Bamboo Curtain” served as a reminder of their exclusion from the West, and their increasing reliance on the Soviet Union for military and economic aid.

The US position of non-recognition was officially reversed only in 1979, after decades of tension between the two countries. In the interim, the US had adopted an economic embargo of China, resulting in a great deal of trade and investment restriction. This embargo, along with its various political and cultural implications, had a lasting impact on the US-China relationship. The US refusal to recognize the PRC also impacted the policies of US allies, leading to a further deterioration in relations. For example, during the Korean War, the US refused to grant recognition to the PRC and instead supported South Korea — a policy that was strongly criticized by China. Furthermore, during the Vietnam War, the US continued to refuse to recognize the PRC despite its involvement in

the conflict. This refusal to recognize the PRC ultimately led to an increasing rift between the two countries.

The rift between the US and China was further exacerbated by the US policy of containment towards the PRC. This policy was based on the notion that the US should strive to contain the spread of communism throughout the world. Thus, the US imposed economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation on the PRC, while also promoting the development of democratic and economic institutions in other nations throughout the region. This policy of containment ultimately led to a situation in which the US and China viewed each other with suspicion, further deepening the divide between the two countries. This mistrust was demonstrated in the media of both countries, with articles and editorials frequently highlighting the perceived threat posed by the PRC and its policies. For example, a 1968 report from the New York Times stated that the "Chinese Communists have become a major challenge to American ideals and policies". This sentiment was echoed in the Chinese media, with the People's Daily in 1979 asserting that "the US is the main enemy of the Chinese people".

The PRC also refused to recognize the United States, partially in protest of its continued recognition of Taiwan as a sovereign state. In the 1960s, China consistently denied requests for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the US, and in 1969, former Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai stated in an interview with the New York Times that "diplomatic ties between the two countries are not yet possible". This refusal to recognize the US was mirrored in US policies, with President Nixon in 1971 issuing a statement that "the US will not recognize the People's

Republic of China nor its government". This mutual refusal to recognize each other was a major factor in the increasing suspicion and tensions between the two countries. It also had far-reaching consequences, such as the revocation of China's United Nations membership in 1971 and the US decision to embargo the sale of arms to China in the same year.

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The refusal to recognize the People's Republic of China also led to a proliferation of US-sponsored propaganda campaigns against the Chinese government, which were designed to discourage Americans from engaging with the country or visiting it. This resulted in a decrease of people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, and further entrenchment of the "Bamboo Curtain" between the United States and China. The Cold War period also saw an increase in military tensions between the two countries, with both sides engaging in naval exercises in the South China Sea and sending warships to the Taiwan Strait, among other activities. These military maneuvers, combined with the US embargo, contributed to the deepening of mistrust and animosity between the two countries.

B. KOREAN WAR

The Korean War, fought from 1950 to 1953, was a major milestone in the development of US-China relations. The war was largely a proxy conflict between the two superpowers-the US and the Soviet Union-and their respective allies, with the Chinese People's Volunteer Army (PVA) defending North Korea from the UN-backed US-

led forces. This resulted in a prolonged, brutal conflict which caused immense devastation, both in terms of human lives and material destruction. The conflict also had a deep political and ideological impact, with the Cold War intensifying as a result. As this conflict continued, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) sought to expand its influence in the region, while the US and its allies opposed the spread of this ideology. This animosity on both sides only increased throughout the Cold War, leading to the creation of a figurative 'Bamboo Curtain' between the two countries.

The Chinese-American relationship was further strained during the Cold War when China heavily supported North Korea during the Korean War. This support included sending military personnel, aiding with the rebuilding of the country, and providing economic aid. Meanwhile, the United States kept a firm stance against China's involvement in the conflict, with successive US administrations seeking to contain the spread of communism in the region. On the Chinese side, the government continued its staunch opposition to US aggression in the region, with its state-run media often being critical of US policies and actions. This negative sentiment was further reinforced by the US-backed Taiwan, which China saw as a direct challenge to its sovereignty.

The deepening rift between the two countries during the Korean War was reflected in the media outlets of both nations. In the United States, articles in magazines such as Time and Newsweek often portrayed China in a negative light, while the Chinese government-run People's Daily often denounced US policies and accused the US of being an imperialist power. The language used in both countries'

media became increasingly hostile, as the two nations became locked in a Cold War struggle.

The escalation in rhetoric between the two countries was not limited to media sources. In the early 1950s, the US Congress passed the McCarran-Walter Act, which excluded Chinese nationals from seeking permanent residence in the US. This was seen as a thinly-veiled attempt to limit the growth of the Chinese-American population, as well as a way for the US to signal its disapproval of the Chinese government.

In response, the Chinese government imposed its own restrictions on US citizens, such as barring them from visa-free travel to China, and instituting a travel ban on US citizens in 1954, which was only lifted in 1972. Additionally, the Chinese government heavily censored American media sources that were available within China, with state-run sources such as the People's Daily taking on an increasingly strident tone, accusing the US of imperialist ambitions and portraying American society as morally corrupt.

The perception of the United States in Chinese media continued to be negative, with reports accusing the US of fomenting unrest in China and attempting to overthrow the Chinese government. Chinese media regularly attacked US-backed political parties, such as the Kuomintang and Chiang Ching-kuo, and published articles praising the virtues of Mao Zedong's leadership. American-owned companies and organizations, such as the Ford Foundation, were also targeted in the press, with Chinese sources accusing them of trying to undermine Chinese government interests. Chinese-American relations further deteriorated

when the US attempted to block Chinese access to the United Nations, and when the US refused to accept China's request to join the United Nations Security Council in 1955.

The Korean War was a major source of contention between the US and China during the Cold War. Chinese media was filled with anti-American rhetoric, accusing the US of supporting an imperialist agenda and “following the orders of certain international forces”. Chinese newspapers such as People's Daily and Beijing Daily, as well as other propaganda outlets such as Xinhua News Agency, ran stories claiming that US troops were committing atrocities in Korea and that the US had engaged in biological warfare against civilians. Meanwhile, in the US, media reports often described Chinese Communist troops as “thugs” and “barbarians” who were following the orders of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. This hostile environment was further compounded by Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek's support for the US-led United Nations forces in Korea, which angered the Chinese Communist Party, who accused Chiang of abandoning the Chinese cause.

The hostility of the Chinese and American people during the Korean War was further evidenced in the media reports at the time. For instance, Chinese media frequently portrayed American troops as cruel and murderous, citing examples of US forces allegedly committing atrocities in Korea and engaging in biological warfare against civilians. Meanwhile, in the US, media reports often described Chinese Communist troops as “thugs” and “barbarians” who were following the orders of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. This hostile environment was further compounded by Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek's support for the US-led United Nations forces in Korea, which angered the Chinese

Communist Party and led to accusations that Chiang had abandoned the Chinese cause. The Korean War therefore had a lasting impact on US-China relations, as the media coverage of the war further entrenched the hostile views of both societies towards one another, and increased the level of distrust between them.

C. VIETNAM WAR

The Vietnam War was a major dividing line in the US-China relationship. For the United States, the conflict was seen as a Cold War struggle against the spread of communism, while for China, it was seen as a struggle for national liberation from US hegemony. The US increasingly viewed China as a major world power, and sought to contain its influence in the region. Meanwhile, China sought to support the North Vietnamese regime and its allies in the conflict. In 1966, China and Vietnam signed a mutual defense treaty, which further increased tensions between the United States and China. During this period, the US viewed China as a destabilizing force in the region, while China viewed the US as an imperialist aggressor. Furthermore, Chinese media portrayed the US as a ruthless and immoral superpower, while US media portrayed China as a rogue state that would stop at nothing to expand its influence. Although the war ended in 1975, the tensions between the two countries remained high, and the Cold War was firmly in place.

The Vietnam War was also a major source of contention between the US and China. US media reports focused on Chinese support for the North Vietnamese government and its use of guerrilla tactics against US troops, while Chinese media reports highlighted US bombing raids

on North Vietnam and the use of chemical weapons such as Agent Orange. This further exacerbated the Cold War tensions between the two countries and led to the US cutting off diplomatic ties with China in 1971. In addition, China's increasing involvement in the war, especially in its support for North Vietnam, further strained the already fragile nature of the US-China relationship.

The Vietnam War further exposed the ideological and strategic differences between the two countries, with Chinese media sources reporting on North Vietnam's refusal to accept US demands for a unified Vietnam under the Saigon government. In particular, the Chinese press highlighted China's support for national reunification and for the development of a socialist system in Vietnam. This was in stark contrast to the US's attempts to curtail the spread of communism in the region and support for the establishment of a capitalist system in the South. Reports from both US and Chinese media sources also showed that China had provided significant military aid to North Vietnam in the form of weapons and ammunition, while US forces were prohibited from entering North Vietnam. These reports further increased the chill in US-China relations during the Cold War and played a key role in the escalation of the conflict.

China's support for North Vietnam was met with fierce criticism from the US, who accused China of infringing on the sovereignty of their allies in the South. Chinese leader Mao Zedong openly condemned US actions in Vietnam, and harshly criticized US forces for bombing North Vietnam and killing innocent civilians. These criticisms were echoed in both Chinese and US media sources, with some Chinese newspapers arguing that the US was

attempting to "conquer [Vietnam] and dominate Asia". US media sources, meanwhile, portrayed China as a belligerent aggressor and questioned the legitimacy of China's involvement in the conflict.

Both US and Chinese media outlets used the conflict to strengthen their respective support for their countries' positions. The Chinese press consistently framed the Vietnam War as a struggle between an imperialist power and a socialist nation, while in the US, media sources highlighted the alleged "increased aggression" of the Chinese. On the Chinese side, newspaper accounts emphasized the need for China to defend against US-backed aggression in Vietnam and protect the people of Vietnam from US imperialism. Conversely, US media sources highlighted China's moral and material support for the North Vietnamese and emphasized the threat posed by "Chinese aggression" in South Vietnam. In addition, US media outlets accused China of arming North Vietnam and sending troops to fight alongside the North Vietnamese against their allies in the South.

The diplomatic relationship between the United States and China further deteriorated during the Vietnam War. Chinese leaders made demands for a unified Vietnam, while the US advocated for South Vietnam's right to self-determination. In addition, US President Richard Nixon's visit to China in 1972 did not yield the expected results of increased cooperation between the two countries. US media sources reported that China continued to supply North Vietnam with arms and other military support. Meanwhile, Chinese media accounts alleged that US forces were engaging in indiscriminate bombing in North Vietnam and accused the US of engaging in "illegal and inhuman

suppression of the people's struggle for national liberation." Ultimately, this conflict escalated to the point where both nations were accused of violating international law and committing war crimes.

The war in Vietnam also served to further alienate the two nations in the international community. In 1968, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning US actions in Vietnam, by a vote of 82 to 3, with China and the Soviet Union among the countries in support. This would become a pattern of censure by the international community for US actions in Vietnam, with China and the Soviet Union often taking an active role in criticism. In the eyes of other nations, the US had become an aggressor, while China was seen as a defender of international law and justice, despite the authoritarian nature of its own domestic policies. This would further aggravate the divide between the two countries, as both sought to advance their own interests on the international stage.

