

Recent articles from the Global Times discussing America and American views.

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Global Times <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1061580.shtml>

To enjoy the Chinese film *Wolf Warrior II*, shed your biases

Source:Xinhua Published: 2017/8/16 12:02:45

Wolf Warrior II, an action film written by, directed by and starring Chinese actor Wu Jing, has become the first non-Hollywood movie ever to crack the list of 100 global box office champions, a dose of Chinese kung fu to Western-dominant movie markets.

While Hollywood superheroes who save the earth are taken for granted, some Western critics misjudged *Wolf Warrior II* as "propaganda stunt." It was a classic example of sour grapes.

Moviegoers shrugged off the prejudice. The film received a rating of 86 percent on Rotten Tomatoes.com, a famous US review aggregator for film and television.

The action is set deep in Africa, where Leng Feng, portrayed by Wu, reaffirms his duty as a soldier and battles Western mercenaries to rescue innocent Chinese civilians and African workers at a Chinese company.

Leng's sense of responsibility with the belief of "Once a Wolf Warrior, always a Wolf Warrior" is applauded on the screen and beyond. Tears were shed at the movie's end, and many returned for a second or third viewing.

But some Western critics saw the film differently.

Ignoring the value of loving one's homeland, something widely shared in China, the British Broadcasting Cooperation called the Chinese action movie "nationalist action movie."

Even the growing confidence of Chinese people etched in the movie is called great-power chauvinism. But is there really something wrong with having faith in one's country to carry out the quintessential job of protecting its own people?

In fact, such heroism claimed in the movie is commonly-articulated in Western war and action movies, including a number of Hollywood films.

During a press conference, Wu lashed out at the bias held by Western critics, saying "Why is that

a problem? America makes movies that promote the American spirit. Why can't I do that for China?"

Actually, the US superheroes are inherently political creatures. In the backdrop of World War II, US superheroes including Captain America glamorized war in comic books. The US government even used comic books to promote conscription.

From then on, superhero images in comic books and movies have been devoted to the adventures of powerful individuals compelled to use their abilities to impose a personal morality on the world.

It is not hard to find a political complexion in them. People cannot help wondering whether these US superheros promote war while maintaining their own country as a defender of peace.

Different from most US superheroes who fight in a world of make believe, *Wolf Warrior II* is inspired by reality.

China's evacuations of people from such conflict-torn countries as Yemen and Libya have been hailed by the international community over the past few years.

At one point in the movie, Leng unfurled a Chinese flag with his arm as the flagpole to assure safe passage through a war zone.

China's emergence as a key player in Africa is a tough pill for Western countries to swallow. Some critics say *Wolf Warrior II* is merely propaganda whitewashing China's role on the continent.

But *Wolf Warrior II* is a microcosm of China's friendship with Africa.

Contrary to Western colonialists who brutally seized control of the continent, China is involved with the countries of Africa in a mutually beneficial way.

China imposes no political conditions on African governments when channeling aid and investment into the continent. Chinese firms are willing to invest where Western counterparts are unwilling, just like how the Chinese and locals live and work together in the movie.

Like Chinese doctor Chen in the movie helping to fight communicable diseases in Africa, many Chinese technicians are dispatched to Africa to provide modest social and economic assistance and to build people-to-people bridges to strengthen China-Africa solidarity.

But sour grapes can never make sweet wine.

As China grows increasingly interconnected on the global stage and rises as a power, double standards continue to be the norm. The prejudice surrounding *Wolf Warrior II* is yet another example.

In the future, China will continue to produce an abundance of high quality movies to entertain people all over the world. Eventually, the world -- free of misconceptions and bias -- will learn to embrace China as a peaceful and responsible country.

