

# ***Headquarters U.S. Air Force***

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*Integrity - Service - Excellence*

## **Good News About COVID19: China's Belt and Road Initiative**



**Asking better questions to find a clearer way forward with the People's Republic of China**

“When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.” -- Maya Angelou

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# *What do I seek to accomplish today?*

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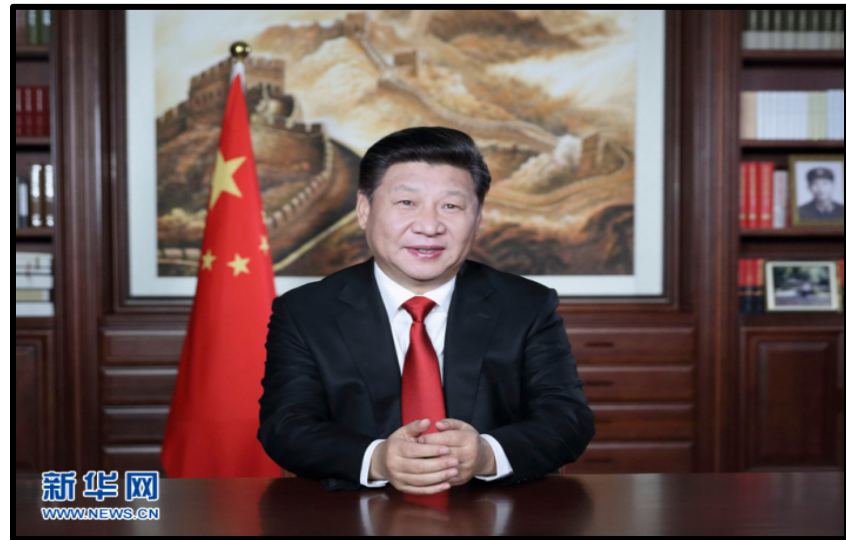
- **Demonstrate:**
  - **We are all China experts now; please push back**
  - **Strategic Foresight & Futurist disciplines leverage U.S. strengths**
- **Encourage:**
  - **Simplification without reductionism**
  - **Optimism: How do we contend w/the CCP so the world wins?**
  - **The good news about COVID19 and the BRI**
- **Proof of success: Challenging questions and good discussion**
- **Question and quote:**
  - **“What do you think of China?”**
  - **“... based on the illimitable freedom of the human mind...we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it.” --Thomas Jefferson”**



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- A Cold Warrior perspective: 7 Crosses
- What does Xi Jinping seek to overthrow? The post-WWII global framework:
  - WTO
  - UN
  - World Bank
  - World Health Organization
  - NATO, etc.
- Question & quote:
  - What percentage of global financial transactions take place in the U.S. dollar?
  - “Space has become a vanity project for the super wealthy.”





# *The Present: Values and Genius*

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- **What are U.S. values?**
  - **Sanctity of the individual, privacy, rule of law, capitalism, objective truth**
- **What are PRC values?**
  - **Primacy of the collective, primacy of the CCP, socialism, relative truth**
- **What does the PRC/CCP have a genius for?**
  - **Embrace of ideology to strengthen cultural homogeneity**
  - **Leveraging technology for political ends**
  - **Deception and ambiguity**
- **What does the U.S. have a genius for?**
  - **Forgiveness, reconciliation and clarity**
  - **Harnessing the private sector**
  - **Freedom**
- **Torture in a U.S. Embassy warming shack**
- **“No Chinese person who leaves a Chinese language movie believes he understood 100% of every word.”**





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# ***Experimental Future 1: Global Future Report: The Future of China's Belt and Road Initiative***

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- **Potential Future A: Continuation: PRC plays not to lose**
  - **CCP underplays and mismanages BRI downside and loses control. Loss of control at the speed of effective strategy is not something the CCP is prepared to weather.**
- **Potential Future B: Discipline: PRC Plays to Win**
  - **CCP overplays and accelerates BRI. Turbulence in BRI nations and PLA responses trigger global financial re-set.**
- **Potential Future C: Systemic collapse: PRC, Asia or the world?**
  - **Demand for post-COVID BRI transparency overwhelms CCP; loss of information control and direct influence over BRI member nations leads to instability that spreads.**
- **Potential Future D: Transformation: Fierce Competition w/ Clearer Eyes**
  - **Driven to coopetition, CCP adjusts global investment, increases BRI leverage and exploits emerging tech so U.S. and China both win**



## *Experimental Future 2: The PRC cannot accept the existence of the ROC*

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- Strategic Foresight and the depth of the PRC/ROC divide
- Ideology question– do communists believe their own ideology?
  - Soviet Union (Bolted)/People’s Republic of China (Baked)
- What does the ROC represent?
- What’s in a name?
  - 馬伯樂 or 吗伯乐？
- Why can the PRC not accept the existence of the ROC?
- What is the CCP’s claim to power?





## *Concluding Thoughts and Questions*

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- **The strengths of Strategic Foresighting**
- **What does Hong Kong tell us about Taiwan?**
- **Does the CCP make decisions that are good for it?**
- **Artificial Intelligence and Augmented Reality will reflect the values of their progenitors**
- **Who in the world wins depends on whose values prevail**
  - **The 1958-1962 Great Leap Forward resulted in 18-45 million deaths**
  - **The 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution resulted in “hundreds of thousands” to 20 million deaths**
  - **There is no such thing as a private individual or company in the PRC**

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