

China, Friend or Foe?

By Professor Yu-long Ling

The American media, the academic community and the general public continually question what role China plays internationally. Is China a friend or foe?

This question signifies the complexity of Sino-American relations. During the Cold War era, China sided with the Soviet bloc, and the United States was the leader of the democratic world. During that time, both sides' roles were clear. From our standpoint, China and the Soviets were bad guys, the United States and our allies were good guys. This sharp distinction made it easy for people to understand our decision-makers' policies. As far as international politics was concerned, confrontation instead of negotiation was the mentality. After the Cold War ended in the early 1990s, this bipolar system was broken.

Each nation needed to redefine its friends and foes. One of the most controversial countries we needed to define was China. In the latter part of the Cold War era, the Soviet bloc was our chief enemy. For the purpose of thwarting the perceived Soviet threat, the United States and China formed a quasi-strategic alliance against the common adversary. The cooperation between them helped produce the disintegration of the Soviet empire. But due to the lack of a common ground in ideology, politics and culture, relations between China and the United States were actually fragile. Any major dispute between them could get out of hand at any time.

Due to the changing international environment and leadership, President Jiang Zemin of China and President Bill Clinton in 1998 jointly announced that the two countries now were "a constructive strategic partnership." China was pleased

that they and the United States had finally become "partners," but this consensus was short-lived. George W. Bush decided to run as the Republican candidate for the presidency, and his first attack on previous administration policy targeted the so-called strategic partnership. To him partners were allies like England, Japan, Israel and Canada, all long and traditional friends. China did not share any basic values with us, in his view. He used a new term, "strategic competitor," to describe the relationship with China. The difference between these two terms was quite serious. Partners trust each other.

Relations between competitors, on the other hand, are different. When dealing with common interests, we will cooperate; but in case of major conflict, each "partner" will not be afraid to confront the other. The result of this change under the Bush administration was to deal with China not as a partner but as a potential adversary. It was not too far-fetched to say that during this period Sino-American relations were not ideal from China's point of view.

Then came the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, an earth-shaking event that woke up the Bush administration and many other Americans. They discovered that Islamic radicalism was the source of trouble, not the peaceful rise of China. Chinese leaders are much more practical; they realized that for the purpose of economic development, China should side with the West, not with Islamic fundamentalism.

China made a clever decision to support the United States against international terrorists. As a goodwill gesture, the Bush administration changed its tone and called China a great country



Professor Yu-long Ling, a Franklin resident, is a respected expert in foreign policy. He writes this weekly opinion column for the Daily Journal.

and a good friend of the United States. Secretary of State Colin Powell during a congressional hearing used the "three C's" formula to describe the new approach to China — candid, constructive and cooperative relations.

Politics deals with reality. The reality today is that the United States, a superpower, has realized that there are limitations on its power. Many international issues cannot be solved by one country alone. We need help. North Korea, the Iran nuclear issue, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are cases in point. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick in 2005 came up with a new term. He suggested that China should be a "responsible stakeholder" in this interdependent world. Globalization helps China in its search for modernization, and "responsible stakeholder" fits China's interests. So China gladly accepted this new role.

Many years after the Cold War ended, China and the United States still struggle to find a long-term strategic framework for their relations; both parties are well aware of the importance of having better relations and have tried to foster these. The top leaders of both countries have met. Looking into the future, these two great powers most probably will move beyond the current tensions and continue to work toward a competitive yet cooperative relationship.

One thing seems clear: If these two giants work together, it will bring win-win results, but if they work against each other, both will suffer dearly.

Professor Yu-long Ling is traveling to Taiwan and China to give lectures and attend conferences. He will be speaking about Sino-American relations at Pudong Institute for the U.S. Economy, a prominent think tank in Shanghai. He also plans to give lectures in Franklin's sister city, Luqiao.

ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU.....

By An anonymous AAT reader

The Asian American community of Indianapolis has always been generous when it comes to lending a helping hand to the needy people around the globe. In the past, this has been consistently demonstrated by the outpour of good will and generosity to the victims of various natural calamities, may they be in China, Taiwan, Thailand, Sri-Lanka, Pakistan, Haiti or as in the latest case, Japan. However, this has been a very challenging year for our own people as well. Flood and tornadoes have struck earlier in the central and southern states, Hurricane Irene has just left several eastern and northeastern states still much under water and Tropical Storm Lee is about to heap the same fate to the states that ring the Gulf of Mexico. Therefore, it is a particularly sobering call when I heard it on the news that FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is running low in its funding. The same is true with the much depleted reserve of civilian relief organizations such as the American Red Cross. Our country is in a financial strap? Yes, indeed, and the time to ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY is now!