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Global Times: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1123849.shtml>

Exploring the origins of the myth that ‘the US rebuilt China’ in past decades

By Zhao Juecheng, Zhang Mengxu and Qing Mu Source:Global Times Published: 2018/10/21 19:03:39

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- *Donald Trump claims that China drained US money to rebuild itself, a charge repeated by his vice president*
 - *This view has been floating around Washington in different forms since at least 2015, but is not taken seriously by scholars and professional diplomats*
 - *Scholars in both China and foreign countries dismissed such accusations as being unfounded and reflecting Trump's zero-sum thinking*



The first China-US judicial dialogue is held in Beijing on August 3, 2016. Photo: VCG

US Vice President Mike Pence recently gave a speech, where he attacked China's domestic and diplomatic policies. Some US media said Pence's accusations against China lack evidence, and that some of his remarks were irrelevant.

When he mentioned the US trade deficit with China, he quoted President Donald Trump as

saying that the US "rebuilt China" in the past 25 years.

For Chinese audiences, such remarks are simply ridiculous. However, such a notion does have the support of some American politicians and scholars. Where did such views advocated by the US president come from? The Global Times offers some answers.

Source of absurd ideas

"You know, we rebuilt China. The money they drained out of the United States has rebuilt China. And they've done it through monetary manipulation, by devaluations," Trump said during an interview with the New York Times in April 2016. He was campaigning for the Republican Party presidential nomination at that time.

A search on the internet shows that since 2018 mid-term election campaigning began, Trump has been repeating this narrative at rallies in many states.

In June, he said, "You see what's happening with China. We have no choice. This should have been done many years ago. We have no choice. China has been taking out \$500 billion a year out of our country and rebuilding China. I always say, 'We have rebuilt China.' They've taken so much. It's time, folks. It's time."

Trump hammered this point at the rally for GOP Senate candidate Josh Hawley in Springfield, Missouri in September.

On October 4, Pence said at the Hudson Institute, "Over the past 17 years, China's GDP has grown nine-fold; it has become the second-largest economy in the world. Much of this success was driven by American investments in China."

"China's actions have contributed to a trade deficit with the United States that last year ran to \$375 billion - nearly half of our global trade deficit."

Trump and Pence, are not the only ones who have said this. Such a fallacy is also popular among some scholars in US think tanks.

Although no American scholar has ever explicitly said that "America rebuilt China," there are many who believe that the US and other Western countries have helped China achieve its economic miracle, such as James Mann, the writer of the book *The China Fantasy*.

A more typical example is Michael Pillsbury, director of the China Program of Hudson Institute.

"For more than 40 years, the United States has played an indispensable role in helping the Chinese government build a booming economy, developing its scientific and military capabilities," he wrote in his book, *The Hundred-Year Marathon: China's Secret Strategy to Replace America as the Global Superpower*. He continues that the US has helped China take its place on the world stage in the hope that its rise will bring cooperation, diplomacy and free trade to the US.

The BBC commented that Pence's speech specifically referred to Pillsbury and Pillsbury was also praised by Trump as "the leading authority on China," which shows that US authorities have largely accepted his views and recommendations.

Trump is also influenced by perspectives of White House economic advisers such as Peter Navarro, who embellished the "harms" and "threats" China imposed on the US from such aspects as currency manipulation, trade policies and impact of Chinese products on the American market in his book *Death By China: How America Lost Its Manufacturing Base*.

With only 200 years of history, how did the US build China, a country with a 5,000-year history? The United States and all Western countries have no such strength to rebuild China. China's success in the past decades is due to its reform and opening-up policy and the diligent Chinese workers, experts say.

'US rebuilt Germany'

As early as June 15, 2015, Chinese scholar Chen Dingding published an article titled "Time to Bust This Myth: The United States Didn't Modernize China" in the *Diplomat*, saying that there had been a prevailing view among policy-makers and strategists in Washington that China had betrayed the US.

"It very much sounds like the United States simply handed 'modernization' as a gift to China in the last 30 years or so. This view is flat-out wrong. It not only neglects the huge benefits that China's exports to the United States have on the US economy itself, but also utterly downplays Chinese efforts," he wrote.

"I wrote the article at that time because there were discussions in the US on whether America had brought modernization to China," Chen, a professor of International Relations at Jinan University, told the *Global Times*.

