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Topic:

We must be a credible and consistent partner

Case Study 5

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The principle “Credible and consistent partner” is not only applied in businesses and politics, but it is also the principle of life. When making a friend, no one will want to befriend with a liar. We will look for someone credible and share the same interest as us, and to continue this friendship, we will need a consistent relationship by messaging, chatting or meet up to check on each other regularly to strengthen this friendship. For businesses and countries, the principle works the same way, but it has more significant consequences or impacts if this is not followed. We can see this from the case study of “UK adopts Huawei for 5G, against US Pressure”.

In this case study, it involves the United States (US), United Kingdom (UK), and China, where UK is stuck between the US-China trade war. The US-China trade war started as early as July 2018 (SCMP Reporters, 2020) and Huawei; a China telecom company is affected. Huawei, the biggest 5G contributor (Cellan-Jones, 2020) who helps to rollout 5G technology for many countries, has been banned due to US believing that the China government could use Huawei for espionage and sabotage (Bourke, 2020), which may bring security threat in their 5G technology to spy other countries. US even introduced the bill to stop sharing intelligence with countries that use Huawei equipment to rollout their 5G networks (Kharpal, 2019).

At this point, why is UK affected? UK is part of the ‘Five Eyes’ where UK, US, and three other countries shared intelligence with each other (Kharpal, 2019), but UK has decided to allow Huawei to work on their 5G network (35% of the network), which may cause US to stop intelligence sharing to UK (Kharpal, 2019). All this problem is caused by credible of china. If US does not see China as risk, UK and many other countries will not need to be stuck in-between working with China and going against US warning, and if US and China is a consistent partner, the trade war will never happen as this problem can be resolve in a more peaceful way thought talk and agreement.

From this case study we can learn that in the age of globalization, having a credible and consistent partner is important as this can affect if other country wanting to work with your country. Therefore, Singapore have been keeping good relationship with all “major power” by doing exchange visit to strengthen our bond. So, when there is an issue, “we remain committed to resolving these issues in an amicable and constructive manner” said by Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore (Balakrishnan, 2019).

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