

Containing China's Development: "U.S. Funds Wars, China Funds Development"

US Treasury Secretary Yellen Dispatched to Beg China for Face-Saving Slowdown

By [Simplicius](#)

Global Research, April 10, 2024

[Simplicius's Garden of Knowledge](#)

Region: [Asia](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [Global Economy](#)

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The U.S.' growing urgency in 'containing' China's development was thrown in sharp relief this week as Janet Yellen arrived in Beijing for what turned out to be an execrable beggar's tour. Just days prior to her arrival, she had buzzed the punditry with her historically memorable exclamation that China was now operating at "overcapacity"(!!).

What is overcapacity, you ask? It's a new word for me, too—so let's consult the dictionary together:

overcapacity

noun

o-ver-ca-pac-i-ty: ō'vər-kə-'pa-sə-tē

1: When an insolent upstart nation's surging economic activity totally humiliates the reigning hegemon's own faltering economy, causing the many expensive dentures and porcelain veneers of the ruling class gerontocracy to rattle and grate with moral outrage and jealousy.

1b: An undesirable situation causing Janet Yellen and Nancy Pelosi's stock portfolio to droop like a pair of botox-sapped jowls.

Granted...my dictionary might be slightly different to yours, I have a rare edition. That said, are we on the same page? Good.

The above definition may be missing in the new official regime argot pamphlet, but it's safe to say the inept leaders of the U.S. are down to making up creative new euphemisms for

describing China's total undressing and upending of the economic order.

But if you were skeptical about the meaning behind Yellen's risible "overcapacity" solecism, her speech from inside of China confirms precisely what's on the regime's mind:



[Click here to watch the video.](#)

"China is now simply too large for the rest of the world to absorb this enormous capacity. Actions taken by the PRC today can shift world prices...."

And the bombshell:

"When the global market is flooded with cheap Chinese goods, the viability of American firms is put into question."

Well, I'll say.

The important distinction to note in the above statement is that for a long time the 'cheap' moniker used to describe Chinese goods often underhandedly referred to their *quality*, in the secondary definitional sense. Here, Yellen is referring to cheap as in price: the distinction is significant because it's referential to the fact that Chinese manufacturing processes have simply far exceeded the efficiency in the West, as recently highlighted by videos of the Xiaomi e-car factory with its own native Giga Press that's *claimed* to be able to pump out a car every 17 seconds.



[Click here to watch the video.](#)

The fact of the matter is, [China is simply leaping ahead](#) of the decrepit, deteriorating U.S. by every measure and the panicked elites have sent Yellen to beg China to “slow down” and not embarrass them on the world stage.

How is China doing this? Let’s run through a few of the most poignant ways:

[1] First and foremost, it’s become almost a passe bromide to observe:

“The U.S. funds wars, while China funds development.” But it really is true. Think about this for a moment:



Douglas Macgregor  @DougAMacgregor · 23h



We have lost \$14 TRILLION over the last 20 year on dumb interventions in other countries.

What good has it done?

\$34 trillion

The CBO estimates that by 2054 public debt will represent 166% of GDP, reaching \$141.1 trillion. Currently the nation's **\$34 trillion** debt is approximately 99% of GDP and, according to the CBO, will steadily increase over the next 30 years. 6 days ago



Fortune

<https://fortune.com> › 2024/04/01 › america-social-econo... ⋮

[National debt: Report finds U.S. debt higher than thought after ...](#)

The above is factual: Esquire reported that a Brown University investigation found the U.S. has spent an ineffable \$14T on wars since 9/11:

Take, for example, war. In total, according to the Costs of War project from Brown University, the U.S. has spent over \$8 trillion over two decades fighting its post-9/11 wars. But more than that, literally, Brown's researchers found the Pentagon has spent \$14 trillion since the start of the War in Afghanistan as part of a new investigation into where the money went. That is to say, who enjoyed the Profits of War? The answer is defense contractors, who have received between one third and one half

[Source](#)

And yes, the [current U.S. debt](#) is a massive \$34T. That means quite literally almost half of the entire current U.S. debt was blown on endless, mindless, genocidal wars in the Middle East.

The U.S. has wasted its entire blood and treasure on war. Imagine what the U.S. could have built with \$14 trillion dollars? Where the U.S. could have been in relation to China for that amount? As someone else noted, the U.S. could have very well built its *own* "one belt and road" project for that money, connecting the world and reaping untold benefits.

China hasn't spent a cent on war, and puts everything right back into economic development and wellbeing for its own people.