"This view is biased. It's not mainstream in the US, nor have there been politicians or academics who have held the claim."

Wu Xinbo, director of Fudan University's Center for American Studies, echoed Chen's view. He said the claim that "the US rebuilt China" was almost nonexistent before. The popular way to describe the two countries' relationship is that the US made contributions to China's modernization and economic rise, which is closer to reality.

"In official statements, only the Trump administration has made such a claim and it shows his arrogance and ignorance. In the US, this is not a mainstream voice, and no serious scholar, media or any former US administration, will make such a claim."

In fact, after Trump made the infamous claim during the 2016 election campaign, fact-checking website PolitiFact researched his claim and said that it is an "overly simplistic casting" of the economic relationship between China and the US.

Scott Lincicome, a scholar at the libertarian Cato Institute who specializes in international trade

politics, told the website that Trump was right in only one tiny sense.

"Trade with all countries, including the United States, has been part of a major market reform that's lifted millions out of poverty in China. Reforms to property and taxation have been much more fundamental," he said.

Other scholars have also weighed in. "I wouldn't say the US deficits with China rebuilt China, but they may allow China to rebuild itself at a lower domestic political cost," said Michael Pettis, an expert on China's economy at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Yale University professor Chen Zhiwu says that by Trump's logic, it can also be said that China rebuilt the US by providing it with cheap goods and more savings. "Without these savings or Chinese financing of US government debt and corporate investment, the US will not be able to sustain years of growth in the real estate, defense and commercial sectors. In a globalized world, it is hard to say one country is rebuilding another," Chen said.

On September 19, a New York Times article about Trump's claim that "America rebuilt China" drew numerous comments. Duane McPherson, a reader from New York, said that Trump's claim reflects his zero-sum thinking. "People with this kind of thinking always think if one side gains, the other side loses."

Pence's lengthy speech drew sarcastic comments on German and European social media.

"How can the US still be able to build China when it has borrowed so much money from China? This is ridiculous," a netizen said. "How can the United States build the world's second-largest economy if it can't even rebuild Iraq?" another netizen said.

"The remark lacks historical basis," Florian, a scholar in Berlin who studies China, told the Global Times. With only 200 years of history, how did the US build China, a country with a 5,000-year history? The United States and all Western countries have no such strength to rebuild China. China's success in the past decades is due to its reform and opening-up policy and the diligent Chinese workers.

The idea of "rebuilding a country," he says, was born after the Second World War. Some in the United States have said things like "the US rebuilt Germany" because of its help after the Second World War.

Who modernized China?

Looking back on the development of China-US relations, many American media and scholars mention the year 1967. In October of that year, Richard Nixon contributed an article in Foreign Policy magazine, saying, "We simply cannot afford to leave China forever outside the family of nations..." When Nixon became US president, he began to carry forward his China policy.

Even Nixon admitted that his visit to China was not intended to modernize China, but to play the "China card" against the former Soviet Union. At that time China and the US shared security

interests, which prompted the groundbreaking meeting between leaders of the two countries and eventually led to the establishment of diplomatic ties.

What if Nixon did not visit China? The establishment of diplomatic ties between the United States and China in 1979 was not inevitable, but both countries have largely benefitted from the restored ties. Even if Nixon did not visit China in 1972, China would have still risen.

The report said the US economy only began to be influenced by China-US trade in the 1990s. The Chinese economy's development started when the country reformed its agriculture sector, not when it opened up to the US. The improvement in China-US relations only served as a minor factor in China's development, the report said.

In an interview with Germany's Wirtschafts Woche on October 14, John Nesbitt, a long-time China observer, and his wife Doris believe that China has taken on the role it has for centuries. But many people in the US still look down on China and could not imagine China's rise. In their book *China's Megatrends*, they concluded that China has been growing in experience. China has been working and learning. Even though it has met with obstacles, it keeps moving forward.

