

The Rise of China – Whither the West?

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Caveats and outline

- China: centralised power structure (CCP)
 - empire state: internal divisions
- The West: led by the US
 - includes Europe and Australasia;
 - plus Japan and South Korea?
- Is conflict inevitable? With the US or the West?
- Compare cultural strengths and weaknesses
- Argue West still holds important advantages
- Discuss Chinese intentions, and whether they can be accommodated
- Conclusions and prospects

Niall Ferguson's six keys to the triumph of the West over the Rest

- Competition
- Science and its applications
- Property ownership
- Modern medicine
- Consumerism/capitalism
- Work ethic

Samuel Huntington

- Clash of civilisations: not primarily ideological or economic, but cultural and religious
- The West is unique, but not universal
- Modernity will take different forms in each great civilisation
- Competition between worldviews, and different conceptions of the international global order

Distinguishing characteristics of Western civilisation

- Classical legacy: Greek rationality and science, Roman law
- Language
- Christianity and its relation to temporal authority (separation of church and state)
- Individualism (rights and freedoms)
- Social pluralism and civil society (tolerance of difference, freedom of association)
- Rule of law and equality before the law
- Representative institutions of governance
- Imperialist ambitions: propensity to proselytise

Distinguishing characteristics of Chinese civilisation

- Classical legacy: Confucianism
- Language and writing
- The cult of Heaven and the mystique of Tao
- Collectivism and moral obligation
- Authority and social hierarchy
- Harmony and morality as the basis of social order
- Bureaucracy as political administration
- Chinese world order: tribute and trade

Sociocultural change

- Driven by evolutionary processes analogous to biological evolution
- Variation
- Selection in response to environmental conditions
- Replication and inheritance
- Competition for advantage between states

Additional advantages of the West

- Progress as a social and political goal
- Application of science to technology
- Research and innovation
- Alleviation of constraints on selection
- Corporate institutions: universities
- Venture capitalism

Summary of advantages for the West and China

- Back to Ferguson's six keys to success
- For China: centralised decision making; focused investment
- For the West: individualism; independence of institutions; freedom of choice, expression, and communication; political diversity
- Importance of these for innovation

China's intentions

- Erase the century of humiliation
- Regain China's 'rightful' place in the world
- Shape a multipolar world order
- Increase economic prosperity
- Build China's military capacity
- Gain recognition as East Asian regional hegemon: hard power, soft power, expansionism, the South China Sea

China v US v OECD

- Projections of Defense Expenditures, 2003-30
- in U.S. Dollars (billions)*

- | | China | U.S. | OECD |
|--------|-------|------|-------|
| • 2003 | 60 | 417 | 740 |
| • 2010 | 88 | 482 | 843 |
| • 2015 | 121 | 554 | 962 |
| • 2020 | 152 | 628 | 1,089 |
| • 2025 | 190 | 711 | 1,233 |
| • 2030 | 238 | 808 | 1,398 |

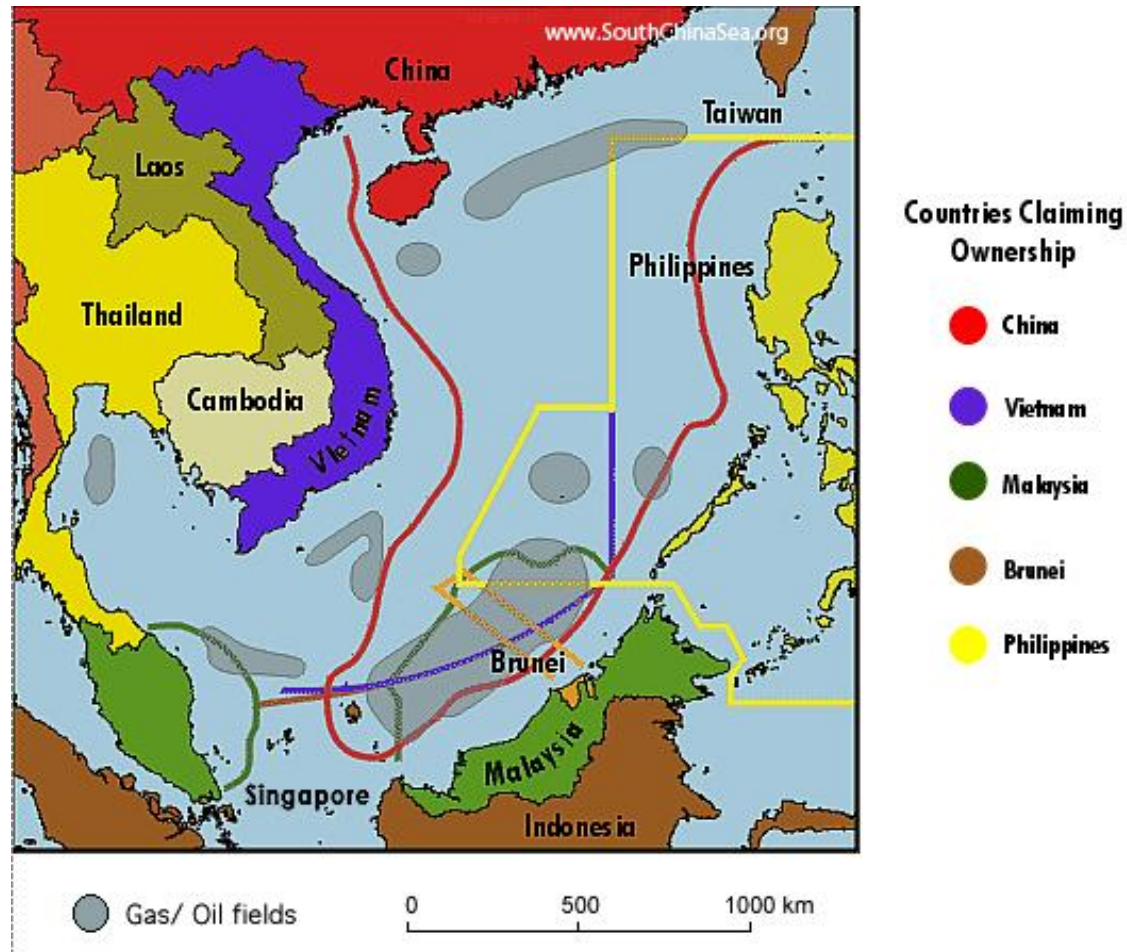
- SOURCES: OECD, Economist Intelligence Unit.

- Projections of GDP, 2005-30
- at Purchasing Power Parity in U.S. Dollars (trillions)

- | | China | U.S. | OECD |
|--------|-------|------|------|
| • 2005 | 9 | 12 | 34 |
| • 2010 | 14 | 17 | 44 |
| • 2015 | 21 | 22 | 55 |
| • 2020 | 30 | 28 | 73 |
| • 2025 | 44 | 37 | 88 |
| • 2030 | 63 | 49 | 105 |

- SOURCES: OECD, Economist Intelligence Unit

The South China Sea



The rise of China in perspective

- China's economic success and vulnerabilities
- Military balance: defensive capacity, force projection, military technology
- Innovation: education, science, and technology
- Selection: institutions and politics
- Prospects for a multipolar world: strategy and accommodation: unified Western defence of current stable global order (John Ikenberry arguing the Liberal system can survive the Rise of China))