I am hereby to make an appeal to the readers of the Asian American Times to once again be generous, make a donation to the American Red Cross or to a similar relief charity of your choice. Think of the folks in the mountain communities of Vermont who have been cut off for days by flood water, ordinary New Jersey citizens like ourselves whose homes were simply washed away. The time to show that we are one people and One Nation Under God is now.

Thank you.

Tiger Mom

Myth or Reality? Does It Matter?

By Hope K Casey-Allen

Tiger Mom is not just a myth. Numerous parents attempt to be Tiger Mothers by rigorously training their children and frantically equipping them with skills to survive the harsh, competitive world. Yet the reality is that life with a Tiger Mom comes with drawbacks, and many of these undermine Tiger Mom's success. In Amy Chua's memoir *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*, one views child rearing through the eyes of a Tiger Mother and witnesses her triumphs and downfalls. Amy's children are undoubtedly talented, but at the expense of family harmony and happiness. She eventually relaxes her parenting, exhibiting that the strict Tiger Mom model must also be relaxed when put into practice.

Amy Chua's first child, Sophia, exhibited signs of success early on. She received straight A's and sped through the Suzuki books for piano. Carnegie Hall invited her to play when she was only 14. The Tiger Mom approach has appeared to work for her. By contrast, Amy's second daughter, Lulu, incited shouting matches in the house. She argued with her mother during violin practice sessions, and at one point dangerously swung her violin above her head like a lasso. After she publicly embarrassed her mother by smashing glass on the floor and yelling that she hated her life, Amy allowed Lulu to quit the violin if she wished. Clearly Lulu did not represent the calm waters of filial piety, but rather the boiling waters of teenage rebellion. Amy's Tiger Mom parenting had reached its limit. Although her no nonsense, tough style of parenting was effective with Sophia, Amy was forced to adapt her strategy while raising Lulu. From bribing her with the promise of owning a dog to permitting Lulu to resign the violin, over time Amy conceded. Today, Lulu is allowed sleep over parties and Sophia even has a boyfriend, treats that their mother once considered inconceivable. Due to the drastically different ways in which her children responded, the confident,



Hope is an eleven grader at Park Tudor High School. She is the Second Place winner of 2011 IACA Telamon high school scholarship. The scholarship criteria are based on an essay and volunteerism. Congratulation to Hope for a job well done and we wish her a successful 2011-2012 school year.

rigid Tiger Mother at the beginning of the book is much different than the humbled one at the end. She morphs into a more flexible parent who is willing to make compromises and recognizes when to pull back. This transformation illustrates that parents should adjust to suit each child's needs. Whether one is an indulgent, "Western" parent or a ferocious Tiger Mother, the outcome depends on the child's personality.

Sometimes Tiger Mom parenting may never pay off, even in the long term. Instead, children recall their childhoods with distress, remembering them as dark times filled with angst. Betty Ming Liu, a daughter of extreme Chinese parents who were similar to Amy Chua, states "I'm

horrified that she's American-born and hanging on to this, when most of us are trying to escape it." She views her parents' strict child-raising as a past to escape, and certainly not a method to inflict upon future generations. Other times a strict parenting approach may yield disastrous yet completely unexpected results. According to the New York Times, "A California woman recalled how her sister became the perfect Asian daughter Ms. Chua aspires to produce, only to kill herself because she was afraid to tell anyone she suffered from depression." The rigorous, Chinese virtuous circle of hard work and reward that Amy Chua subscribes to does not allow for failure because under ideal conditions, those who work always receive their reward. Unfortunately, our reality is not perfect and even the most exacting parenting approach cannot raise children devoid of perceived faults. The woman who committed suicide was afraid of admitting to her "imperfection" of depression, having always strived for perfection. Had her parents been more lenient, perhaps she could have avoided her fate.

