

US-China relations: Cooperation, Competition, Conflict

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Abstract

Current international relations are characterized by strenuous relations among many nations and several conflicts, many without any solution in sight. We are at a stage where we have enormous analytical ability with the use of supercomputers; perhaps what is lacking is good will. Of course there are many stakeholders that benefit from conflicts and the power of lobbyists must not be underestimated. The US has been the leading world power for many years. At this point there are strong indications that China, currently in the number two position, stands to surpass the US. There are mixed feelings about this in the US; but, be it as it may, it is certain that China will jump ahead in the years to come. Relations between the US and China have been in the conflictual mode for many decades until the breakthrough by President Nixon in the 70s.

China has also been changing its economic strategy from one based on communism/socialism to capitalism with a mixed economy, which is what has allowed China to experience significant economic growth with a surge of FDI in China. The competition has become intense over the recent years. And so relations between US and China are in the conflict mode in some areas and in the competition mode in other areas. There is also fair amount of realism that the two nations stand to win more by cooperation. This paper will explore the foregoing factors and considerations. An analysis will also be made of the evolution of US-Japan relations from which valuable lessons can be derived.