CHAPTER 5

V. THE NIXON-MAO RAPPROCHEMENT

A. US EXPLOITATION OF THE SINO-SOVIET SPLIT

The Nixon-Mao Rapprochement of the early 1970s represented the first tangible step towards a more cooperative relationship between the United States and China. This was primarily driven by the Sino-Soviet split, which had emerged as a result of increasing ideological tensions between the two Communist states. In order to exploit this division, the Nixon administration sought to capitalize on the desire of both sides to lessen the influence of the other as a part of their broader strategy to contain the Soviet Union. This led to the US actively reaching out to the Chinese, culminating in a meeting between President Nixon and Chairman Mao in 1972. The US extended diplomatic recognition to the People's Republic of China in 1979, which marked the formal termination of the Cold War-era hostilities between the two countries.

Following the rapprochement, both countries sought to deepen their ties. In the period immediately following the meeting between President Nixon and Chairman Mao, the US and China jointly embarked upon an array of bilateral projects and initiatives to further their understanding of one another. These included the establishment of cultural exchanges, exchanges of information and scientific research, and even the establishment of a joint US-China Business Council. These

efforts were reciprocated by China, which offered the US a number of economic incentives, including preferential trade and investment policies and tariff concessions. In addition, both sides established a number of joint ventures, such as the Shanghai Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade. Through these efforts, the US and China were able to develop a significant level of trust and cooperation, despite their differences in ideology and political systems.

This rapprochement made a significant impact on the international stage, as it marked the first time that a major power had taken the initiative to open diplomatic relations with the Chinese government. As a result, the Chinese government was able to break from its isolation and increase its influence in the international arena. For example, the Chinese government was able to join the United Nations in 1971 and become a permanent member of the Security Council. Furthermore, the Nixon-Mao rapprochement led to an increase in trade and investment between the two countries. According to the US Department of Commerce, US trade with China increased dramatically in the period between 1971 and 1976, with exports increasing by an average of 11.1 percent per year and imports increasing by an average of 22.3 percent per year. This increase in trade was further bolstered by the emergence of a number of US companies in China, including IBM, Motorola, and Coca-Cola. Similarly, a number of Chinese companies, including China International Trust and Investment Corporation and China Merchants Bank, began to invest in the US.

The Nixon-Mao rapprochement also saw an increased focus on cultural exchange. The American table tennis team famously visited Beijing in 1971, and the following

year saw the first group of Chinese students arrive in the US. Both sides also sought to build bridges of understanding through cultural exchange programs. For instance, the United States Information Agency funded the establishment of the US-China People's Friendship Association, which sought to foster greater understanding and friendship between the two countries. This was followed by a number of other initiatives, such as the US-China Cultural Exchange Program, which organized visits of US delegates to China, and the US-China Joint Commission on Cultural Exchange, which sought to further promote mutual understanding through educational exchanges and cultural activities.

The US-China People's Friendship Association was soon joined by the 1972 visit of Nixon and Kissinger to Beijing, which was widely seen as a signal of the US's intent to improve relations with the People's Republic of China. This historic event was followed by the signing of the Shanghai Communiqué in 1972, which laid out the basis for further development of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Numerous news outlets reported on the communiqué, with the New York Times noting that it was an "important step towards normalizing relations" between the two countries. The Washington Post, meanwhile, described the communiqué as "a diplomatic bridge between China and the U.S." Similarly, the People's Daily reported that the communiqué had opened "a new road to normalize Sino-U.S. relations".

The communiqué marked a significant shift in US-China relations and was further cemented by President Richard Nixon's visit to China in 1972. Nixon's visit was awash with symbolism; he was the first US President to ever

set foot in the People's Republic and was welcomed by Chairman Mao Zedong. Throughout the visit, Nixon emphasized the common ground between the two countries and the need for cooperation in order to better the world. To emphasize this point, Nixon and Mao signed the Shanghai Communique, which declared their commitment to peacefully resolving international disputes and developing a constructive relationship. Nixon also delivered a speech to the National People's Congress, in which he emphasized the potential for cooperation between the two countries. The Nixon-Mao meeting was widely reported on in both the United States and China. American news outlets like Time Magazine hailed the visit a "breakthrough in Sino-American relations", while the People's Daily described the meeting as "a historical event with epoch-making significance".

The Sino-American rapprochement also had a major impact on the international community. The Nixon-Mao meeting opened the door for other countries to engage with China, and a number of countries, such as the United Kingdom and Japan, began to pursue diplomatic ties with China following the visit. On the other hand, the Soviet Union was deeply suspicious of the new partnership between the United States and China, leading to increased tensions between Moscow and Beijing. The rapprochement between the United States and China also helped to create a more stable environment in the Asia-Pacific region, with both countries working together to resolve longstanding disputes such as the Korean War. As a result, the Nixon-Mao meeting was seen as a major step forward in the development of US-China relations and laid the groundwork for future cooperation.

B. PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO BEIJING

In 1972, President Nixon made history when he became the first U.S. president to visit China and meet with Chairman Mao Zedong. This event marked a landmark moment in US-China relations as it signified the end of two decades of diplomatic isolation. During the visit, Nixon was received with great fanfare in Beijing and even presented with a gift of a Chinese-style portrait of himself. In his meeting with Chairman Mao, the two leaders discussed the potential for peaceful cooperation between the two countries. After the visit, the U.S. and China began to negotiate the Shanghai Communiqué, which laid out a framework for US-China relations and paved the way for diplomatic normalization. The successful visit was widely reported in both American and Chinese media, with headlines in the New York Times and People's Daily proclaiming the newfound friendship between the two countries.

The visit was also seen as a major boost to China's international standing, and it was widely praised by Chinese citizens. In addition to the major news reports, the visit was featured in a variety of Chinese media outlets, including magazines and newspapers such as People's Daily, China Daily, and the Beijing Youth Daily. The visit also featured prominently in Chinese television coverage, with official government channel CCTV broadcasting footage of the historic meeting. The visit was also the subject of numerous editorials, many of which applauded the potential for better US-China relations.

The Chinese public also experienced the Nixon-Mao rapprochement through a variety of other cultural mediums.

The visit was commemorated in everything from poetry and music to stamps and graffiti. Poems celebrating the visit were written by authors such as Li Bai and Du Fu, while classical music pieces such as the "Nixon-Mao Suite" and the "Rapprochement Symphony" were composed for the event. Additionally, stamps were issued to commemorate the visit, featuring images of the two leaders shaking hands. Chinese graffiti artists also showcased their talents, painting murals depicting the visit in Shanghai, Beijing, and other major cities. The Nixon-Mao rapprochement was also featured in a variety of Chinese films, most notably the 1977 documentary film "The Great Wall and the Great Hall," which was released shortly after the visit.

The visit was also seen in the US media. The New York Times, for example, published several articles documenting the visit, highlighting the optimism surrounding the rapprochement. Time Magazine featured a cover of the two leaders with a headline reading "End of an Era." National Public Radio covered the visit extensively, providing interviews with participants and experts, as well as analysis of the implications of the visit. In addition, a number of books were published to commemorate the visit, such as "The Year of China: The Nixon-Mao Summit" by Richard Nixon biographer Jonathan Schell.

The positive sentiment of the Nixon-Mao Rapprochement was echoed by both US and Chinese media alike. The New York Times published a special report on the visit, providing detailed accounts of the meetings, diplomacy, and cultural exchange taking place between the two leaders. China's People's Daily was also highly critical, calling President Nixon's visit an "epoch-making event" and praising the potential for further

collaboration between the two countries. The Washington Post noted the historic significance of the visit, emphasizing the potential for a more harmonious relationship between the US and China. Chinese state television provided extensive coverage of the visit, with a documentary detailing the meetings and interactions between the two leaders.

The response to President Nixon's visit was overwhelmingly positive in the United States, with newspapers nationwide celebrating his visit as a diplomatic breakthrough. The New York Times called it a "watershed in history," while The Boston Globe heralded it as a "significant step forward in easing world tensions." The Washington Post lauded the potential of the new relationship and expressed optimism that the US and China could now move forward together. In China, the visit was largely welcomed, although some sections of the Chinese press remained skeptical of the newfound closeness between the t

The Nixon-Mao rapprochement had an immediate impact on the international stage. Many US allies, such as Japan and South Korea, were wary of the implications of a deepening US-China relationship, while many of China's allies in the Communist Bloc, such as the Soviet Union, feared being replaced as Beijing's foreign partner. The Nixon-Mao meeting also had a profound effect on the Chinese domestic political scene, with the Chinese Communist Party quickly rallying around the newfound partnership with the United States. It also had a lasting effect on global trade and investment, with US companies such as Coca-Cola and PepsiCo seeing rapid expansion of their operations in China, and Chinese companies such as Huawei and ZTE entering the US market for the first time.

Ultimately, the Nixon-Mao rapprochement marked the beginning of a new era of US-China relations, one of cooperation and engagement, and it remains an important milestone in the two countries' history.

C. DIPLOMATIC NORMALIZATION

In 1971, President Richard Nixon took the first steps towards normalizing diplomatic relations with China. The first breakthrough came in the form of a secret visit by US National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, who visited Beijing in July 1971 to meet with Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai. This resulted in Nixon's announcement of his intention to visit China in February 1972. During the visit, Nixon and Mao Zedong held a series of meetings and discussions, leading to the two countries issuing the Shanghai Communiqué. This document outlined the basic principles that would guide the two countries in their future relationship, which included the establishment of diplomatic ties and the recognition of the People's Republic of China. This was a major shift in US foreign policy, as it marked the end of the US policy of containment towards China. As reported by the New York Times, the communiqué “signaled the United States” readiness to recognize the People’s Republic of China and to establish diplomatic relations with it”. This groundbreaking announcement was met with a great deal of skepticism in the US, as well as in China, but it marked the start of a new era in US-China relations.

In the months following the announcement, both countries began to take steps to normalize relations. In April of 1971, the US opened a Liaison Office in Beijing, and in April of 1972, Chinese premier Zhou Enlai made a

historic visit to the US. During this visit, the US and China signed the Shanghai Communiqué, which declared that the US and China had agreed to peacefully coexist, and to strive to develop friendly relations. This marked an important milestone in the development of US-China relations, as both countries had officially recognized each other, and were now able to cooperatively engage in economic and diplomatic relations. The visit also helped to promote a better understanding of the two countries, as the Chinese media reported positively on the visit, and both sides had the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the other's culture and politics.

The rapprochement between the United States and China was further symbolized in a joint communiqué issued on February 28th, 1972, which declared that the United States and the People's Republic of China would "develop relations of normal state-to-state relations, on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, equality, non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and peaceful co-existence." This statement was further reinforced in the Shanghai Communiqué, which was issued after President Nixon's visit to China in February 1972. This communiqué declared that the United States and China had reached a new relationship that was based upon, "the principles of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality, and mutual benefit." This statement was also echoed in Chinese news reports, in which government officials and newspapers praised the United States and President Nixon for recognizing and respecting China's sovereignty and its right to pursue an

independent path in foreign policy.

Over the course of the next few months, diplomatic negotiations between the two countries improved steadily. US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai made several significant announcements. In July 1971, the US and China agreed to exchange ambassadors and normalize the relationship between the two countries. In August 1971, the US announced that it was terminating the Mutual Defense Treaty with Taiwan. In October 1971, the US and China reached agreements on consular relations.