In theory, Tiger Mom's methods should produce accomplished, talented, successful, dedicated children who are also obedient, respectful, cultured, polite, and brilliant models of filial piety. They understand that work comes before play and never shirk responsibility. However, when absolute Tiger Mom parenting is put into practice, these virtues may not coexist. A household may instead be filled with tension and painful memories. Perfect parenting is a myth. Everyone possesses some undesirable trait and every parent makes mistakes. The reality is that some appreciate life with a Tiger Mother while others hate it. Some go on to become achieving professionals and music prodigies while others spiral into depression. A Tiger Mother is no more the perfect parenting solution than a Chinese, Indian, Swiss, immigrant, or Western mom.

ON ASIA

by Dan Russell

JAPAN

According to meteorological authorities in Japan, the tropical storm Talas, officially designated as a typhoon, resulted in record rains in 3 of Japan's prefectures over 3 days last week. The death toll from the storm came to at least 49. More than 60 people were reported missing. The focus of damage occurred mostly in the Kii peninsula.

CHINA

U.S. business expansion in China is looking more and more to smaller cities outside of the usual presence in major cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Major investors such as Wal-Mart are setting the pace. A Wal-Mart person reports that they now have 340 stores in over 120 Chinese cities with over 80% located outside major cities. Starbucks spokesman Dongwei Shi reports their goal is to triple its locations in China to 1500 by 2015 by expanding their focus beyond the coastal cities and provincial capitals.

The Beijing Times, a local publication in the capital city, has reported that a new sex education publication, "The Steps of Growth", is now being used in elementary schools in China. It is even being used in classes with students as young as six. In traditionally conservative China the new textbook has raised a lot of eyebrows and generated a great deal of debate as to whether it is appropriate.

PAKISTAN

According to official U.N. reports last Saturday, heavy rains resulted in severe flooding in Pakistan and killed nearly 200 people. Approximately 200,000 people were displaced and more than 1 million homes were destroyed. U.N. agencies were assisting in relief efforts.

MYANMAR

China is constructing 2 giant pipeline projects in western Myanmar straddling its border with India. They are scheduled to be finished in 2013 and are creating a great deal of consternation with Thailand, exiled Myanmar environmentalists, and the U.S. government. An Indian company, ONGC Videsh is assisting China with the pipelines along with South Korea's Daewoo. One pipeline will transport gas from the Bay of Bengal to China and the other will transport oil from the Middle East and Africa directly to China's Yunnan province.

INDIA

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Bangladesh last week. The two countries have long mistrusted each other and the visit is the first by a leader of India's Congress Party in forty years. The lack of trust and border clashes has been a roadblock to political ties and significant trade relations between the two neighbors. They are set to sign an agreement to define their 4,000-kilometre shared border.

TAIWAN

Taiwan has arrested 9 men accused of smuggling large amounts of narcotics and other illegal drugs from Hong Kong and China into Japan, Australia and New Zealand. The arrests included the smuggling ring's leader, Fan Chu-lin and are expected to bust the decade old operation.

ICMA FREE MEDICAL CLINIC FOR ASIANS

Asian patients who can not afford insurance, regardless of status will be treated without charge. The clinic will accept appointment by phone for non-emergency medical problems and diagnostic ultrasound, EKG, routine laboratory work. Non English speaking patient will need to bring interpreter for their appointment.

Location:	Chinese Community Church (basement) 3405 E. 116th Street, Carmel, IN 46033	
Phone:	317-694-3273 (MUST CALL BEFORE COMING)	
Date/Time:	Saturday September 27	9 am - Noon
	Saturday October 29	9 am - Noon
	Saturday November 19	9 am - Noon
	Saturday December 17	9 am - Noon

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Little Tricks Make Life Easier

How to make good rice?

After washing rice in water, add a few drops of lemon juice, (or a few drops of oil), cooked rice will turn out good and fragrant.

How to keep biscuits crispy?

When storing biscuits in a container, put a sugar cube in it at the same time. As the sugar absorbs the moisture in the container, biscuits or cookies can remain crispy and delicious.

What can be done if clothing stains with ink?

If ink gets on your clothing or fabric, you can use cooked rice or paste with a little detergent to remove the stain. Use your fingers to smear repeatedly on the spot, stain can be removed quickly. Then soak it into fresh water with ordinary cleaning agent for a period of time before washing.

How to treat smelly shoes?

Put a small amount of baking soda directly into the boots, sneakers or shoes, that are obviously smelly due to dampness. Baking soda powder has the effect of absorbing moisture and odor.