China is winning lion's share of construction projects in Africa

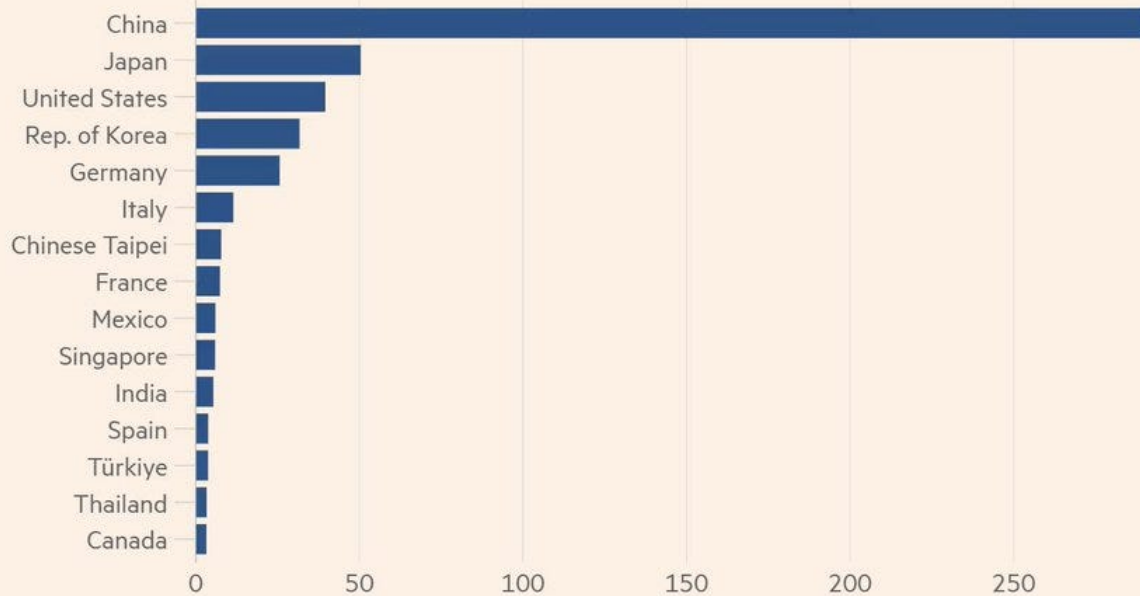
Chinese companies accounted for 31% of African infrastructure contracts valued at US\$50 million or more in 2022, compared with 12% for Western firms, according to a new study.

It is worth to be noted that in the 1990s, about eight out of 10 contracts to build infrastructure in Africa were won by Western companies.

The illustrative statistics for this are endless:

Annual installations of industrial robots in 2022

'000 of units



What makes this historic mal-appropriation of American funds most tragic is that *none* of it came at the benefit of American people. The entire operation was carried out by an ethnic cabal within the U.S. government with loyalties only to Israel, and no one else. I'm speaking of course of the PNAC clan, who masterminded the entire breadth of the 21st century wars which have engulfed America in wretched shame and misery, irreversibly gutting the country and squandering its global standing. These wars had nothing whatsoever to do with America's national interests or security, and have done naught but make Americans less safe and the entire world more dangerous and unstable.

China doesn't have this problem: there is no inimical 'out' group parasitizing their country's leadership, literally assassinating (JFK) and blackmailing their presidents (Clinton). China is therefore able to focus on the interests of its own people.

And yes, for those wondering, it's now fairly proven that Lewinsky was a Mossad honeytrap used to blackmail Clinton in assenting to various Israeli demands vis-a-vis the Oslo Accords, Wye River Memorandum, etc.

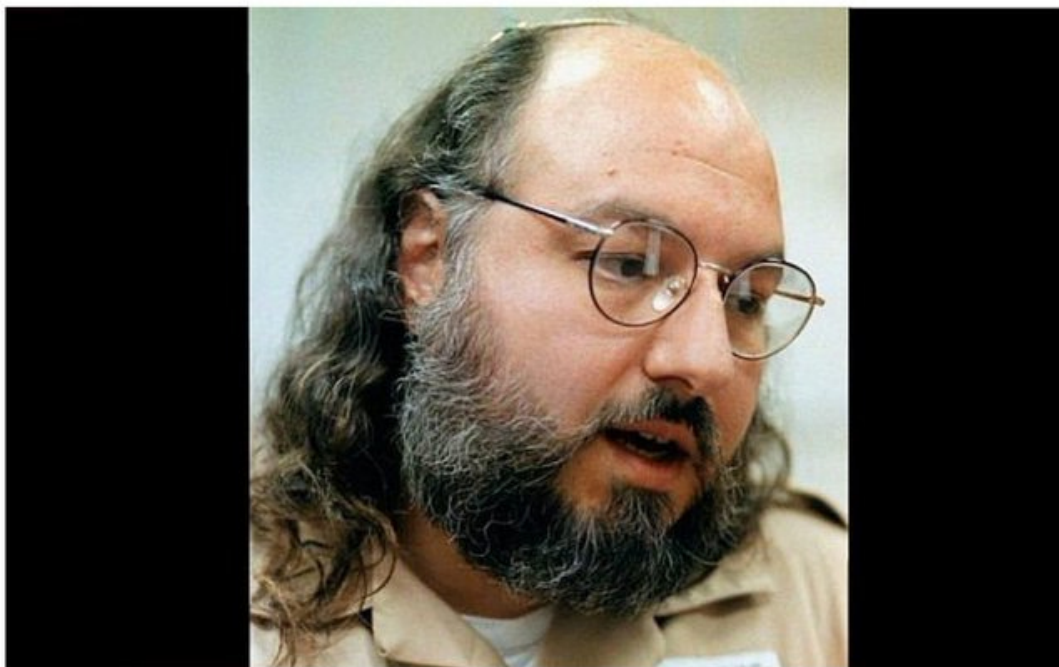


Netanyahu said to have offered Lewinsky tapes for Pollard

New critical book on the Clinton family claims that Israel tapped White House phones, blackmailed president with recordings of intern