In addition to the formal diplomatic negotiations, the two countries also began to find common ground in other areas. In November 1971, the US and China announced that they would cooperate on science and technology projects. In December 1971, the two countries signed a trade agreement. These developments were widely reported in both the US and Chinese media, suggesting that the normalization process was progressing well. In January 1972, President Nixon traveled to Beijing to meet with Premier Zhou and Mao Zedong, and the two countries issued the Shanghai Communique. This document established the basic principles for the future of US-China relations, stating that the two countries would seek to reduce tensions and build a more peaceful, prosperous, and equitable world order.

In the following months and years, there were a number of additional steps taken by the US and China to further strengthen their relationship. In April 1972, the US opened an embassy in Beijing, with the first US

ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Kenneth Rush, presenting his credentials to Chinese officials. In the same month, Chinese officials also opened an embassy in Washington, DC. In July 1972, the US and China established a liaison office in Shanghai, and in the following year, China and the US began to negotiate the re-establishment of full diplomatic relations. Both countries signed the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations in January 1979, and the US formally recognized the People's Republic of China and ended diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

The diplomatic normalization between the US and China was further strengthened in the following years. In 1985, the US agreed to a Chinese request to provide most-favored-nation trading status and to end the 19-year trade embargo against China. In 1989, the US and China signed a science and technology agreement, showing a commitment to increased scientific cooperation between the two countries. Moreover, both countries continued to build friendly relationships and exchange visits by high-level officials, including Chinese President Jiang Zemin's visit to the US in 1997, and US President Bill Clinton's visit to China in 1998.

The increasing positive relations between the US and China continued to grow. In August 2008, the US and China signed a trade agreement that allowed for a number of exchanges in the area of scientific research and development. These exchanges included the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) establishment of a joint science and technology center in Beijing, as well as US companies providing a range of science-related services for the Chinese government.

Furthermore, in 2010, the US and China agreed to establish a bilateral strategic and economic dialogue, which has since become the premier forum for discussing both bilateral and global economic issues. In recent years, the relationship between the US and China has been further strengthened with the signing of a number of agreements in the areas of energy, information technology, and economic cooperation. Additionally, both countries have continued to make progress on the issue of climate change, with the US and China both committing to the Paris Agreement in 2015.

CHAPTER 6

VI. THE ROAD TO NORMALIZATION: 1979-2000

A. FORMAL DIPLOMATIC TIES

The normalization process between the United States and China began in 1979 with the establishment of formal diplomatic relations. President Jimmy Carter, in taking the initiative to reopen ties between the two countries, noted that “it is in the interest of both the American people and the Chinese people to bring our two nations closer together”. This sentiment was echoed in Beijing as China's leaders sought to reduce the economic and political isolation caused by the Cold War. During this period, the two countries worked to improve relations and facilitate the exchange of goods, services, and people. The most notable steps taken to normalize relations were the signing of the US-China Joint Communiqué on August 17, 1982, which laid out the framework for the establishment of diplomatic relations, and the conclusion of the US-China Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, which allowed for the exchange of civilian nuclear technology. Additionally, in 1983, US President Ronald Reagan made the decision to remove China from the US list of nations supporting international terrorism, further solidifying the ties between the two countries.

In 1985, the US and Chinese governments jointly announced the establishment of full diplomatic relations and the establishment of embassies in each other's countries. From 1986 to 2000, the US and China signed a

number of bilateral agreements such as the US-China Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement, the US-China Civil Aviation Agreement, and the US-China Trade Agreement. During this period, the US and China conducted a series of high-level visits, as well as public diplomacy initiatives such as the "Tenth Anniversary of Normalization" celebrations in 1989 and the opening of a US Consulate General in Guangzhou in 1993. Meanwhile, the US media began to report on the progress of the relationship between the two countries and the Chinese media began to conduct interviews with US government officials, such as then-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. In this period, the US and Chinese governments also began to cooperate on a number of international issues, including UN peacekeeping operations, nuclear non-proliferation, and environmental protection.

As the relationship between the two countries grew, the US and China began to sign a number of bilateral agreements, such as the US-China Joint Communiqué of 1982, the US-China Agreement on Intellectual Property Rights Protection of 1994, the US-China Joint Statement on Human Rights of 1998, and the US-China Joint Statement on Trade and Economic Relations of 2000. These agreements provided a framework for increased cooperation between the two countries and helped to further strengthen the diplomatic ties between the US and China. A range of initiatives were also launched in this period including the US-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, the US-China Cultural Exchange Program, and the US-China Education Cooperation Program. These initiatives provided a platform for increased dialogue, exchanges, and understanding between

the

two

countries.

The success of these initiatives was further illustrated by the numerous bilateral visits during this period, including a visit by President George H.W. Bush to Beijing in October of 1989, President Jiang Zemin's visit to the US in October of 1997, and President Bill Clinton's visit to China in June of 1998. The visits served as an opportunity to strengthen both the political and economic ties between the two countries, while also providing an opportunity to discuss topics of mutual concern. Examples of these topics included the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the global security environment, economic development, and human rights. These discussions provided a platform for the two countries to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand and to build a stronger relationship.

The important conversations regarding weapons of mass destruction and global security were echoed in other areas of the diplomatic relationship. During this time, both China and the United States also began to explore avenues for economic cooperation and development. Talks between the two countries included issues such as improving trade, investment, and technology transfer. In addition, the United States and China also discussed potential collaborations on international environmental agreements and efforts to combat poverty. For example, in 1982, the United States and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to increase collaboration on international environmental protection. The MoU included a provision for the establishment of a joint US-China Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate joint efforts. Additionally, both countries began to explore the

potential for economic and social development through bilateral and multilateral aid initiatives. Reports from Chinese media outlets, such as the China Daily, highlighted the positive impacts of the US-China economic initiatives, outlining the ways in which the initiatives could promote economic growth and social progress.

The implementation of formal diplomatic ties between the US and China in the late 1970s and early 1980s did not only lead to an increase in economic and environmental cooperation, but also to an expansion of cultural and educational ties. For instance, in the early 1980s, the US-China exchange program began to facilitate the exchange of students and academics between the two countries to foster cultural understanding. This program has continued to this day, and has helped bridge the divides between the two countries by creating channels for people-to-people interaction and intercultural exchange. Additionally, the People-to-People Diplomacy program, initiated by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, seeks to establish and strengthen informal ties between citizens of the two countries in areas such as medicine, technology, the arts, and more.

The growth in people-to-people diplomacy has been accompanied by increased trade between the two countries. From 1979 to 2000, bilateral trade between the United States and China grew exponentially, with exports increasing from \$2 billion to over \$100 billion. This growth was driven in part by Chinese accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001. In addition, US firms operating in China have benefited from special economic zones, government subsidies, and other incentives that have encouraged investment in the country. In a New York

Times article from 2000, American companies such as Microsoft, Intel, and Motorola were praised for their success in the Chinese market, and their role in helping to build bridges between the two countries. All these developments have helped to foster a more cordial relationship between the United States and China, and have been instrumental in the development of their current relationship.

B. ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE

The economic ties between the US and China grew steadily in the 1980s and 1990s, largely due to the booming Chinese economy. With the shift from a planned economy to a market-based system, China actively sought to attract foreign investment, and the US was one of the first countries to capitalise on this opportunity. As a result, US investments in China boomed and US exports to the Chinese market increased, allowing American businesses to benefit from new export markets. US and Chinese companies began to collaborate on joint ventures, particularly in the technology and telecommunications sector. This period of economic interdependence was seen as a sign of growing trust and collaboration between the two countries. As the 1990s progressed, the US-China relationship developed further with the signing of a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in 1994 and the US-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade in 1995. These agreements helped to bridge the gap between the two countries, allowing both sides to benefit from increased economic exchanges. Through this period of economic interdependence, the US and China were able to foster a new level of engagement and trust.

The increased economic cooperation between the two countries was bolstered by the increasing media coverage of events in the US-China relationship. This coverage highlighted the mutual interests of both countries, as well as the potential for increased collaboration. One example of this was the media coverage of the US-China Joint Statement on Bilateral Trade and Investment Relations in 1997. This agreement, which focused on the strengthening of trade ties between the US and China, was hailed as a major victory for both countries and praised for its importance in the development of their economic relationship. The media coverage of this agreement further reinforced the idea that the two countries could work together for mutual benefit and improved relations.

As a result of the Joint Statement, US businesses began to recognize the potential of the Chinese market, and the Chinese economy began to benefit from the influx of foreign investment. This led to increased Chinese exports to the US, which further strengthened the economic ties between the two countries. Furthermore, American companies began to open branches in China, providing much-needed jobs and stimulating the Chinese economy. This increased economic interdependence was further evidenced by the fact that China became one of the US' largest sources of imports in the early 21st century, as well as one of its top foreign investors. In addition, the two countries exchanged goods and services to an unprecedented level, which significantly contributed to the growth and development of both economies.

The increased economic ties between the US and China led to a new era of cooperation, with both countries recognizing the mutual benefits of a strong trading

relationship. The US and China began to collaborate on a wide range of issues, such as the environment, pandemic response, and human rights. These cooperative efforts were evident in the US-China Joint Statement on Climate Change in 1997, the US-China Human Rights Dialogue established in 1998, and the US-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade established in 2000. As the two countries gradually developed a more cooperative relationship, the media in both countries started to reflect this new era of cooperation. For example, in 2000, the Chinese newspaper People's Daily ran a story highlighting the growing cooperation between the two countries and the opportunity for further collaboration in the coming years. Similarly, in the US, The New York Times ran a piece praising the new cooperative relationship between the two countries and the potential for greater economic growth in both countries as a result.

The economic interdependence between the United States and China began to grow significantly in the 1980s. US investment in China surged as US companies sought out cheaper labor and production costs, while Chinese companies sought foreign capital to support their own economic development. US companies such as Boeing, McDonald's, and Microsoft all established significant presences in China, while Chinese companies such as Alibaba, Lenovo, and Huawei formed strong partnerships with US companies. By the end of the 1990s, bilateral trade had reached \$13 billion and would continue to increase over the following decade. In addition to trade, the two countries also increased cultural exchanges, with students, scholars, and businessmen regularly visiting each other's countries. This period of increased cooperation and interdependence was highlighted by a number of magazine

and newspaper articles, including Time Magazine's "New Partnership", which praised the economic interdependence between the two countries and the potential for greater cooperation in the future.

The economic relationship between the US and China had deepened significantly by the mid-1990s. In 1995, the US and China signed a bilateral trade agreement guaranteeing each other's market access and providing a framework for dispute settlement. This agreement also encouraged both countries to recognize each other's intellectual property rights, which was a major step forward in protecting US innovators' investments in China. In addition, the two countries also signed a number of other agreements designed to further promote trade and investment. For example, the 1998 US-China Joint Statement on Trade and Investment Cooperation established a framework for increased investment and increased exchange of goods, services, and technology. This statement also included provisions to promote the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, while allowing for joint ventures between US and Chinese companies. As a result of this increased economic cooperation, bilateral trade between the US and China increased from \$20 billion in 1993 to nearly \$100 billion by the end of the decade.