According to German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung, the US indeed has been hoping to "rebuild" China, because Washington hopes China's market opening and "democratization" process could move at the same pace.

The Trump administration thinks that China's economic rise could promote "democratization" in the medium term, so that the geographic political competition could be avoided. Though some in the US have warned of the rapid rise of China's economy, the doubters have always been a small group. The Trump administration appears confident in its policy toward China. But the situation has changed.

Wu noted that the "failed China engagement strategy," another popular idea in the US, is also an exaggeration.

Ding Yuqing contributed to the story

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Global Times: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1124988.shtml>

China, Caribbean countries more closely connected in new era of ties

By Ding Gang Source:Global Times Published: 2018/10/29 19:58:39

- *China is helping Caribbean nations develop infrastructure and connect to the world*
- *Despite US scare tactics, China's aid has no strings attached*

- *China is bringing consumer goods and construction crews to the region, not troops*



The Chinese navy hospital ship Ark of Peace sets sail from Zhoushan, East China's Zhejiang Province for humanitarian medical services in 11 Caribbean countries including the Dominican Republic. Photo: VCG

On October 18, US Secretary of State John Pompeo said he had warned countries in Latin America such as Panama to be wary of doing business with China, as Chinese State-owned enterprises engaged in "predatory economic activity."

The announcement was a sign of anxiety in the US, as Chinese influence is rising, Latin American experts say.

The warning might have worked 20 years ago, but the fact now is that Latin America has gained tangible benefits from its engagement with China, Chinese experts found, as a Chinese think tank-media delegation paid a visit to Latin American countries including Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic in October.

Closer cooperation

The Dominican Republic, the largest economy in Central America and the Caribbean with a population of just over 10 million, looks forward to simultaneously working with two major countries - China and the US - to achieve change.

In May, when Beijing and the Dominican Republic established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, Reuters quoted an unnamed Taiwan official as saying that "China offered the Dominican Republic a \$3.1 billion package of investment and loans to get them to sever ties with Taiwan."

This malicious smear was immediately rebutted by Dominican Republic President Danilo Medina. He said, "There are no strings attached to the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and the Dominican Republic." He believes that the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries is based on the principle of cooperation, and the extensive cooperation between the two countries will benefit two peoples.

On a street in Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic, a small, white two-story building that was Taiwan's "embassy" is now empty, with a for-rent advertisement on the black iron gate. The building is a witness to the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Dominican Republic.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Panama comes all very naturally. Even long before the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and the Dominican Republic, Chinese enterprises had come to the country for business.

Advertisements for Huawei's latest mobile phones are popping up on local streets, network projects by China Communications Construction Company are under construction, and Lenovo products are on display in electronics stores.

The Global Times also learned that with the establishment of diplomatic ties, some Chinese travel agencies are trying to open up Dominican Republic tours. China is also negotiating with Panama, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic to reach an agreement on "a tourist visa including all three countries" as soon as possible.

One Dominican Republic diplomat who said he would be visiting China with President Medina told the Global Times that attracting more Chinese tourists was their medium-term goal but not an immediate one, as supporting facilities needed to be ready, including getting more Chinese tour guides and enlarging capacity expansion in hotels and destinations. By contrast, their immediate goal is to accelerate cooperation with China on infrastructure and development of gold, copper and other minerals.

Increased connectivity

At a [Belt and Road](#) initiative (BRI) seminar at the Dominican Republic foreign ministry conference hall, Professor Eduardo Klinge of the Academy of Sciences of the Dominican Republic envisaged future connectivity between several Caribbean island countries, including the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Jamaica and the Bahamas.

Klinge did not ignore the United States, noting the Caribbean nation was very close to the US.

"Caribbean connectivity certainly needs the US support," he said.

Talking about the future, Klinge was excited. He admits that many practical difficulties remain for establishing such a connectivity network.

Not only will there be many railways, bridges, tunnels and ports to build, but more importantly, it will depend on cooperation between China and the US, which regards the Caribbean as its "backyard."