By **REBECCA SHIMONI STOIL** ✓

23 Jul 2014, 7:01 pm | 14



File photo of Jonathan Pollard, 1998. (AP/Karl DeBlaker/File)

**NEWS**

ISRAEL BLACKMAILED BILL WITH MONICA TAPES; SPY HUNT ENDED AFTER MOSSAD BUGGED PREZ SEX CHATS: BOOK – EXCLUSIVE

By **Neal Travis**

Published March 3, 1999, 5:00 a.m. ET

The fact is, Israel is a destructive parasite sucking the lifeblood out of America, causing the host to wage unnecessary wars on its behalf which have utterly removed every advantageous and competitive edge the country might have had over its Chinese 'rival'

[2] As a corollary of the above, beyond just the simple kinetic nature of the profligately wasteful wars, America wastes an exorbitant amount of money just on maintenance and upkeep of its global hegemony. The reason is, it costs a lot of 'enforcement' money to strongarm vassals who hate you into compliance.

China doesn't form vassals, it forms partners. That means it spends comparatively far less spreading its influence because that influence has compounding abilities owing to the fair bilateral nature of China's arrangements. The U.S. has to spend comparatively inordinate amounts of blood and treasure to maintain the same level of 'influence' because that 'influence' is totally artificial, confected out of a poisonous mixture of fear, strong-arming tactics, economic terrorism that leads to blowback which hurts the U.S. economy, etc. In short, it is mafia tactics versus real business partnerships.

One big difference between China and the U.S. is that China is open to sharing the earth, willing to co-prosper with the U.S. Conversely, the U.S. is unwilling to abdicate its global

domination:



The above was highlighted by Graham Allison, coiner of the Thucydides Trap idiom in relation to U.S./China. The [Thucydides Trap](#), as some may know, describes a situation where an emerging power begins to displace the incumbent global power, and how historically this almost always leads to major war. To popularize the theory apropos U.S./China, Graham Allison used the historical example of the Peloponnesian war, where a cagey Sparta was forced to take on the rising power of Athens.

Allison was recently [invited by President Xi](#) to a forum for U.S. business leaders where Xi told him directly:



Graham Allison @GrahamTAllison · Apr 2



There, he said: “The Thucydides Trap is not inevitable, and Planet Earth is vast enough to accommodate the respective development and common prosperity of China and the US.”

Contrast President Xi’s magnanimous statements with those of the seething, guilt-wracked, bloodthirstily conniving Western ‘executives’. In fact, Xi called for more exchanges between China and the U.S. in order to entwine the two countries in mutual understanding, to avoid the Thucydides Trap:

This is the enduring image of what global leadership truly looks like, and the principles it embodies.

Meanwhile, when one thinks of America’s progressive decline, the one enduring image that comes to mind is of a bitterly frightened but dangerous, beady-eyed cornered rodent, conspiring on how to inflict damage and suffering onto the world in order to mask its own downfall.

[3] The U.S. government does a grave disservice to its own development by cooking all of its economic books. Every country does it at times to some degree—and going by U.S.’ notoriously frequent accusations of China in this regard, one would think China to be the most flagrant violator—but in fact, no one does this more than the current U.S. regime.

The recent “jobs” report touted as a major victory by the Biden administration was a disgraceful travesty. The admin touted major jobs figures:



Live TV

Business / Economy

March jobs report comes in hot: The US economy added 303,000 positions last month

