

BELMONT CLUB

U.S. Versus China



BY RICHARD FERNANDEZ AUGUST 28, 2019

[COMMENTS](#)*(AP Photo/Andy Wong)*

The competition between the United States and China for the leadership of the 21st century is basically a contest between social and economic systems. While there is often talk of war between the two countries such an event would be so damaging that WW2 in the Pacific would pale by comparison. In 1941 the U.S. had 12x the war-making industrial power of Japan. By contrast, the U.S. economy in 2019 is only 1.5 x bigger than China's, which with more than 4x the population, could conceivably exceed it. Armed conflict would be so prolonged and catastrophic that neither side would war on the other except by accident.

The purpose of military forces in deterrence is to drive conflict to the arena of economic and social competition and the winner of the U.S.-China struggle will be the society that manages to unleash the creativity of its population. Will it be the dictatorial [Communist Party of China](#) (CPC) or the sclerotic Western elite? That the contest is even close is testimony to how stagnant the West has become. As George Gilder noted in his book [The Scandal of Money: Why Wall Street Recovers but the Economy Never Does](#): "China today is a Rorschach test of American leadership." With the news cycle dominated by charges of white racism, climate change and gender identity who even talks about China?