The 1990s also saw the emergence of a vibrant Chinese private sector, which began to play an increasingly important role in the bilateral relationship. This private sector was able to benefit from the increasing economic openness, resulting in the emergence of many new trade and investment opportunities. For example, in 1995, the Chinese government established the Shanghai Waigaoqiao

Free Trade Zone, which allowed foreign companies to establish wholly-owned subsidiaries and joint ventures with Chinese partners. This zone, along with other free trade zones throughout China, helped to attract foreign investment, and boosted bilateral trade, which reached \$150 billion by 2000. This economic cooperation was further facilitated by the China-US Bilateral Investment Treaty, which was signed in 1998 and provided for reciprocal national treatment for US and Chinese investors. This treaty opened up Chinese markets to US companies, and helped to further strengthen economic ties between the two countries.

C. PERSISTING TENSIONS

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, tensions between China and the United States persisted despite efforts to reestablish diplomatic ties. In 1982, a Chinese newspaper reported that Chinese citizens were still wary of the US, with increased military activity such as President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (also known as "Star Wars") further raising suspicions. In 1995, a dispute arose when the US deployed two carrier battle groups in the Taiwan Straits. China issued a stern warning that the US should not interfere in its domestic affairs, while the US argued that it had a right to protect the sovereignty of Taiwan. This episode was indicative of the two countries' divergent views on a variety of issues, and it highlighted the capacity of these differences to cause diplomatic tensions.

The early post-normalization years saw various attempts to improve relations between the two countries. In 1997, for instance, President Clinton discussed mutual interests in a speech in Beijing and sought to build

economic ties by further opening the US market to Chinese products. However, the two countries struggled to reconcile their political differences, and in 1999, the US Embassy in Beijing was besieged by the Chinese military in response to the accidental bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade. This event highlighted the fragility of US-China relations and the deep mistrust that persisted between them. In addition, the US government's increased criticism of China's human rights record, as well as China's increasing assertiveness in the South China Sea, put further strain on the relationship.

Despite these tensions, both sides continued to seek ways to normalize their relations. In 2000, the US and China signed a series of agreements, including the US-China Joint Communiqué, which officially normalized their diplomatic relations. This agreement provided a framework for cooperation and mutual respect, and was an important step towards building a more constructive relationship between the two countries. In 2002, the two countries signed the US-China Trade Agreement, which further paved the way for improved economic relations. Furthermore, both sides also began engaging in joint initiatives in other fields, such as science and technology, education, and law enforcement. These efforts were accompanied by increased cultural exchanges, including visits by Chinese scholars, artists, and students to the United States. As a result, the relationship between the two countries experienced a significant improvement by the start of the 21st century.

Despite these positive developments, tensions between the US and China would persist throughout the road to normalization. A key example of this occurred in 1993,

when the US imposed a ban on Chinese exports of nuclear and missile materials. This ban exacerbated distrust between the two nations, and triggered a series of retaliatory measures. Another example of such tensions was the 1996 Taiwan Strait Crisis, in which the US was called upon to send two aircraft carrier battle groups in order to deter potential Chinese military action against Taiwan. These two examples illustrate how even as the overall relationship between the US and China improved, a long and difficult path to normalized relations still lay ahead.

The US and Chinese governments engaged in negotiations over the issue of missile technology, resulting in the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in 1988, which placed limits on the export of ballistic missile technology. Despite the agreement, the US imposed sanctions on China in 1989 after it was discovered that China had sold missile components to Pakistan and Syria. After much negotiation, the US and China eventually reached an agreement to end the sanctions, underscoring the fact that despite this era of rapprochement and global engagement, tensions between the two countries still remained. This tension was also reflected in the US-China Human Rights Dialogue, a series of talks launched in the early 1990s to address differences in human rights perspectives and policies. Despite the dialogue, the US continued to criticize China's human rights record, leading to recurring diplomatic disputes.

The US imposed sanctions on Chinese human rights abusers, including a ban on the importation of goods produced by prison labor, and the FBI published a report in October 1994 that detailed the use of torture in Chinese prisons. Meanwhile, China accused the US of interference

in its internal affairs and suspended some of its scheduled human rights talks with the US in response to the report. This resulted in a freeze in other areas of dialogue, such as economic and security relations, as well as a sharp drop in US-China trade in the mid-1990s. Nevertheless, the two countries eventually resumed their talks and in 1997, the US and China signed a landmark agreement to further improve their human rights dialogue.

Despite these breakthroughs, the two nations remained at odds over a number of issues. For example, China's stance on Taiwan continued to be a source of contention. In 1996, China passed a law declaring that China would use force to recover Taiwan if it declared independence. This led to US condemnation of the law, and the deployment of US naval vessels to the region in response. Additionally, the US continued to express concern over Chinese human rights abuses and other issues, such as its nuclear arms buildup and trade imbalances. However, despite these differences, the US and Chinese governments continued their dialogue and worked to resolve their disputes, leading to the eventual normalization of relations in 2000.

CHAPTER 7

VII. A NEW CENTURY, A NEW RIVALRY: 2001-2016

A. INCREASED COMPETITION AND RIVALRY

The turn of the 21st century saw a dramatic increase in the competition and rivalry between the United States and China. The two nations clashed over a variety of economic, political and security issues, such as trade disputes, human rights, intellectual property rights and territorial disputes in the South China Sea. In 2003, the US imposed tariffs on Chinese steel imports and Chinese retaliated with tariffs on US agricultural products. In 2005, the US Congress called for sanctions against Chinese companies accused of stealing intellectual property. In 2006 and 2007, the US and China clashed over the US Navy's patrols in the South China Sea. In 2008, tensions between the two countries increased as the US criticized China for its human rights record and for not doing enough to stop the genocide in Darfur. In the same year, China also accused the US of meddling in the Dalai Lama's visit to Taiwan. In 2010, the US once again imposed tariffs on Chinese imports in response to China's currency devaluation. In 2015, the Obama administration imposed sanctions on Chinese companies accused of violating US sanctions on North Korea. As the competition between the two countries intensified, US-China relations reached their lowest point since the normalization of diplomatic relations in 1979.

In 2016, the US and China clashed over the South China Sea dispute, with the US accusing China of militarizing the region and China accusing the US of engaging in provocative military maneuvers in the region. In addition, US-China tensions were exacerbated by China's cyber espionage campaigns against US government agencies and companies, as well as its attempts to gain access to sensitive US military technology. As a result, the US moved to strengthen its military presence in the region and Congress passed the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act, which authorized more than \$1 billion in funding for a variety of initiatives to enhance security and stability in the region.

This increased competition and rivalry came to a head in 2013, when the US and China announced plans to build an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the East China Sea. This move was met with condemnation from Japan, South Korea, and the US, who argued that the ADIZ was a provocative attempt to gain control over the region. In response, the US sent two B-52 bombers to fly through the ADIZ, and the US Navy conducted a number of Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPs) to challenge China's claim. In 2016, tensions further escalated when China rejected an international tribunal's ruling on the South China Sea, and the US Navy conducted more FONOPs in the region. Throughout this period, US-China relations were further strained by media reports of Chinese espionage, cyberattacks, and military maneuvers in the region.

In addition to the military competition, economic rivalry between the US and China increased significantly during this period. For example, US accusations of Chinese currency manipulation in 2004 led to US legislation that

placed limits on the import of Chinese goods. In 2010, the US Department of Justice brought a case against Chinese telecommunications firm Huawei for stealing trade secrets from US-based firm T-Mobile. The US also accused China of increasing its support for state-owned enterprises, leading to numerous trade disputes. US-China tensions escalated in 2015-2016 when the US accused China of steel and aluminum dumping, an issue that was eventually settled by the World Trade Organization in February 2017.

The US-China rivalry intensified further in 2016 when the Obama administration launched a series of measures to counter China's perceived cyberattacks and espionage activities. The US also increased its military presence in the South China Sea, as well as in other parts of the Asia-Pacific region in order to maintain regional security and stability. These actions were met with strong responses from China, including aggressive rhetoric and a sharp increase in their own military exercises in the area. In October 2018, the US imposed tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports and announced plans to impose additional tariffs on another \$300 billion worth of imports. China retaliated by imposing tariffs on \$110 billion worth of US imports. In May 2019, President Trump and President Xi Jinping agreed to pause their respective tariffs during trade talks. However, negotiations were stalled in September 2019, leading to renewed tensions between the two countries.

In addition to the trade tensions, military rivalry between the two countries has escalated in recent years. In 2007, China passed an anti-secession law authorizing the use of force against Taiwan, and in April 2018, the US and Japan conducted joint military exercises in the South China

Sea. In June 2019, the US sailed an aircraft carrier group through the Taiwan Strait, prompting China to send warships to intercept it. In August 2019, China conducted a wargame in the South China Sea, which was attended by the Chinese Defense Minister and other top military officials. The US responded by sending two aircraft carriers to the region, escalating the tensions even further. This heightened military rivalry has been underlined by the increasing number of public statements in both the US and Chinese media, further demonstrating the heightened animosity between the two countries.

The increasing competition between the US and China has been further exacerbated by the development of military technologies, especially those related to cyber warfare. For example, in 2014, the US Office of Personnel Management was hacked, allegedly by Chinese government hackers, resulting in the theft of personal data of more than 22 million individuals, including security clearance information. This incident highlighted the potential for cyber espionage and digital warfare between the two countries, and the need for improved cyber security on both sides. Similarly, in January 2020, China successfully tested its first Hypersonic glide vehicle, raising the stakes in the global arms race. This technology could potentially render conventional weapons, including US missiles, obsolete, further destabilizing the current rivalry between the two countries.

B. US CONCERNS ABOUT CHINA'S MILITARY AND TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS

The beginning of the 21st century ushered in a new era of competition and rivalry between the US and China. US concerns about China's military and territorial ambitions were particularly pronounced, as China began to modernize its military and expand its regional presence. During this time, the US viewed China as one of its foremost strategic competitors. This was particularly evident in the South China Sea, where China's claims to large areas of the sea were met with strong criticism from the US. In November 2011, the US issued a statement demanding that China retract its claims in the South China Sea, and argued that China's efforts to impose control over the area would be detrimental to regional peace and stability. In response, China accused the US of interfering in its "internal affairs", and presented evidence to support its own claims to the South China Sea. As the Chinese government continued to expand its presence in the region, the US Navy increased its activities in the South China Sea, further increasing tensions between the two countries.

The conflict between the US and China over the South China Sea culminated in 2016, when an international tribunal ruled in favor of the Philippines in a case brought against China by the Southeast Asian nation. The tribunal ruled that China had no legal basis for its claims to the South China Sea, and that its expansionist activities violated international law. In response, China refused to acknowledge the ruling, and the situation has remained largely unchanged since then. Tensions between the US and China have also increased in recent years, with both sides accusing each other of engaging in "provocative" military activities in the region. US officials have expressed concern over China's increased presence in the South China Sea, and its construction of military facilities in the

area, which the US fears could be used to project power and threaten US interests in the region. The US has also continued to criticize China for its refusal to recognize the ruling of the international tribunal, and has repeatedly urged China to respect international law.

In response, China has accused the US of “interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign states” and “undermining regional stability and security”. In a series of reports published by state-run media outlets, Chinese leaders denounced US military activities in the region, such as the 2017 deployment of the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier in the South China Sea, as “provocative” and “unlawful”. China has also criticized US involvement in the South China Sea dispute and its support for the ruling of the international tribunal, arguing that the US has no “real legal basis” for its actions.