By Alicia Wallace, CNN

Updated 12:06 PM EDT, Fri April 5, 2024

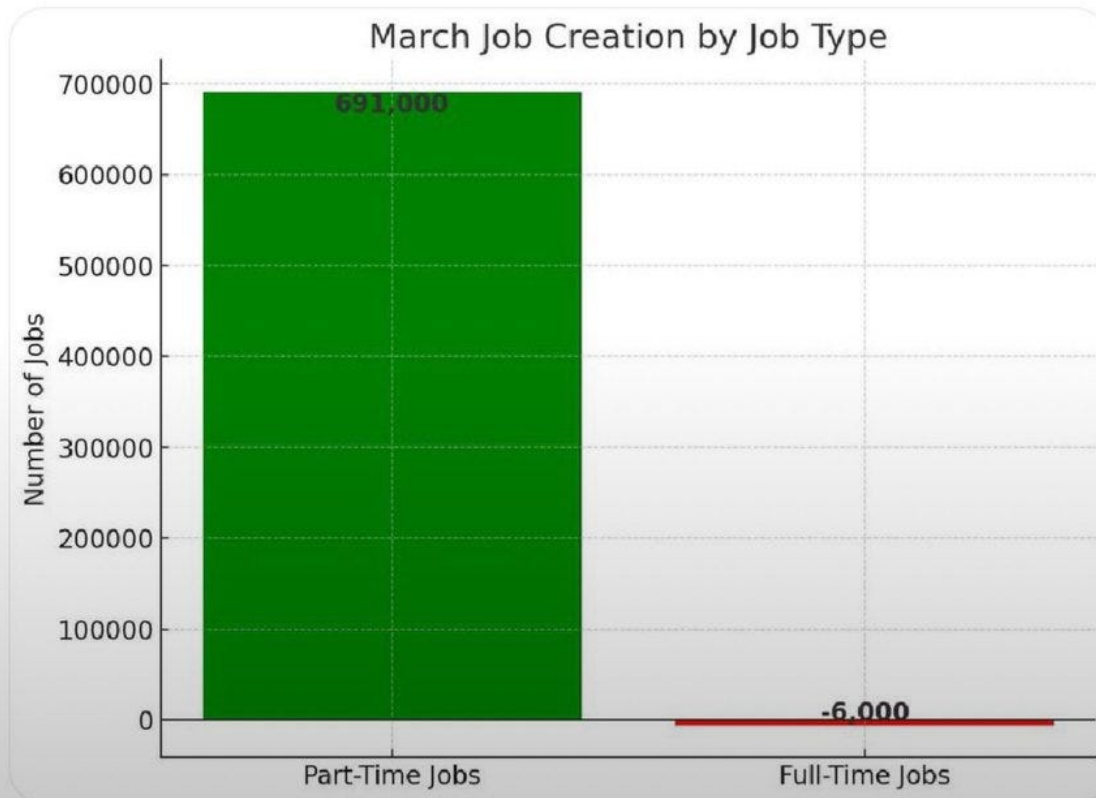
But it turned out every job was either part time, a federal job, or went to illegals:

The economy added 691,000 jobs in March.
Bad news is that they were ALL part-time jobs.
Full-time jobs fell by 6,000.

Government jobs were +71,000
Manufacturing jobs were +0

How did the media portray the jobs data?





MacroEdge

ESTABLISHMENT DATA
Summary table B. Establishment data, seasonally adjusted

Category	Mar. 2023	Jan. 2024	Feb. 2024 ^P	Mar. 2024 ^P
EMPLOYMENT BY SELECTED INDUSTRY (Over-the-month change, in thousands)				
Total nonfarm.....	146	256	270	303
Total private.....	91	196	207	232
Goods-producing.....	-12	30	17	42
Mining and logging.....	2	-2	1	3
Construction.....	-6	26	26	39
→ Manufacturing.....	-8	6	-10	0
Durable goods ¹	-1	-4	-3	4
Motor vehicles and parts.....	-1.1	2.2	-1.9	6.5
Nondurable goods.....	-7	10	-7	-4
Private service-providing.....	103	166	190	190
Wholesale trade.....	9.2	-6.7	-2.9	8.5
Retail trade.....	-27.2	16.6	23.0	17.6
Transportation and warehousing.....	-16.1	-3.8	22.5	1.2
Utilities.....	2.5	1.5	3.1	-0.4
Information.....	5	8	-3	0
Financial activities.....	4	-4	-6	3
Professional and business services ¹	18	48	17	7
Temporary help services.....	-14.6	7.5	-11.9	-1.3
Private education and health services ¹	62	100	82	88
Health care and social assistance.....	63.0	73.0	85.4	81.3
Leisure and hospitality.....	35	-3	43	49
Other services.....	11	10	11	16
→ Government.....	55	60	63	71

In reality, the U.S. economy is in atrocious shape with sky-high inflation.

[Here's Jesse Watters revealing](#) that:

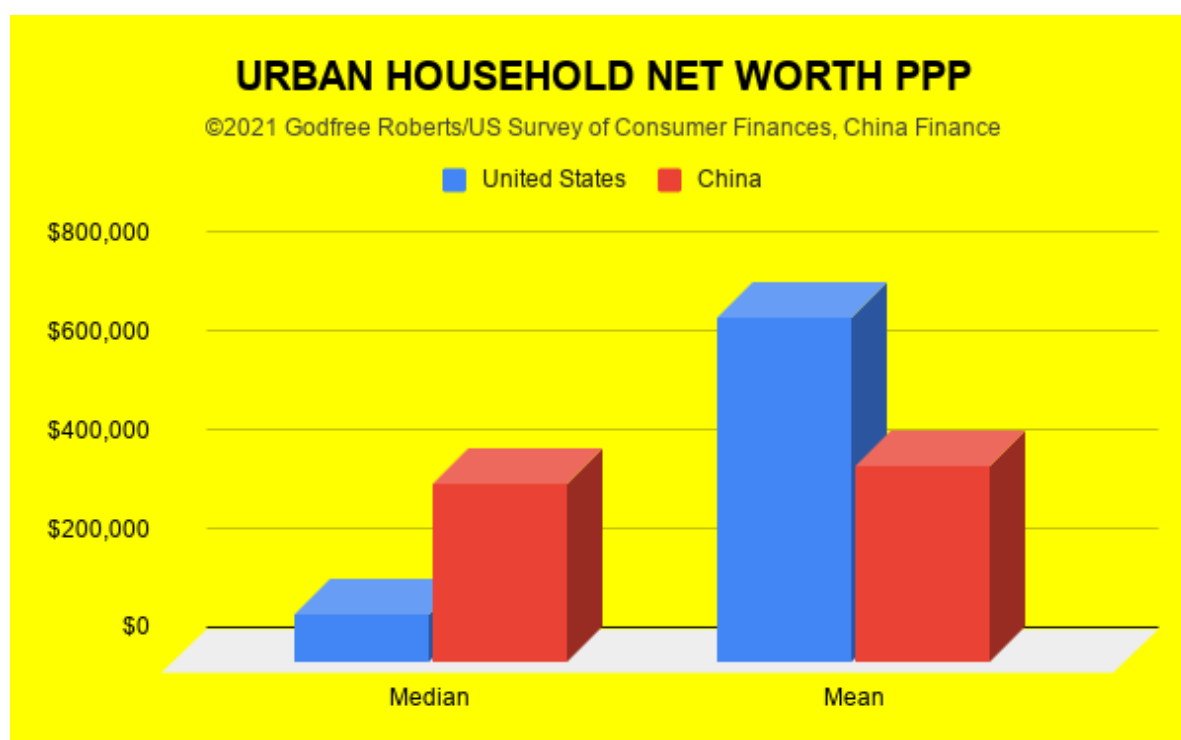
“The Fed chair just confessed that #Bidenomics is just a migrant job fair. There is

actually a million less American citizens working today than there were in 2020.”

Biden created 5 million migrant jobs! So don't be fooled by his propaganda that's spewed by the liberal machine. YOU DONT MATTER!

The data is cooked even more when comparing to China's economic situation. As the following [Tweeter explains](#):

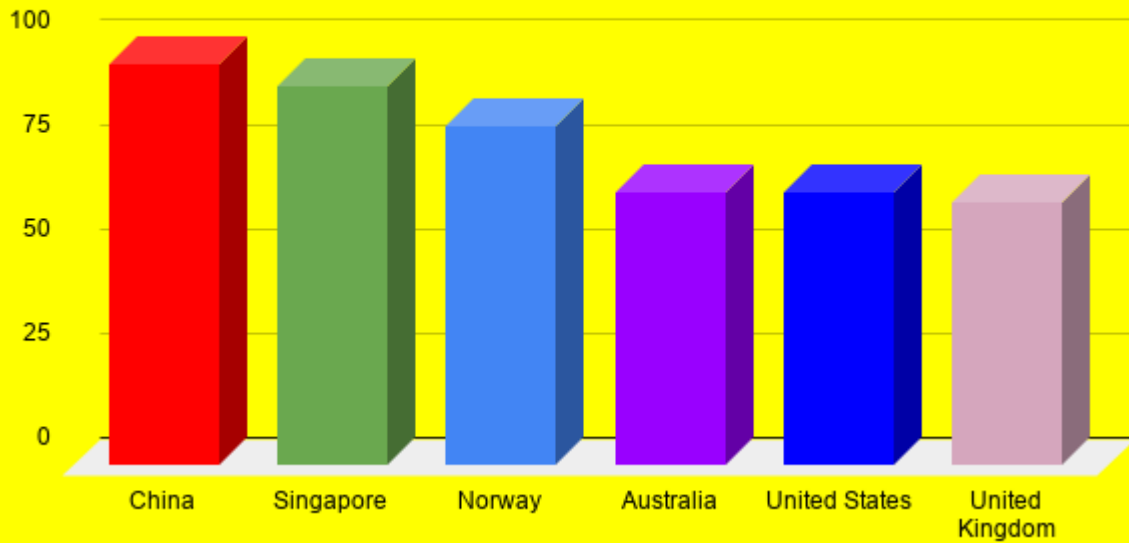
While Chinese INCOMES are below American INCOMES, Chinese have much higher NET WORTH than Americans. How? They own apartments at a much higher rate and with a lot more equity than Americans. The MEAN and MEDIAN insight is even more beautiful. This graphic here is pretty much the only thing you need to understand about the difference between the economies of China and United States. But you really need to understand it and you need to have a deep understanding of what it means.



U.S. home ownership is on a precipitous decline toward the low ~60s%, while [China now has over 90% home ownership rate](#):

HOME OWNERSHIP

©2021 Godfree Roberts/Trading Economics/PBOC



[4] The above naturally springs the question of how China is able to do these things while the U.S. cannot. One of the answers comes by way of [this fascinating explainer](#) which shows that, contrary to the West's depiction of China as some kind of rigidly authoritarian system, forward-looking President Xi is actually utilizing very cutting edge economic experimentation models to keep the Chinese economy as innovative, limber, and supple as possible.

