



Obama to Visit the New Owner of the 21st Century, India



January 23, 2015 *Topic:* Foreign Policy *Region:* United States, India

President and Mrs. Obama are on their way to what may be the world's most important city at mid-century. Are they going to Beijing? No, they are traveling to New Delhi.

by Gordon G. Chang

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Are they going to Beijing? No, they will be traveling to New Delhi.

The trip is historic. For the first time, an American leader will attend Republic Day celebrations in the Indian capital, and Obama will be the first U.S. president to visit India twice while in office. Moreover, this is the first time, in recent memory, that a White House occupant has taken a long-distance flight to just one destination.

The trip has just about everything. The president and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will conduct wide-ranging discussions on, among other topics, climate change, education, nuclear power, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran. There will also be pomp aplenty. India's January 26 events, commemorating the adoption of the Indian constitution, are among the world's most colorful. Expect business-deal making with CEOs in attendance. Speeches? Obama will lay out his "vision" for relations with India. There will even be time for sightseeing: the Obamas will tour the Taj Mahal.

Apart from the national pride of hosting the leader of the world's most powerful state on the 66th Republic Day—chest will swell and hearts beat hard across the subcontinent on Monday—there is, in India, concern about China.

For Indians, China is not an across-the-ocean location, like it is for Americans, but an on-the-border threat. Xi Jinping visited India in September in what was also a symbolism-rich trip, but that event was marred by Chinese troops advancing deep into disputed, but Indian-controlled, territory in Ladakh, high in the Himalayas. Perhaps worse from New Delhi's point of view, it appears that Xi did not order the incursion, suggesting the Chinese military was acting on its own. Obviously, no one in New Delhi policy circles is comfortable with an out-of-control nuclear-armed military force intent on creating incidents.

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That means Obama is a card in the hands of Modi, who has moved fast to assert Indian interests since becoming prime minister in May. He has reached out to neighbors but also to far-away countries in the shadow of Beijing's increasingly expansive territorial ambitions, most notably beleaguered Vietnam and Japan.

And in this context it is natural that Modi should be looking to Obama, whom he visited in Washington in September. "Having the U.S. president at the Republic Day celebration is a good thing, he is blessing Modi," Mohan Guruswamy of the Centre for Policy Alternatives told Reuters this month. "And that is a lesson to the Chinese that you have to mend your fences with us."

In the short-term, then, Modi's invitation to Obama is about countering China. Washington, of course, shares Indian concerns. Beijing has disappointed American policymakers and analysts in recent years, and the outreach to India is seen as a hedge against increasingly belligerent and unpredictable Chinese behavior.

Yet America's interest in India should be broader than balancing Beijing. As an initial matter, the world's most populous democracy and its most powerful one have much in common. But even for those in Washington who disdain values-based diplomacy, a full embrace of India makes sense.

Why? India, not China, should dominate Asia in the decades ahead. At the moment, China has just about reached the limits of what is possible within its current system. Its economy, for instance, is slowing fast, not because its leaders are trying to implement reform as they proclaim—they talk reform yet endorse regressive policies—but because their investment-led, export-heavy growth model is exhausted. Worse, the country is on the edge of a property meltdown and debt crisis.

In India, on the other hand, the economy is looking up. *Bloomberg Businessweek* talks about “a world-turned-upside-down moment,” coming as early as next year, “when India, always the laggard, may pull ahead of China and become the fastest-growing of Asia’s giants.”

It’s no secret how prospects got reversed. The Indian leader came to power on a platform of growth-friendly, pro-business policies sometimes reduced to the phrase “Modinomics.” Modi, therefore, has the potential to change growth patterns for the foreseeable future, with the country entering a period of fast expansion powered by, among other things, surging investment, both domestic and foreign.

While growth patterns are changing in India’s favor, so is something more permanent. In China, adverse demographic trends have been accelerating in recent years. The country’s population will not peak during the 2030–2035 timeframe, as the most recent U.N. statistics indicate ; in 2026, as predicted by the U.S. Census Bureau a half decade ago; or in 2025, as leading demographer Li Jianxin estimated. Senior official Liu Mingkang, speaking at the Asia Global Dialogue in May 2012, admitted China’s population would top off in 2020.

The rapid bringing forward of the estimated peak is largely a consequence of China’s total fertility rate—essentially the number of children born to each female who has attained childbearing age—falling to a “ dangerously low ” of 1.4, well below the 2.1 needed for replacement.

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The National Interest

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**Muhammad Umar** • 4 years ago

I agree that India is advancing at a rapid pace, and as they continue to strengthen their economy and military might, they will become a powerful country, but that doesn't mean you can agree with Modi's delusions that this is India's century.