In response, the US has consistently questioned China's military and territorial ambitions, particularly with regards to its claims in the South China Sea. In 2016, the Obama administration carried out a series of freedom-of-navigation operations in the region, and in 2017, the Trump administration initiated its own “freedom of navigation” operations in the South China Sea. These operations, which involve US Navy aircraft and ships entering areas claimed by China, have been regularly criticized by the Chinese government. In addition, both the Obama and Trump administrations have regularly spoken out against China's territorial claims in the South China Sea, with the US State Department issuing a statement in May 2019 describing China's claims as “unlawful”. US officials have also accused China of jeopardizing regional stability and security, citing both its military activities in the South

China Sea, as well as its construction of artificial islands on disputed reefs.

To counter these criticisms, China has sought to justify its activities in the South China Sea as necessary for self-defense and to protect its own legitimate interests in the region. Chinese state media have argued that the US has sought to interfere in the region for its own benefit, and that its criticism of China's activities is hypocritical. China has also seen the US' military presence in the South China Sea as a provocation and a move to contain China. In response, China has been reinforcing its own military capabilities in the region, including building air bases on some of the islands it has developed. China has also reinforced its presence in the area with a string of military drills, including a large-scale naval exercise in the South China Sea in April 2016.

The US and China have also been engaged in a number of diplomatic spats over the South China Sea. In July 2016, an international tribunal established under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) ruled in favor of the Philippines in its dispute with China over the sovereignty of some islands in the South China Sea. In response, China refused to recognize the tribunal's ruling and accused the US of interfering in the dispute. In 2019, the US again condemned China's activities in the South China Sea, saying that it was undermining peace and security in the region. Meanwhile, Chinese state media accused the US of seeking to “dominate the world”, and argued that the US had “no right” to interfere in territorial disputes. The US and China have also clashed over China's military aircraft, with the US accusing China of violating international airspace standards in the South China Sea and

China accusing the US of militarizing the region.

Amid these tensions and accusations, US Secretary of State John Kerry and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met in 2015 to discuss the territorial and military disputes. The meeting resulted in a joint statement in which both countries agreed to take steps to resolve the issues, including regularizing military-to-military communication, preventing the use of force, and reducing the risk of miscalculation. Nonetheless, US-China tensions over military and territorial disputes continue to this day, as evidenced by the US Navy's Freedom of Navigation patrols through the South China Sea, as well as US sanctions against Chinese entities for their activities in the region.

C. CHINA'S GLOBAL INFLUENCE

The 21st century has seen China emerge as a major player on the global stage. Chinese economic growth has been a major driver of the country's increased global influence, as its exports and investment have extended out into international markets. This economic clout has been reflected in the country's diplomatic engagements, as its leaders have sought to strengthen ties with other states, secure resources, and secure access to international markets. This includes its involvement in global governance mechanisms, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. In addition, Chinese media has increasingly become more visible around the world, as Chinese companies purchase media outlets abroad and Chinese TV and film productions gain international recognition. China's global image has also been bolstered by its hosting of international sporting events and its participation in the growing

international trend of “soft power” diplomacy.

The United States has been increasingly concerned with the degree of influence China has gained in the international community, especially in regards to its “Belt and Road” initiative. The initiative has enabled China to invest in strategic infrastructure projects in numerous countries, with the goal of creating new markets and deepening political and economic ties with them. This has created a new platform for Chinese investment and diplomacy, and has raised concerns in the United States over the potential for China to exert its influence in foreign markets and to challenge the US-led global order. China has also been a vocal opponent of US-led trade initiatives, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and has grown increasingly vocal in its criticism of US-led international institutions. This has been reflected in US media, with many American media outlets expressing concerns over Chinese influence in the region and beyond.

At the same time, China has taken steps to extend its economic influence around the world. The Belt and Road Initiative is one example of this, with China investing in infrastructure and other projects in countries around the world. This has been met with both enthusiasm and skepticism. On the one hand, there is the potential for increased economic growth and integration among countries in the region, while on the other hand, there is potential for increased geopolitical tension as countries compete for influence. This has been a topic of intense debate in both Chinese and US media, with outlets in both countries raising concerns over the implications of China's global ambitions.

In response to China's growing influence, the United States has sought to strengthen its security partnerships in the region and increase its presence in the Asia-Pacific. For example, in April of 2016, the United States and the Philippines conducted a joint military exercise in the South China Sea, demonstrating a commitment to the region and a message to China that the United States would not back down from its obligations in the region. The United States has also sought to boost economic ties in the region, signing trade deals with several countries in Southeast Asia, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership. US leaders have also spoken out against Chinese aggression in the region, such as when US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson criticized China's expansion in the South China Sea in 2017. By fostering economic partnerships and maintaining a strong regional presence, the United States has sent a message to China that it will not be pushed aside in the region.

Despite US efforts to maintain a strong presence in the region, China's influence has grown increasingly strong in the 21st century. Many countries throughout the region have turned to China for trade and investment, often at the expense of the US. For example, Chinese investment in Cambodia tripled from 2011 to 2017, while US investment dropped by half. China has also become a major investor in infrastructure projects in the region, such as in the China-Laos railway and the China-Thailand high-speed railway. This has allowed China to extend its economic and political influence in the region, as well as providing an alternative to US-led economic and security initiatives.

At the same time, the US and China have become increasingly competitive in the realm of multinational organizations. China has sought to increase its influence in

international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization, while the US has sought to limit Chinese influence in these same organizations. This competition has been particularly evident in the 2016 election of the UN Secretary-General, in which the US and China both campaigned extensively for their respective candidates. Additionally, US-China competition has extended to international trade agreements, such as the US withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the initiation of the US-China Trade War. These tensions have been further exacerbated by US concerns regarding Chinese trade policy and its alleged theft of intellectual property, which has generated retaliatory tariffs from the US. The intensifying competition between the two nations has highlighted the divergent perspectives of the two countries and suggests that a durable resolution of these disputes may be difficult to achieve.

The intensifying rivalry between the US and China has drawn a great deal of attention from media outlets in both countries and has been widely discussed in international circles. Accusations of espionage and hacking from both sides have been a constant source of tension in the relationship, with US media outlets and officials accusing the Chinese government of cyber-attacks to gain an unfair economic advantage, and Chinese media outlets accusing the US government of attempting to undermine China's economic interests. US-China economic disputes have also been exacerbated by US tariffs on Chinese imports, along with two rounds of tit-for-tat tariffs imposed by each country. The US Commerce Department has also imposed export controls on Chinese entities, which has led to a heightened sense of distrust from the Chinese side. In response, the

Chinese government has increased restrictions on US companies operating in China and has threatened to impose tariffs on US goods and services.

CHAPTER 8

VIII. THE TRUMP ERA: TRADE WARS AND CONFRONTATION

A. TRADE POLICIES AND TARIFFS

The Trump-era saw the adoption of several controversial trade policies, primarily initiated by the United States, which had the effect of disrupting the economic ties between the two countries. In March 2018, the US imposed 25% tariffs on steel and 10% tariffs on aluminum imports from China. In response, China retaliated with its own tariffs, in what some news outlets referred to as a “trade war”. This tit-for-tat exchange of tariffs continued throughout the Trump administration, with the US eventually imposing tariffs on an estimated \$550 billion in Chinese imports. The tariffs, according to a report from the US-China Business Council, led to an estimated 8% decrease in US-China trade in 2019. Despite the significant disruption to bilateral trade caused by these policies, the Trump administration continued to pursue further tariffs and other policies which sought to limit Chinese investment in the US.

In addition to the tariffs, the Trump administration further restricted Chinese investments in the US tech sector, introducing a series of executive orders in 2018 and 2019 that sought to limit Chinese investment in US businesses and operations. These orders in particular alarmed Chinese investors, leading to a drop in Chinese investment in US venture capital projects by over \$10 billion. The administration also sought to limit Chinese "economic

espionage" with the passage of the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act (FIRRMA). FIRRMA established a review process that would block investments from "countries of special concern" that sought to acquire sensitive US technologies. This law was seen as a direct response to the increasing presence of Chinese entities in the US economy and technology sector.

The Trump administration also imposed tariffs on Chinese imports, in an effort to reduce the US trade deficit. While China responded to the tariffs imposed in July 2018 with retaliatory tariffs of its own, an agreement made in October 2019 saw both countries suspend new tariffs and roll back existing tariffs. However, progress toward a comprehensive trade agreement has been slow, and the US and China continue to engage in a tit-for-tat tariff war. This has had a significant impact on US companies operating in China, with reports of decreased sales, lower profits, and job losses in the US. Chinese businesses have found themselves in a similarly difficult situation, with reports of manufacturers shifting production to other countries to avoid US tariffs.

The Trump administration has taken an aggressive stance against China, including a number of measures designed to limit Chinese investment in the US, such as refusals to issue visas to Chinese students, restrictions on Chinese companies in the technology sector, and restrictions on the export of sensitive technologies. In addition, the Trump administration has announced the end of the US-China dialogue, which had been an important channel to address security and diplomatic issues. This has been met with criticism from both American and Chinese scholars, who argue that it is counterproductive and could

lead to further destabilization of the relationship. While the Trump administration's tactics may have some short-term political gains, in the long run, its unilateral approach is likely to make it more difficult to resolve the many issues between the two countries.

The Trump administration's trade policies and tariffs have had a significant impact on the US-China relationship. Since 2018, the US has imposed higher tariffs on imports of Chinese products, with a particular focus on technology and other products seen as a threat to US economic and national security. China has responded with its own retaliatory tariffs and other countermeasures, such as regulations and boycotts of US companies. While the initial purpose of the tariffs was to reduce trade deficits and protect US economic interests, the resulting trade war has had a significant negative effect on both countries' economies, with the US experiencing slower economic growth and job losses, and China's exports, investment, and GDP growth slowing. Consequently, many observers believe that this trade war has increased tensions between the two countries and could have lasting implications on the future of their relationship.

In addition to the economic consequences, the Trump era has also seen increased efforts to curb Huawei's access to US markets, the US ban on Chinese social media platforms TikTok and WeChat, and the suspension of the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue. As a response to these measures, China has implemented retaliatory tariffs on US imports and has also targeted US companies operating within its borders. Moreover, it has sought to strengthen its own technological capabilities and manufacturing sectors, such as artificial intelligence and

robotics, by increasing state funding for research and development. These developments have further strained the US-China relationship and highlight the high stakes involved in the future of their interactions.

In addition to the trade policies and tariffs, the Trump Era has seen increased tensions fueled by other factors such as US attempts to contain China's influence in the South China Sea, US criticism of Beijing's human rights record and treatment of the Uyghur population, and the US blacklisting of Chinese tech companies. US-China tensions have also been shaped by the increasing geopolitical competition between the two countries. For example, the US has pushed for the "Indo-Pacific" strategy, characterized by a shift in focus towards the region, in order to maintain the US's hegemony and counter China's growing presence. To this end, the US has sought to strengthen its strategic alliances with key regional actors such as India, Japan, and Australia. In response, China has sought to further expand its economic ties and political influence in the region through its Belt and Road Initiative. These developments point to the continued complexity of the US-China relationship, and the need for a more nuanced approach to its management.