In short, a deep study of thousands of official documents shows a huge upswing in language promoting economic experimentation in the directives issued under Xi's government.

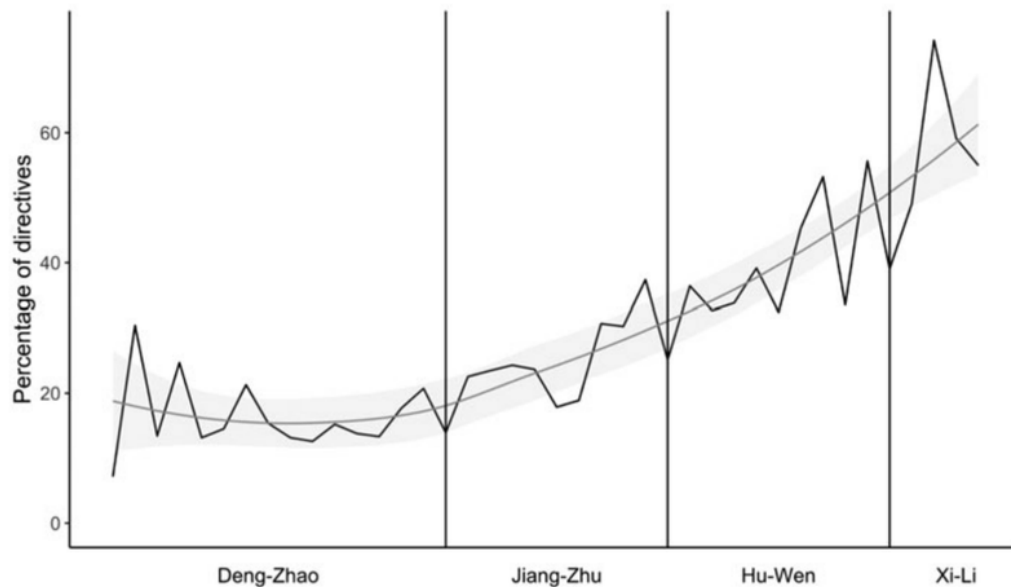


Figure 4. Directives Containing Keywords on Experimentation

Notes: This figure includes directives issued by the Central Office, the State Council and jointly issued directives.

This is further compounded by the most important point of all: that under President Xi, China has embarked on a meticulous plan of curbing financialization and speculation of the 'Western model' in its economy. This is where it starts getting important so buckle up.

A [good breakdown of that is given here](#) by Chinese academic Thomas Hon Wing Polin, who pulls from this recent article:

Death of empires: History tells us what will follow the collapse of US hegemony

Published: 3 Apr 2024 | 11:12 GMT

The turn away from expansion, production and trade toward lending and speculation has precipitated decline for centuries



[Source](#)

The article gives a brief history of financialization, from the Genoese bankers to modern times, observing the historical cycles that have precipitated America's current deterioration:

Observers of the current American hegemony will recognize the transformation of the global system to suit American interests. The maintenance of an ideologically charged 'rules-based' order – ostensibly for the benefit of everyone – fits neatly into the category of conflation of national and international interests. Meanwhile, the previous hegemon, the British, had their own version that incorporated both free-trade policies and a matching ideology that emphasized the wealth of nations over national sovereignty.

In describing the cycle of financialization and its connection to the death of empires, the article notes about Britain:

For example, the incumbent hegemon at the time, Great Britain, was the country hardest hit by the so-called Long Depression of 1873-1896, a prolonged period of malaise that saw Britain's industrial growth decelerate and its economic standing diminished. Arrighi identifies this as the 'signal crisis' – the point in the cycle where productive vigor is lost and financialization sets in.

And yet, as Arrighi quotes David Landes' 1969 book 'The Unbound Prometheus,' "as if by magic, the wheel turned." In the last years of the century, business suddenly improved and profits rose. "Confidence returned—not the spotty, evanescent confidence of the brief booms that had punctuated the gloom of the preceding decades, but a general euphoria such as had not prevailed since...the early 1870s....In all of western Europe, these years live on in memory as the good old days—the Edwardian era, la belle époque." Everything seemed right again.

However, there is nothing magical about the sudden restoration of profits, Arrighi explains. What happened is that "as its industrial supremacy waned, its finance triumphed and its services as shipper, trader, insurance broker and intermediary in the world's system of payments became more indispensable than ever."

In short: as an empire dies, loses its industrial and manufacturing capacity, finance takes over, pumping up huge bubbles of phony speculative money that gives the brief *appearance* of economic prosperity—for a time. This is what's currently happening in the U.S., as it drowns in its self-created agony of debt, misery, corruption, and global destabilization.