America yields a great deal of power and influence around the world, arguably is the most technologically advanced country on the face of this planet, and has what some may consider to be the most powerful military in the world. But even the US is afraid of China's growing presence on the global stage. If this is anyone's century, it's China's.

2 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ▸

**MD6888** • 4 years ago

While Goldman Sachs and likes have their own selfish agenda wanting to trap India for its business opportunity when Modi opens up the domestic market once elected, this author borders on plagiarism.

Take climate change and India's coal reserves (appr. 267 bil tonnes), it is almost impossible to deny India from building fossil burning power plants. It took Pakistan over a decade to get loan to build 1 coal burning plant despite its dire need for electricity. And India needs 400.

Young labor - Look into Africa, the population quadrupled from 1955-2009.

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**Varan** • 4 years ago

the demography of China is a weakness? this is a completely narrow minded statement... China understood that the demographic boom is a huge problem for our planet... how can sustain 10 billion people? so China should do like India and other countries, keeping increasing population? stupid. A huge population is usually a poor population. Because you have more and more people to feed, to educate. It creates problem of infrastructures, ecology... Come on, I have been living in India for long an everybody is aware of the population problem. With 300 or 400 millions more indian, maybe the GP of the contry will be higher, but the life of Indians will be worse, for sure.

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ▸

**LOL @WesternValues** • 4 years ago

**LOL@westernvalues** • 4 years ago

Any century now, right Chang?

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

**HenryLoose** • 4 years ago

BO's stopping off at Mecca to renew his vows to his oil masters.

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**Bill Cortell** • 4 years ago

Here we find a brief introduction to Obama's complete ignorance regarding global geo-politics:



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**folktruther** • 4 years ago

It must be understood that the Gordon Chang syndrome is not limited to TNI, but infects the entire truth tradition of the American power system. It occurs because the American people have lost all control of American power, which allows oligarchical Washington to become the major anti-people power on our small planet. The American oligarchy is highly experienced in advertising and marketing, and therefore highly skilled in manipulative deception. It therefore finances the corporate media, universities, think tanks, churches, and other truth institutions to delude the American people to legitimate the gross oppression of American power over the American people. The oligarchy has stolen from the American people, and the people of the world, anything that isn't nailed down. In order to maintain the economic inequality that has resulted, it has institutionalized the political violence and brutality of mass imprisonment, torture, mass murder, imposing full spectrum domination which it calls Democracy and Human Rights. The economic inequality and political brutality of American power can only be legitimated by deceit, delusion, ideological repression, and irrationality. There are hundreds of Gordon Changs embedded in the American media, many if not most of them selectively controlled by the CIA and other organs of Washington.

Inequality, brutality, and untruth, the Trinity of American anti-people power. But the greatest of these is untruth.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Australia → folktruther • 4 years ago

You have no idea what you are talking about. US government spoiled you too much. You should test a little bit of brutality of authoritarian regimes before you utter all those nonsense. Western countries are heaven comparing those authoritarian hell. I lived in both and that is what I felt. You could've been jailed for life, as was Prof. Ilham Tohti, for these rants. We admire your freedom, which you think is oppression. Please! US, takes us into your oppressive government!!!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Voltaire • 4 years ago

The opposite of what Gordon Chang says is usually close to the truth

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



folktruther • 4 years ago

Another Gordon Chang moment, Obama has snubbed and cut short his visit to Democratic India to visit--Beijing?-- no, Saudi Arabia. The Future of the Free World. It makes one proud to be an American.

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Birdie • 4 years ago

Gordon Chang?

Here is some loose change for a clown. Cheer!!!

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



future • 4 years ago

Some background:

Gordon Guthrie Chang (Chinese: 章家敦; pinyin: Zhāng Jiādūn) is a lawyer, author, and television pundit, best known for his book *The Coming Collapse of China* (2001), in which he argued that the hidden nonperforming loans of the "Big Four" Chinese State banks would likely bring down China's financial system and its communist government and China would collapse in 2006, 2011, 2012.

OK, that's behind schedule.

China has begun to change its one-child policy: essentially, with the rise of the world's largest middle class -- it's not necessary.

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/12/...>

And whether the current leadership realizes it or not, fewer people is the way to go. Where advanced capitalism leads is to the virtual total replacement of human physical and intellectual labor. A "communist" government will be far better prepared to deal with this, but fewer people means a proportionally simpler problem.

Let's be clear -- success for India is in everyone's interest -- including China's.

Lack of a coherent national plan and sufficient infrastructure to support a really advanced nation

are two of India's biggest disadvantages. Less "democracy" and more organization seems like a better course.

The "socialism" practiced by India's ruling class isn't socialism -- it's a large crony arrangement that Modi can take credit for undermining. A little Stakhanovite pressure on the would-famous bureaucrats?