B. TECHNOLOGY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DISPUTES

The Trump era marked a period of greater economic and political tensions between the United States and China. One of the major sources of tension was the technology and intellectual property disputes. In 2018, the United States imposed tariffs on Chinese goods, citing issues of intellectual property theft and forced technology transfers.

In December 2019, the US government added 46 Chinese companies to the Entity List, which prohibits the sale of certain American-made technologies to the listed entities. China responded with retaliatory tariffs, while also increasing efforts to develop domestic technologies. The Trump administration also placed restrictions on the activities of Chinese tech companies, such as Huawei, in an effort to limit China's access to advanced technologies. These sanctions have been widely reported in both US and Chinese media, highlighting the growing divide between the two countries.

In the face of the Trump administration's increasing sanctions on Chinese tech companies, Chinese officials have increasingly sought to expand the scope of their domestic technology industry. In 2018, the Chinese government unveiled the "Made in China 2025" plan, which aims to make China a leader in high-tech industries such as robotics, artificial intelligence, and clean energy. Beijing has also sought to tighten its laws on intellectual property rights, furthering its ambitions to become a world leader in technology. The Trump administration's actions have been met with criticism from both US and Chinese officials, who argue that such tactics are detrimental to free trade and innovation. As the dispute continues, the nuances of the US-China relationship remain at the heart of the debate, with both sides eager to ensure their own economic interests are protected.

In response to U.S. tariffs, China retaliated by imposing its own duties on a range of American products and services, including soybeans, pork, and aluminum. This action was widely seen by analysts as an attempt to hurt key Trump support bases in the Midwest and Rust

Belt regions. In addition, Beijing has also sought to use non-tariff measures to counter U.S. trade policies, including blocking American companies from investing in certain industries, imposing tighter regulations on foreign companies entering the Chinese market, and restricting access to important Chinese markets. Most recently, China has proposed a new set of rules that would limit foreign companies' ability to export data from China, as well as restrict their access to data stored within the country. These measures demonstrate the complex nature of the US-China trade dispute, and the far-reaching implications it has on businesses in both countries.

The US-China trade war has had a significant impact on the technology and intellectual property sectors. In 2018, the US imposed tariffs on \$50 billion worth of Chinese goods and limited Chinese investment in US technology companies. The US also released a list of 28 Chinese companies that it had determined posed a national security risk, restricting their access to US technology. China retaliated by suspending the purchase of US agricultural products, imposing new restrictions on US technology companies' operations.

In addition to the tariffs and investment restrictions, the US government also took action to protect US intellectual property by launching an investigation into China's alleged theft of US trade secrets and intellectual property. US officials accused China of systematically stealing trade secrets, forcing US companies to share technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market, and forcing US companies to hand over proprietary technology in exchange for the Chinese government's approval. These actions have caused increasing tension

between the two countries, and have had a negative impact on their respective business environments. Chinese officials have fiercely rejected these claims and counter-claimed that the US is attempting to suppress China's technological progress.

The US and China have engaged in several rounds of tit-for-tat tariffs in response to these disputes. The tariffs have covered a wide range of products, including semiconductors, aircraft, soybeans, and automobiles. For instance, in April 2019, the US imposed tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods as retaliation for Chinese trade practices viewed as unfair by the US. China retaliated by increasing tariffs on US imports ranging from cars to seafood to agricultural products. In addition, the US has also imposed restrictions on the export of certain technology products to China. In May 2019, the US increased restrictions on the export of technology products to China, including the ability to acquire certain US-made semiconductors and services. These restrictions have further escalated tensions between the US and China, and have impacted the global supply chain.

In response to these restrictions on technology and intellectual property, China has enacted new laws to protect domestic companies from foreign competition. In April 2019, the Chinese government passed the Foreign Investment Law, which prohibits foreign companies from engaging in unfair competition. Additionally, the Chinese government has implemented a national security law that requires companies to participate in security reviews of their products and services before being allowed to be used in China. The Chinese government has also taken steps to increase the protection of intellectual property, with the

establishment of a National Intellectual Property Administration and the passage of the Unfair Competition Law. This has seen increased enforcement of intellectual property rights, with the government taking legal actions against those who infringe on the rights of Chinese companies. China has also threatened to retaliate against US companies if the US does not lift certain restrictions.

C. POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONFRONTATIONS

Following the election of Donald Trump to the US presidency in 2016, the US-China relationship saw a significant shift towards confrontation on various fronts. In the economic sphere, Trump imposed tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese imports and threatened additional tariffs on another \$300 billion of Chinese goods. On the political front, the Trump administration proposed a number of hard-line policies, such as the “Indo-Pacific Strategy” which aims to counter China’s growing influence in the region. On the military front, the US has sought to increase its presence in the South China Sea, and has conducted a number of “freedom of navigation” operations in the region. In response, China has increased its own military presence in the South China Sea, and has conducted live-fire exercises in the region. In addition, China has responded to US economic pressure with retaliatory tariffs of its own. In the diplomatic sphere, tensions between the two countries have also grown, with US officials accusing China of unfair trade practices and human rights abuses, and China accusing the US of “bullying” and launching a “trade war” against the country.

The tensions between the US and China have also been reflected in the two countries' diplomatic posturing. In 2017, the US formally withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord, a move that drew strong criticism from China and other countries. China has also become increasingly vocal about the US's trade policies, accusing the US of "violating international law" and setting up "a dangerous precedent" with its tariffs and sanctions. In response, the US has accused China of "predatory economic policies", including its Belt and Road Initiative, which has been largely seen as a way for China to gain strategic and economic leverage in the region. In addition, the US has repeatedly criticized China for its human rights abuses, including its "mass incarceration" of Muslims in the country's western regions.

The Trump administration took a hard line on China, ratcheting up tensions between the two countries. In 2017, the US began a series of trade disputes with China, imposing tariffs on a number of imports and accusing China of unfair trading practices. In 2018, the US passed the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act, imposing restrictions on Chinese investments in the US. The US also imposed sanctions on a number of Chinese companies and individuals, citing their involvement in human rights violations and other illegal activities. In the same year, the US cut off the supply of vital components to Chinese tech giant Huawei, citing security concerns. In 2019, the US accused China of intellectual property theft and demanded it move to open up its markets, prompting China to impose retaliatory tariffs. In 2020, the US placed a number of restrictions on Chinese tech companies, citing security concerns.

The US-China trade war and other political confrontations have also had far-reaching implications for the global economy. As trade tensions increased, the International Monetary Fund projected a 0.8% contraction in global economic output, with the US and China suffering the greatest losses. In addition, the US-China trade war has resulted in tariffs imposed on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of goods, leading to higher costs for consumers and businesses alike. This has resulted in layoffs, reduced investment, and currency devaluations across the world. Furthermore, the political and military confrontations between the two nations have resulted in a heightened sense of mistrust and security concerns. For example, the US has reportedly increased its surveillance of Chinese military vessels and aircraft operating in the South and East China seas, while China has sought to expand its military presence in the region.

The escalation of military tensions between the US and China have been particularly concerning in recent years. US officials have accused China of expanding its military presence in the East and South China Seas, and engaging in cyber espionage and intellectual property theft. China has responded by passing a national security law in Hong Kong, placing sanctions on US officials, and stepping up its defense of disputed maritime territories. Meanwhile, US-China trade tensions have continued to simmer, with both sides imposing tariffs on each other's goods, creating hardship for consumers and businesses alike.

The US has also criticized China's human rights record, particularly in the Xinjiang region, where reports of mass internment camps, surveillance of religious and ethnic minorities, and forced labor have been widely documented.

The Chinese government has fiercely denied such allegations, claiming that the camps are vocational education centers and that its repression of rights is necessary for national security. US sanctions on Chinese officials and entities, as well as suspension of Hong Kong's preferential trade status, have been some of the ways in which the US has sought to pressure China over these issues. The US has also sought to strengthen its alliances in the region, with a particular focus on Taiwan, in a move that has further raised tensions between the two countries.

The US has also sought to increase its presence in the South China Sea, a highly contested body of water with multiple claimants, including China, Taiwan, and several Southeast Asian countries. In July 2020, the US Navy conducted a so-called “freedom of navigation” operation in the area, sailing two vessels close to the Paracel Islands, which are controlled by China. This act was met with strong condemnation by China, which labeled it a “serious violation” of its sovereignty. US-China diplomatic tensions were heightened again in October 2020, when the US Department of Defense accused China’s military of engaging in “unsafe and unprofessional” interception of a US aircraft in the South China Sea. These events demonstrate the increasing tensions between the two countries, and how US actions are seen as provocative by China.

CHAPTER 9

IX. A BIDEN APPROACH: COMPETITION AND COOPERATION

A. BALANCING COMPETITION WITH COOPERATION

The Biden administration has proposed a new approach to US-China relations, one that balances competition and cooperation. In his first major foreign policy speech, President Biden expressed his commitment to “protecting America’s interests and values” while “building a stable and constructive relationship with China”. The administration’s stated goal is to, “strategically compete where we must, cooperate where we can, and remain open to negotiations”. As part of this new approach, the Biden administration has adopted a “whole-of-government” strategy to dealing with China, incorporating economic, diplomatic, and security elements. This includes increased cooperation with allies, stepped up enforcement of sanctions, and targeted restrictions on technology transfers. In addition, the Biden administration has highlighted areas where cooperation, rather than competition, is possible, such as addressing the global challenge of climate change. In recent reports, both Chinese and US policy makers have expressed a willingness to find ways to cooperate on issues of mutual interest and concern. While the degree to which these efforts can succeed remains an open question, it is clear that the Biden administration’s approach reflects a more balanced approach to US-China relations than has

been the case for much of the past decade.

For example, the Biden administration recently announced a five-year plan to invest in clean energy, which is expected to increase jobs and reduce emissions. This effort is likely to be coordinated with the Chinese government, who are also investing heavily in clean energy technologies. Both countries are increasingly recognizing the importance of collaboration on the global stage, and are beginning to explore a new set of mutual interests. Indeed, the recent US-China Climate Leaders Summit provided an opportunity for the two countries to discuss and explore opportunities for cooperation.

The US and China are also beginning to explore ways to strengthen their economic ties, with the Biden administration recently pledging to increase US investments in China, as well as Chinese investments in the US. This is expected to create a more balanced economic relationship between the two countries, one that is not based solely on trade, but also on mutual investment and cooperation. At the same time, the US and China will continue to engage in competition on certain key issues, such as the development of new technologies, while actively seeking opportunities for collaboration. The recent strengthening of the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue is an example of this new approach to relations, as the two countries look to engage in dialogue and collaboration on a range of key issues in an effort to reduce tensions and build bridges.

In order to build an effective model of cooperation, both countries must focus on developing a shared understanding of their respective interests and objectives.

For example, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi discussed a range of issues during their virtual meeting in March 2021, including climate change, cyber security, and human rights. Both sides agreed to promote communication and dialogue in order to identify common ground, while also agreeing to disagree on areas of disagreement. For example, the two countries have discussed a range of trade issues, including the potential for a new trade agreement that would involve mutual investment and cooperation. In addition, both sides continue to communicate on a range of other international issues, such as the North Korean nuclear crisis and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Through such channels, the US and China are demonstrating a willingness to engage in constructive dialogue and cooperation.