One thing to note—if you'll allow me this not-so-brief aside—is that the entire Western system is based on the actual institutionalized economic sabotage and subversion of the developing world. Books like the following go into some of it:



Underground Empire: How America Weaponized the World Economy

Henry Farrell (Author) , Abraham Newman (Author)

FORMAT

Hardcover

~~\$28.99~~ \$26.96

✓ AVAILABLE

ADD TO CART

ADD TO WISHLIST

★★★★★ 4.9/5.0
★ Trustpilot 21,000+ Reviews

Bookshop.org has the **highest-rated customer service** of any bookstore in the world

The rise of the underground economy: The book reveals how the United States' underground economy evolved parallel to its legitimate economy, exploiting loopholes

and leveraging secrecy jurisdictions to facilitate illegal activities such as drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and money laundering.

The “dark” side of globalization: Mills challenges the prevailing narrative of globalization as a force for progress, highlighting how it has facilitated the expansion of illicit networks across borders and allowed criminal enterprises to flourish.

The complicity of financial institutions: The author examines the role played by major financial institutions in enabling money laundering and illicit transactions. He underlines the need for stronger regulations and accountability to prevent banks from becoming facilitators of underground activities.

I challenge you to read [notes on the National Memorandum 200](#), if you haven’t heard of it before.

Incidentally, John Michael Greer just [penned a new column](#) (thanks to whoever shouted out this blog in the comments!) about the neologism he coined: *Lenocracy*, which derives from the Latin “leno” for pimp; i.e. a government run by pimps, or pimpocracy.

His definition of pimps in this case is that of middlemen who are the classic rent-seeking leeches—or rentier class—which extract [economic rent](#) without adding any value to the economy—all Michael Hudson territory, for those in the know.

Bear with me, I promise this will all tie together into an overall picture of China.

JMG characterizes the ‘pimps’ as basically all the unelected, bureaucratic, red-tape-weaving, blood-sucking monetary vultures killing growth and livelihoods by each taking their nibbles in turn from the carcass of the working class, exacting some small transactional charge at every step of routine business in Western nations, particularly the U.S. This has served to suffocate the average small business or entrepreneurship in general, not counting the big ticket venture capitalists who are mostly offshoots of global financial and investment firms. This is part and parcel to the lethal ‘financialization’ of the country that has spelled doom for its future.

Now, getting back to Thomas Hon Wing Polin’s precis, and how it relates to this. [He notes:](#)

It is noteworthy that the CPC leadership recently launched a major drive to build China into a “financial great power,” with a financial system “based on the real economy.” That would be the antithesis to Anglo-American-style economic financialization.

He pulls from the following article:

China's Communist Party finance organ draws institutional road map for sector

- A Communist Party organ designated by China to regulate the financial industry, has set out its vision for the sector in a lengthy article
- Plans for broad reform enumerated to ensure institutions follow national objectives, set pure profit-making aside

[Source](#)

Read that last part: “...set pure profit-making aside.”

Pay attention to this big kicker:

Beijing is powering ahead with the epic project.

“China’s 461-trillion-yuan (US\$63.7 trillion) financial industry and its regulatory regime will be heavily prioritised in a broad economic reshuffle engendered by the country’s top leadership, with the sector remoulded to serve national objectives like sustainable growth and advancement in the global tech race.

Are you beginning to get it yet? If not, here’s the crowning finial:

Specifically, it vowed to rein in Wall Street-style practices seen as unsustainable and crisis-prone, and move toward functionality as an overriding value for the financial system rather than profitability.

It also mandated that Chinese financial institutions have “higher efficiency” than their peers in the capitalist world and provide inclusive, accessible services in the pursuit of common prosperity.

“Like it or not, banks and other institutions on the supply side should expect top-down directives and overhauls cued by the CFC,” said Zhu Tian, a professor with the China Europe International Business School (CEIBS).

“Reforms are long overdue to benefit the real economy,” Hu said.

And there it is. In essence: China is creating a revolution, striking out a new path of finance which steers away from the wild excesses of the West into a bold new direction. Finance to benefit the real economy, the common man, the people. This is what the fig leaf of [Rothschild-pushed ‘stakeholder capitalism’](#) is *meant* to be, or better yet: pretends to be.

It's hard not to wax poetic on these developments, because they are truly groundbreaking. China is paving a new path forward for the entire world. The Chinese banking industry is now by far the largest on earth and President Xi has wisely put his foot down with a bold edict: we will not follow the path of destruction chosen by the West, but rather will set our own new path.

This is an iconoclastic, paradigm-breaking revolution which ends six centuries of Old Nobility world finance dominion, traced from the Spanish-Crown-allied Genoese bankers, to the Dutch then English banking system which now continues to enslave the world, and is referred to by a variety of names in the dissident sphere: from Hydra, to Leviathan, to Cthulu, to simply: the Cabal.

All those 600 years are going up in smoke with China's repudiation of the 'old standards', which privilege predatory, deceptive, extractive terms and practices meant to benefit only the Old Nobility elite class. China's system is true stakeholder finance: the government will forcibly bend the bankers to its will, making sure that finance serves the common good and the people first, rather than speculation, financialization, capitalization, and all the other wicked inventions of the Western Old Nobility class.