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Siber_RUS • 4 years ago

President Obama Cancels India Visit to Taj Mahal

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



TBL • 4 years ago

This Gordon Chang guy just effectively jinxed India....

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Natural Order • 4 years ago

The author is shameless. Basically, the guy uses its Chinese ancestry to help to yap about the most crazy things for his boss. What a joke.

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Reality Check • 4 years ago

From wiki:

The Coming Collapse of China

In an article entitled "The Coming Collapse of China: 2012 Edition", published by the Foreign Policy

magazine website, Gordon C. Chang admitted that his prediction was wrong, arguing that he was off only by one year: "Instead of 2011, the mighty communist party of China will fall in 2012. Bet on it."[5]

Now Gordon Chang is doing it again.

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Bankotsu • 4 years ago

So there is no coming collapse of India? What about U.S. and China? Will there be economic chaos in those two countries soon?

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Avatar

This comment was deleted.



Siber_RUS ➔ Guest • 4 years ago

In a new IMF report (from 2014) on development prospects of the world economy is reflected, writes British The Financial Times', main highlight: in terms of gross domestic product (GDP)based on purchasing power parity (PPP), the seven largest emerging markets overtook the Big seven industrial countries. Hypothetical new G7, said the "Financial Times", includes 7 countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, Turkey, Mexico and Indonesia. The total GDP of the "new leaders", calculated at PPP (purchasing power parity)is of 37.8 trillion dollars. He at least "slightly", but exceeded the total GDP of the "old" G7 (Canada,

France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK and USA), which reaches to 34.5 trillion dollars.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov: "In many ways, the current international situation is defined by the fact that the world is going through a transition period. We are dealing not just with the beginning of another historical stage, but, it would seem, with a change of eras. Such pivotal moments are usually characterised by a substantial increase in instability and unpredictability in international affairs, which is what we see today in individual regions and globally.

The realignment, or, I would even say, the deconcentration of the global balance of forces, is a hallmark of our time. Most clearly, this can be seen in the greater economic power and increasing political clout of the Asia-Pacific Region. These countries have largely assumed the role of a driver of global economic growth, a role which was traditionally performed by the United States, Western Europe and Japan. As we can see, China achieved the greatest success on this path and, according to the latest report issued by the International Monetary Fund, has for the first time become the world's largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity. Based on the findings of the IMF experts, the seven largest so-called "emerging economies," including our country, outdid the seven industrialized Western countries in terms of combined GDP. That's a totally new picture of the world that does not fit into the centuries-old notion of Western dominance in the global economy, finance and politics."

http://mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/o/2...

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



folktruther • 4 years ago

The commenters are way too cynical; Gordon Chang is a man of unquestionable intellectual integrity. You can go to the bank on anything he says, assuming it isn't a Chinese bank. I don't mind sucking up to Chang because I'm trying to get into the China bashers union, and he happens to be the president. The pay probably isn't much but you're in constant demand by fourth rate publications; it's steady work. He has certainly helped make TNI the publication that it is today.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



takasar1 • 4 years ago

Ahh.... This guy again. Either GC has massive cultural-revolution issues he can't get over or he sports the largest inferiority complex known to man. Only an idiot who has a bigger reach than a tennis player would make such statements.

9 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Natural Order ➔ takasar1 • 4 years ago

LOL... I recall he said something about how he hate his Chinese dad, and want to be more like his mom. There is definitely some psychological scarring growing up, just because of being the only Asian-look guy around an all white neighborhood. You see, he wants to "prove" to his white bosses by saying the most shameless things...

His white bosses are just fine with paying this clown that make mock his own Chinese ancestry. This shameless fool is a tool...LOL

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Reality Check ➔ Natural Order • 4 years ago

He is most likely from Taiwan, the land of traitors:

During WW II, 67% of the native Chinese assisting Imperial Army of Japan were from Chiang's army who deserted their homeland.

There were more such soldiers than the total of J*p soldiers in China, the only nation in the world that was like that.

Those people would betray their home country to anyone, Vietnam, and now India, as Gordon Chang has demonstrated. What a shame. Because of this, China would not be able to get on top of the world. So people in the US should never worry about the so called "China threat". Xi Jinping put it as the following: " The Chinese simply don't have the genes for territorial expansion". unlike many others."

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Natural Order ➔ Reality Check • 4 years ago

Watch your tone..

Your J*p this, and traitor that is rotten.

"Because of this, China would not be able to get on top of the world. So people in the US should never worry about the so called "China threat". Xi Jinping put it as the following: " The Chinese simply don't have the genes for territorial expansion". unlike many others.""

I am not sure what being at the top of world mean, but I am pretty sure China will win.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›