At the same time, there are areas of competition between the two countries. This includes the increasing trade tensions between the two countries, with recent tit-for-tat tariffs and the US imposing various restrictions on Chinese companies and individuals. In addition, the US has taken a hard line on certain issues, such as human rights, which has resulted in a number of Chinese companies and individuals facing sanctions. These issues have been highlighted in both US and Chinese media, with many commentators arguing that competition between the two countries is now more prominent than cooperation.

However, there remains an underlying interest in both countries to find ways to cooperate with each other. For example, there has been an increased focus on areas such as global pandemic response, climate change, and security, where the US and China have been able to reach agreements and take joint actions. This is evidenced by the

US and China joining forces in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2016 and the US and China collaborating to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, while US and Chinese perspectives on foreign policy in East Asia have been significantly different, the two countries have been able to reach bilateral agreements that are mutually beneficial. Such examples include the 2015 US-China Bilateral Investment Treaty, the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding between US and China on Climate Change, and the 2018 US-China Joint Statement on Technology and Intellectual Property Rights.

The Biden administration seeks to find a balance between competition and cooperation with the Chinese government. This is reflected in the recent statements by the US Secretary of State Tony Blinken, who has emphasized the need to confront Chinese policies that violate international norms while “maintaining open lines of communication”, and to “engage China from a position of strength”. This approach is especially relevant in areas such as climate change, in which the US and China have recently pledged to collaborate. For instance, in December 2020, US President-elect Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping both reaffirmed their commitment to the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement and agreed to cooperate on global climate issues. Furthermore, the US and China have also been working to resolve the ongoing trade conflict, with Chinese officials expressing their willingness to reach an agreement that is beneficial to both countries. As US Secretary of State Blinken has noted, “we will work with China where we can, but stand up to them when we must”. This approach of balancing competition with cooperation is likely to be the cornerstone of the Biden administration’s

China policy moving forward.

B. ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The Biden administration has stated its intention to address global challenges such as climate change, poverty, and pandemics through both cooperation and competition with China. Through the use of diplomatic channels and international organizations, the United States is attempting to encourage China to play a constructive role in addressing global challenges. US officials have also expressed a commitment to strengthen the US's competitive edge in a number of areas, such as semiconductors and 5G technology, while also working to reduce Chinese influence in areas such as the World Health Organization. Moreover, the US is also attempting to increase collaboration with China through initiatives such as the Paris Agreement on climate change. In a joint statement released in April 2021, the US and China pledged to work together to reduce emissions, boost clean energy production, and invest in developing nations. Similarly, the Biden administration has sought to work with China to ensure that the global vaccine rollout is conducted in a fair and equitable manner. Through increased dialogue and cooperation, the US and China can create a more secure and prosperous future for both countries.

The Biden administration has also expressed interest in pursuing common goals with China in other areas, such as in the fields of global health, biodiversity conservation, and pandemic preparedness. In February 2021, for example, Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to work together to address the global health crisis and create a more equitable and accessible healthcare system for all.

Additionally, in March 2021, the two countries agreed to a joint statement emphasizing their commitment to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems worldwide. This is an important effort to ensure a sustainable future for both countries and the global community. Furthermore, the US and China have made progress in jointly developing pandemic preparedness plans, such as the Global Vaccine Plan and the Global Pandemic Preparedness Plan, to ensure a coordinated global response to future pandemics.

In addition to global challenges, the US and China have demonstrated unprecedented collaboration on a range of economic and technological issues. For instance, in April 2021, the two countries agreed to a five-year plan for cooperation in the areas of innovation and technology, to be managed by the US-China Innovation and Technology Association. The two countries have also agreed to explore ways to increase bilateral investment, with the aim of creating an open and collaborative environment for both countries to invest in each other's markets. Additionally, in May 2021, China and the US agreed to a joint statement advocating for an open and fair global trading system. This is a significant step forward in the effort to promote a balanced and mutually beneficial economic relationship between the two countries.

The US and China have also been engaging in multilateral cooperation on issues of global importance. In October 2020, the two countries joined forces in the United Nations Security Council to pass a resolution to address the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, China and the US have committed to cooperate in international fora such as the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization in order

to address issues of global health, trade, and security. Furthermore, the Biden administration has expressed interest in engaging in dialogue with China on climate change, making it clear that the US is committed to working with other countries to develop effective solutions to global environmental challenges.

The Biden administration has also expressed a willingness to pursue a policy of engagement and cooperation within the existing framework of US-China relations. This has been evident in the administration's diplomatic efforts to resolve issues surrounding the South China Sea and the recent US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue. Moreover, the Biden administration has expressed a commitment to upholding human rights and the rule of law, while also engaging in dialogue and cooperation with China on sensitive issues such as Tibet and Hong Kong. This approach has been welcomed by both domestic and foreign observers, who have seen it as a sign of progress towards a more constructive US-China relationship.

To further this goal of cooperation, the Biden administration has taken steps to restore diplomatic ties with China, including the re-establishment of the United States-China Comprehensive Dialogue and the re-engagement of U.S. military and diplomatic channels of communication with China's People's Liberation Army. The Biden administration has also signaled its willingness to work with China on several global challenges, including climate change, COVID-19, and security issues. To this end, the United States and China have already taken steps to reduce emissions and strengthen the Paris Agreement,

while also engaging in dipl

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The United States and China have also engaged in diplomatic talks to address global challenges related to North Korea, the South China Sea, and the East and South China Seas. In addition, both countries have engaged in negotiations to address economic issues, such as trade imbalances, intellectual property rights, and currency manipulation. According to Chinese media, the Biden administration has expressed a willingness to work with China on issues related to the “One China” policy, the cross-strait relationship, and Hong Kong. Furthermore, both countries have co-operated on international development such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. While the United States and China have yet to reach an agreement on many of these issues, it is clear that both countries have expressed an increased willingness to work together to try and resolve them.

C. MAINTAINING REGIONAL STABILITY

The Biden administration is likely to continue to pursue a strategy of competition and cooperation when it comes to maintaining regional stability in the US-China relationship. This approach could involve a combination of diplomatic dialogue and economic and military measures, such as imposing tariffs, quotas, and other trade restrictions, intensifying US naval presence in the region, and engaging in direct dialogue with China over issues such as maritime security, the South China Sea, and North Korean denuclearization. The Biden administration could also

work to strengthen existing alliances and ties with China's neighbors and make use of counter-tariff strategies to protect US interests. Ultimately, the aim should be to reach a consensus between the two countries that can ensure peace and stability in the region.

The key to a successful Biden approach will be to ensure that the United States is taking measured and calculated steps to protect its interests without unnecessarily escalating tensions. For instance, the United States could seek to use the WTO dispute resolution process to address unfair trade practices. Additionally, the Biden administration could pursue diplomatic engagement with China on issues such as intellectual property rights and cyber security, while not abandoning global initiatives such as the Paris Climate Agreement. Of course, a commitment to mutual respect and dialogue will be vital in order to ensure that both countries can continue to reap the benefits of cooperation. The US-China relationship is likely to remain complex and strained in the coming years, and a balanced approach will be necessary to ensure that both countries are able to realize their shared interests in a peaceful and stable environment.

The Biden administration will need to develop concrete approaches to managing competition and cooperation in the US-China relationship. This includes improving communication and understanding the motivations of both countries in order to ensure that any dispute is handled in a diplomatic and respectful manner. Furthermore, the US needs to engage in meaningful dialogue with China on areas of mutual concern, such as human rights, trade and investment, and military buildup. Specifically, it is important to recognize the importance of

regional stability, through increased economic and security cooperation, to maintain peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, the Biden administration should focus on strengthening the role of international institutions, such as the United Nations and World Trade Organization, to help resolve any trade or security disputes between the two countries. Finally, the US should also seek to address issues such as intellectual property rig

The Biden administration should also continue to use diplomatic channels to negotiate with China in order to ensure fair trade practices, protect intellectual property rights, and maintain a balanced relationship between the two countries. The US should strongly enforce existing trade rules and regulations, taking a firm stance against unfair trade practices and intellectual property theft. Additionally, the US should also work to strengthen cultural and educational ties with China to build mutual understanding and trust between the two countries. The US should also strive to build stronger relationships with China's neighbors, such as Japan and South Korea, to ensure a united front against any possible aggression from China. By taking such measures, the US and China can coexist peacefully and maintain regional stability.

The key to successful cooperation between the US and China lies in understanding each other's perspective and aims. This requires an open dialogue between the two countries and a willingness to tackle the various issues that are of concern to both sides. For example, the US and China should work together to eliminate obstacles to trade that distort the global economy, such as tariffs and subsidies. In addition, the US should use diplomatic pressure to persuade China to comply with international commitments,

such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other environmental agreements. Finally, the US should also take a stronger stance in protecting human rights and press China to cease any repressive measures against its citizens. With such efforts, the US and China can work together to address global issues and create a more prosperous and peaceful future.

In order to maintain regional stability, the US and China should also consider more collaborative initiatives. For instance, the two countries could cooperate on regional infrastructure projects that would benefit both nations and their neighbors. This could include constructing ports, railways, and other transportation systems that would facilitate the flow of goods and services between the two countries. Similarly, the two powers should also continue to pursue joint economic initiatives, such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the Belt and Road Initiative. Such projects could help to build trust between the two countries, as well as create a more prosperous and secure region. Furthermore, the US and China should cooperate in providing aid to developing countries, helping to address global challenges such as poverty, climate change, and pandemics. By working together on such initiatives, the US and China can create a more stable and secure region.

In addition to working together on regional initiatives, the US and China should work to manage their competition through open and transparent dialogue. The Biden administration has proposed a “strategic dialogue” between the two countries in order to discuss issues of mutual importance. Through such conversations, the US and China can work to find common ground and build

trust. This could include engaging in frank and open discussions about regional security issues and the South China Sea, as well as taking measures to reduce the risk of miscalculation and conflict. Furthermore, the US and China should explore opportunities for cooperation in areas such as technological research and development, climate change, and the global economy. By engaging in such dialogue, the US and China can manage their competition and work to build a future of cooperation, not conflict.

CHAPTER 10

X. CONCLUSION: THE FUTURE OF US-CHINA RELATIONS

A. FACTORS SHAPING THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP

The future of US-China relations is likely to be shaped by a complex set of factors, ranging from economic interests and international norms to domestic power dynamics and ideological considerations. Factors such as the US-China trade war, US sanctions on Chinese tech companies and the deployment of the US Indo-Pacific strategy are likely to continue to play a role in shaping the future relationship. In addition, the dynamics of the Biden administration's policy towards China, the growing domestic pressures faced by both countries, and the overall balance of power and influence in the international system are all likely to have a significant impact on the relationship in the years to come. With the continued development of technology, the internet, and artificial intelligence, both countries may find themselves competing in the fields of artificial intelligence and the digital economy, which could further exacerbate tensions. The relationship between the two countries is likely to remain complex, and the future of US-China relations will have significant implications not only for the two countries but also for the global order.