It begins like so:

Economy / Economic Indicators

China's banks cut salaries, rescind bonuses amid economic slowdown and Beijing's financial reshuffle

- China's 12 national joint-stock banks reported deep salary cuts last year, with Bohai Bank reporting the largest pay cut of 11.8 per cent
- 10 state-controlled financial institutions demanded employees return performance-based bonuses worth a combined 99.88 million yuan (US\$13.8 million) in 2023



China Economy

China's new rules for finance pull the brakes on gravy train, bringing 'greed is good' era to a halt

- Finance was once China's 'profit machine', but new regulations for the industry mean the era of big bonuses and lavish lifestyles is over
- Government has called for banks to abandon a Western-style ethos and adopt an outlook in line with broader economic priorities



China Economy

China's 'two sessions' 2024: new mandate, party control push central bank beyond ordinary role

- Proposed revision to law governing China's central bank, as well as leadership and structural changes which have already occurred, suggest new mandate
- Focus on promoting growth, development, avoidance of sanctions would redefine role outside standards which characterise central banks in the West

“...bringing greed is good era to an end.”

The big one:

“Government has called for banks to abandon a Western-style ethos and adopt an outlook in line with broader economic priorities.”

It's a revolution in the making.

But if you're thinking my dramatic flights above verge a touch on hyperbole or idealism, you could be right. I, of course, still proceed with caution; we can't be sure that China will succeed in its grand demolition of the age-old paradigm. But all signals point to early success thus far, and more importantly, it's clear that China has a leader that fundamentally *understands* these things at the most rooted level. Western leaders not only are incapable of even grasping the complexities involved of reining in capital, they are unable to do so for the mere fact that they're totally bought and paid for *by* the representatives of that very capital class. The cabal of Capital is so deeply and institutionally entrenched in Western governmental systems that it's simply impossible to imagine them being able to see 'the forest for the trees' from within the forest itself.

By the way, in light of the above, here's the West's truly desperate, pathetically envious, face-saving attempt to tarnish and mischaracterize China's new direction:



SHARE



SAVE

China Is Gaslighting the Developing World

Beijing's promises of equality are a guise for hegemony.

By **Robert A. Manning**, a distinguished fellow at the Stimson Center and its Reimagining Grand Strategy Program.



As well as:

4 Apr, 2024 20:42 / [Home](#) / [Business News](#)

China's 'incredible' growth threatens American and EU economies – US trade chief

Beijing's "non-market" policies should be rebuffed through appropriate "countermeasures," Katherine Tai has said

[Source](#)

The above is particularly astounding in its admissions. Read carefully:

Market-based US and European economies are struggling to survive against China's "very effective" alternative economic model, a top US trade representative has warned, according to Euractiv.

Katherine Tai told a briefing in Brussels on Thursday that Beijing's "non-market" policies will cause severe economic and political damage, unless they are tackled through appropriate "countermeasures." Tai's remarks came as the EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC) kicked off in Leuven, Belgium.

"I think what we see in terms of the challenge that we have from China is... the ability for our firms to be able to survive in competition with a very effective economic system," Tai said in response to a question from Euractiv.

In short: China isn't playing fair—they're actually privileging their people and economy over financial speculation, and this is causing their firms to outcompete ours!

But what she's really talking about gets to the essence of the difference in the two systems:

The trade official described China as a system "that we've articulated as being not market-based, as being fundamentally nurtured differently, against which a market-based system like ours is going to have trouble competing against and surviving."

These are code words: what she means by "market based" is free market *capitalism*, while China uses more of a centrally-planned directive system, as outlined earlier. Recall just recently I posted complaints from Western officials that their companies are not able to compete with Russian defense manufacturers due to their 'unfairly' efficient 'central planning' style.

Here too, what they mean is that the Chinese government creates directives that spurn 'market logics' and are aimed at direct improvements to the lives of ordinary citizens. In the West there's no such thing: *all* market decisions are based merely on the totally detached financial firms' speculations and are exclusively at the behest of a tiny clique of finance and banking elite at the top of the pyramid.

You see, the U.S. is threatened because it knows it can never compete with China fairly, by squelching or containing its own gluttonous financial elite—so that leaves only one avenue for keeping up: sabotage and war.

This is the real reason the U.S. is desperate to stoke a Chinese invasion of Taiwan by various provocations, including weapons shipments. Just like the U.S. used Ukraine as the battering ram to bleed and weaken Russia economically, disconnecting it from Europe, U.S. hopes to use Taiwan as the Ukraine against China. It would love to foment a bloody war that would leave China battered and economically set back to give the failing and greed-suffocated U.S. economy some breathing room.

But it's unlikely to work—China is too sagacious to take the bait and fall for the trap. It will patiently wait things out, allowing the U.S. to drown in its own endless poison and treachery.

No, there will be no Thucydides Trap—it's already too late for that. The Trap worked for Sparta because it was still at its peak and able to thwart Athens. The U.S. is in terminal decline and would lose a war against China, which is why they hope to stage a proxy war instead, cowardly using Taiwan as the battering ram. But China can read these desperate motives with the clarity of finely glazed porcelain.

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