

SUMMARY

CHINA IN GLOBAL AND REGIONAL POLITICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY – GEOPOLITICAL CLASH WITH JAPAN, INDIA, USA, RUSSIA AND EUROPE

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This dissertation discusses the current and future role of China in the 21st century. I worked with the idea to prepare a systematically detailed analytical study of the country in relation to its surroundings as well as its internal environment for more than 8 years, including many interruptions. I, above all, contemplated about the way how to truly scientifically, i.e. credibly, it means in the maximum possible the limits of verifiability, develop a full work that could hold up to the colleagues from the scientific community and myself. It is logical it was and is my attempt to allow minimal possibility of any criticism of this work for its formal, content, or other deficiencies.

First, I decided to analyse in some detail the currently known theoretical approaches and methods of study, not only in political sciences, especially those used by political geographers, but also in other related fields, especially in the field of study of international relations, sociology, political science or general security studies. I did not want to study the issue is the potential for future development of China being myopically limited to the use of theoretical approaches and methods known in current political geography, or, if you prefer, geopolitics. On the contrary, I tried to analyse and use other methods in their virtually entire spectrum while maintaining respect for the fact that the object of study cannot be conceived by a priori rather all-encompassing, but poorly verifiable views on the issue, ie holistic or (almost) a complex view.

On the basis of selected research methods , which I will specifically apply to individual aspects of the examined entity, which is the People's Republic of China in its immediate regional and overall global environment, with due respect to its internal environment, I will describe the historical, current and projected future status of the country, with a special effort to provide the

most subtle and dynamic image of the country, to provide a view from the inside and the outside, although it's obviously very difficult in terms of keeping the complexity and brevity at the same time.

In this work I intend to use a variety of comparative methods based e.g. on historical analogies, statistical data, and novel methods for comparing the most relevant information that are as far as possible mathematically expressible. Maximum use of the knowledge of political, cultural, historical and geographical aspects not only of the studied country but also data such as the degree of consistency settlement of the territory, social and economic cohesion of the country and other relevant and measurable aspects at the same time.

Based on the partial analysis, I intend to provide an overall evaluation of the role of China, which should this still the most populous and also with regard to their population in the long term the most dynamically developing country take on both the global level and regional level of the Far East and Southeast Asia, and even within itself. It is important to realize that in the eyes of Central European the People's Republic of China is, in geographical terms, essentially in all measurable aspects practically comparable rather with the entire European continent than with one larger or smaller European countries.

Finally, in the conclusion part, I will offer a theoretical method that would try from all of the currently known methods to offer novel solutions or aid that would, in my opinion, simplify the evaluation of the hazard potential geopolitical, national and / or international conflicts at all.

Therefore I believe, I will prove or disprove that to the extent that the social sciences allow, and with using the maximum available information, its **basic thesis**, namely that **it is extremely unlikely that the People's Republic of China will be for about 50 years term a threat to the stability of the world political system and that it would sought to promote its superpower ambitions by means of use of its armed forces to the extent that would threaten its immediate and distant surroundings**. However, it is important to realize that the future and the human community are, even though everybody would wish it, including the scientific community, in fact unpredictable entities, whose development is predictable only with some level of probability. No one can ever previously grant assurance that it actually happens, unless he or she was an oracle. Nevertheless, on the basis of certain facts it is possible to assume that an entity will, under certain conditions, act this or that way. As the authors of a publication called "*Global Trends 2030: Alternative worlds*" stated in the summary "we do not seek to

predict the future - which would be an impossible feat - but instead provide a framework for thinking about possible futures and their implications"¹, which corresponds to the Kenneth N. Waltz's defence of neorealist theory, claiming that even if "scientists will one day come up with a final theory ... we will not be able "to predict everything or even very much"².

So we have to just live with the knowledge that not everything can be predicted with absolute certainty, as it is also to some extent hardly possible even in the natural sciences. Nevertheless, we can, to some extent, on the basis of the information obtained, prepare for the expected black scenarios and act today and tomorrow accordingly.

¹ National Intelligence Council; Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds; Washington DC; NIC; 2012; ISBN 978-1-929667-21-5; 140 stran; www.dni.gov/nic/globaltrends, p. i

² American Political Science Review; Evaluating theories; WALTZ, Kenneth N.; Vol. 91, No. 4, p. 916