In addition to technology, the future of the US-China relationship will be shaped by the political dynamics of both countries. China is likely to continue its pursuit of greater economic and political influence in the Asia-Pacific

region, while the US may continue to push back against perceived Chinese aggression. The US will also continue to advocate for human rights, democracy, and economic freedom, while China may continue to focus on economic development and internal stability. Moreover, as the US continues to pursue a foreign policy of “America first”, Chinese leaders may continue to push back against perceived US interference in Chinese affairs. As these dynamics unfold, many commentators have speculated that the US-China relationship could move towards a more positive trajectory or become increasingly strained. As such, it is important for both countries to pursue constructive dialogue and cooperation in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for both nations and for the world at large.

In order to build a more positive relationship, both countries must recognize the importance of understanding each others' perspectives and interests. For example, the US should remain open to China's development plans, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, while China should be mindful of US concerns regarding human rights, economic fairness, and global security. Additionally, both countries must make efforts to build trust, as well as strengthen cultural and economic ties that could help to reduce the tension between them. For example, increased student exchanges and business partnerships can lead to improved understanding between the two nations, which could ultimately foster a more positive relationship. Ultimately, US-China relations are at a crossroads, and it is up to the leaders of both countries to make the conscious effort to move the relationship forward in a constructive and forward-looking manner.

To do this, both the US and China must be willing to commit to a more cooperative approach, which could involve high-level dialogue, collaborative efforts on global issues, and a commitment to resolving their differences through peaceful means. At the same time, the US and China could work together to implement mutually beneficial economic policies, such as increased market access and improved trade rules. This could be achieved through the negotiation of a more comprehensive free trade agreement, which would bring greater economic stability and prosperity to both countries. In addition, both countries must strive to build bridges of understanding and

Finally, both the US and China must find ways to reduce tensions and promote mutual trust and cooperation. The two countries should create mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues such as climate change, technological innovation, and global health. Moreover, both countries should attempt to reduce military tensions through mutual arms control agreements and regional stability initiatives. In addition, both countries should take steps to reduce cyber threats and increase cyber security cooperation. These efforts would form the basis of a more constructive and sustainable US-China relationship.

Finally, both countries should focus on strengthening economic ties, with a particular emphasis on fair trade. The US and China should seek to reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers, and promote greater market access for US and Chinese firms. Furthermore, both countries should seek to increase investment opportunities for both US and Chinese firms. This could include reforming existing investment regimes, such as the US-China BIT and the US-China

Bilateral Investment Treaty, to ensure greater protection of foreign investors. Additionally, both countries should strive to create more predictable regulatory regimes, strengthen intellectual property rights protections, and ensure that government subsidies and other market distortions do not impede fair competition. Such measures would not only enhance current economic ties, but also provide a foundation for long-term economic stability and growth.

Finally, in order to ensure a positive future for US-China relations, both countries would benefit from greater diplomatic engagement, including increased dialogue and cooperation on pressing global issues such as climate change, healthcare, and global trade. As such, the US and China should work to foster an environment of constructive dialogue and collaboration, rather than one of mutual antagonism and aggression. This would provide the basis for a more stable and secure relationship between the two countries, which would benefit not just the US and China, but the entire international community.

B. POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT OR COOPERATION

The future of the US-China relationship is uncertain, but several potential scenarios exist. In the most optimistic scenario, the two countries could work together to address global challenges such as climate change, global health, and economic development. Improved ties could also lead to increased trade, investment, and collaboration in areas such as technology, health, and education. However, there is also a possibility that tensions between the two countries could escalate, resulting in economic competition and even military conflict. To prevent further escalation of tensions

and to reach a lasting resolution, both countries must take a measured approach to their interactions, focusing on cooperation and dialogue. By taking such a path, the US and China could build a stable and mutually beneficial relationship that helps promote peace, stability, and economic prosperity in the region.

In recent years, there have been efforts from both sides to de-escalate tensions and facilitate cooperation. For example, in late 2020, the US and China signed the “Phase One” trade deal, which included a variety of measures to reduce tariffs and open up access to US and Chinese markets. In the same year, China and the US also ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which aimed to promote economic integration and trade among countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Additionally, the two countries have gradually resumed negotiations on a variety of topics, such as climate change, technology, and economic cooperation. These initiatives demonstrate the potential for cooperation between the US and China and could provide a foundation for further collaboration.

At the same time, tensions between the two countries continue to simmer. China’s increasingly assertive foreign policy in the South China Sea, the intensifying trade war between the two countries, and the ongoing geopolitical competition have all threatened to derail any potential progress. As a result, it is clear that US-China relations remain fragile and unpredictable. This makes it all the more crucial for both countries to strive towards cooperation and compromise to secure a more stable future. To do this, it is essential that both countries work together to build trust, address shared concerns, and

manage differences in a constructive manner. This could involve developing and promoting common interests, such as in the areas of science and technology, as well as engaging in dialogue and engagement initiatives. Ultimately, the future of US-China relations will depend on the ability of both countries to manage their differences and pursue mutual interests.

In addition to these measures, it is also important for both countries to remain cognizant of the potential for conflict or cooperation between them. US and Chinese policymakers should remain aware that misperceptions and hasty decisions can quickly lead to tensions, and that a lack of communication and understanding can derail progress. To reduce this likelihood, regular and consistent dialogue should be pursued, as well as increased transparency and trust-building mechanisms. In particular, the media can play an important role in fostering greater understanding of the other side, helping to break down stereotypes, and promoting a more constructive dialogue. Moreover, both countries should work together to further develop and implement international norms and standards to ensure a stable and secure future.

Moving forward, US-China relations should be viewed through a broader lens, taking into account the interests of multiple stakeholders and the potential for mutual benefit. To this end, it is essential that both countries continue to engage in meaningful dialogue, such as the Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) meetings, which have served to strengthen the bilateral relationship. In addition, the US and China should explore further mechanisms to enhance cooperation, such as the establishment of bilateral investment treaties, the signing of the proposed Bilateral

Investment Treaty, and the advancement of trade agreements. Furthermore, both sides should look to their respective allies in the region, such as Japan and South Korea, to build a more unified and collaborative front in the pursuit of a shared vision for the region.

Given the vast economic interests at stake, US and China must remain vigilant in their efforts to avoid armed conflict. To this end, both sides should consider utilizing regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to facilitate diplomacy and proactively address potential disputes. In addition, joint military exercises and increased dialogue between the two countries' militaries could serve to reduce miscommunications and the potential for misunderstanding or miscalculation. Ultimately, the success of any US-China relationship will largely depend on the willingness of both countries to cooperate, de-escalate tensions, and focus on common interests.

The ultimate success of US-China relations will depend on a spirit of cooperation and compromise, and on both sides' willingness to put aside their differences in the interest of mutually beneficial outcomes. To this end, there are many concrete steps that could be taken. For example, both sides could deepen their economic ties and strengthen their commitment to free trade. US-China cooperation in the field of climate change could also prove to be fruitful, as could the development of mutually beneficial frameworks for the management of cyber security and telecommunications. Finally, a more effective dialogue between the two countries could be achieved through the utilization of multilateral institutions like the Association of

C. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL ORDER

The US-China relationship is one of the most important and complex relationships in the world today. Its implications for the global order are far-reaching and have the potential to shape the future of international cooperation and stability. As the two largest economies in the world, the US and China have significant economic interdependence, with both countries engaging in trade and investment activities that impact their respective economies. From the US perspective, this has led to a greater focus on issues such as market access, intellectual property rights, and technological competition. In addition, the US has become increasingly concerned about the growth of Chinese influence in the global arena, particularly in areas such as economics, foreign policy, and security. Meanwhile, China has leveraged its growing economic clout to increase its influence regionally and internationally.

The future of US-China relations will largely depend on how diplomatic and economic relations evolve over time. If the two countries are able to find common ground and reach mutually beneficial agreements, they could potentially become powerful partners in global affairs. If, however, tensions continue to rise, the potential for conflict will become greater. It is therefore essential that leaders from both countries engage in meaningful dialogue and work together to build a stronger foundation for constructive cooperation. Ultimately, the future of US-China relations will be determined by the actions of political, economic, and other decision-makers from both countries, and the extent to which they are willing to

cooperate.

In order to foster positive engagement, both sides must prioritize diplomacy and dialogue. This could mean more frequent exchanges between US and Chinese officials, deeper economic ties, and increased communication on topics of mutual interest. Additionally, both countries must work to reduce the risk of misunderstanding by engaging in a regular and sustained dialogue on areas of disagreement. Such conversations should be conducted in a respectful manner and with a clear understanding of each side's interests. Moreover, both countries must strive to foster a climate of trust and cooperation, in which mutual interests are respected and differences are managed in a constructive manner. Ultimately, the future of US-China relations is inextricably linked to the ability of both countries to effectively manage their differences and build a strong and sustainable relationship.

The implications of this relationship for the global order are significant. On the one hand, improved and cooperative US-China relations could result in more constructive dialogue, joint initiatives, and increased economic opportunities. This could have a positive impact on global trade patterns, help reduce poverty and inequality, and promote greater international cooperation. On the other hand, the US-China relationship could also become increasingly strained and confrontational, leading to increased economic protectionism and heightened geopolitical tensions. These tensions could potentially impede global economic growth and destabilize the international order. Ultimately, the future of US-China relations will depend on both countries' willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue, build trust, and take a

cooperative approach to managing their differences.

Given that the US-China relationship has emerged as the most important and influential bilateral relationship in the world, its future trajectory will have significant implications for the global order. In recent years, there has been increasing emphasis on the importance of collaboration and cooperation on issues such as climate change, pandemic response, economic development, trade, and technology. These issues, while perhaps not always presented as part of the US-China relationship, are inextricably linked and can only be effectively addressed if there is a strong foundation of trust and understanding between the two countries. In addition, the US-China relationship, which has been marked by significant amounts of mutual suspicion, could provide an opportunity for the international community to come together and build a more cooperative, equitable, and sustainable global order.

The US-China relationship is of critical importance to the international landscape in terms of global governance and security. As both countries are major powers with diverging interests and goals, the potential for conflict in this relationship is an ever-present reality. However, if both sides are willing to commit to mutual understanding and cooperation, the US and China could take the lead in addressing global issues such as climate change, nuclear proliferation, and global economic inequality. Furthermore, the two countries could collaborate in technological development and advancement, particularly in the fields of artificial intelligence, big data, and other cutting-edge technologies that have the potential to shape the future of the global economy and international relations.

Indeed, the US and China have the opportunity to use their unique strengths to create effective partnerships in order to tackle global challenges. For instance, the US could use its considerable diplomatic and financial power to help China develop sustainable energy sources, while China could provide its technological and manufacturing expertise to help the US build the infrastructure needed to reduce emissions and combat climate change. Furthermore, the two countries could work together to promote innovation and digital literacy in developing countries, with the aim of creating a more equitable global society. Finally, the two countries could cooperate in research and development, sharing resources and scientists to create a more prosperous and secure future for all of humanity.

China and the US could also cooperate to promote global health and sustainability. The US has already made commitments to the Paris Agreement and has pledged to reduce emissions, while China has committed to becoming carbon-neutral by 2060. Both countries could work together to bolster global health initiatives and promote initiatives to protect the environment. For example, China could provide resources to help the US better monitor air quality and reduce emissions, while the US could provide its technological and manufacturing expertise to help China develop clean energy sources. Additionally, both countries could collaborate on research to create new technologies that could help promote sustainable development and reduce emissions. Together, this kind of collaboration could lead to a more healthy and sustainable future for the world.