His vision revealed a passion and a dream to accelerate the development of his country and the entire region. "Our country is small, but we are ambitious," he said.

During the trip, the Global Times noted that the roads in the Dominican Republic are relatively worn, with many potholes, and serious pools of standing water after the rain. Its internet access is poor. Local people are longing for better roads and communication networks, the rebuilding of ports and the construction of railways to serve as a transportation hub of the Caribbean.

Talking to Dominican Republic diplomats and business professionals, it's not hard to see the urgency of the island's desire for faster development. Rafael Paradell, professor of communication at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, told the Global Times that he has been following the progress of the Belt and Road initiative and hopes it can create many development opportunities for the Dominican after the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

His family runs a cocoa business, which is mainly exported to the US and Europe. He now hopes to expand business through cooperation with China and export to Chinese market. To get a full picture of China's development, he is organizing a media delegation to visit China next February.

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"Taiwan is part of China and now our government has cut off so-called 'diplomatic relations' with Taiwan and established diplomatic relations with China, and we hope that the tie can promote more achievement."

A small vendor in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic

Trade and enterprises

The majority of Chinese living in the Dominican Republic operate trading companies, restaurants and grocery stores. There are estimated to be as many as 20,000 Chinese living in the country.

The number is not fixed, partly due to an influx of Chinese coming from Venezuela in recent years fleeing an economic collapse.

Near the ancient city of Santo Domingo, a small "Chinatown" is the home of Chinese restaurants and shops. A local resident told the Global Times that many people love to visit and enjoy

a meal here.

The accompanying translator, surnamed Liang, suggests that the Dominican Republic has the largest economy in the Caribbean, with a per capita GDP of more than \$7,000, and its economy is mainly supported by overseas remittances, tourism and export processing industries.

Several small markets and street shops in Santo Domingo carry large quantities of "Made in China" daily necessities such as Chinese-made clothing, luggage, shoes, socks and stationery. A

small vendor in a gift shop said he likes Chinese goods because they are cheap and good quality which exactly meet the needs of local people.

When asked if he knew "Taiwan," he made it clear: "Taiwan is part of China and now our government has cut off so-called 'diplomatic relations' with Taiwan and established diplomatic relations with China, and we hope that the tie can promote more achievements."

Another vendor in Santo Domingo also revealed his tips to distinguish between Chinese mainland and Taiwanese. "People from Taiwan don't like shopping much when they come here. I hardly sell anything to visitors from Taiwan. But the case is totally different with mainland people coming here," he said.

Many amber and handicraft shop owners in the city came forward and shouted in Chinese, "Amber! amber!" when this reporter passed by. Some shop owners even shouted out the price in Chinese.

Chinese enthusiasm, US anxiety

The US is nervous about China's rapidly rising influence in the Caribbean area. The Dominican Republic was the starting point of the great western expansion marked by the "discovery of the 'New World' by Columbus." Santo Domingo was the first permanent European colony in the "New World," and later became an associated state of the US, underlining its deep historical ties to the US and the West.

Located in the middle of the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic has a prominent strategic position for the US. In 1965, amid unrest in the Dominican Republic, the United States sent tens of thousands of troops out of fear of another Cuba in the Caribbean.

The Chinese government immediately issued a statement supporting the Dominican people and opposing the US armed aggression, and around 100,000 people in Beijing rallied to denounce the US behavior against the Dominican Republic.

In 2014, the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC) released a report that fully discusses China's relationship with the Caribbean. After Panama, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador established diplomatic ties with China, Washington recalled representatives of missions in the three countries, and threatened countries that had not yet established diplomatic ties with China not to make the same choice or face punishment.

In response, Panama President Juan Carlos Varela issued a statement urging the United States to respect the country's decisions as a sovereign state.

The US influence has historical, economic and cultural roots in the region. However, China's arrival will not undermine these foundations, and China has never intended to replace the US in the region. A lot of Chinese enterprises come here because trade and enterprises have developed to a suitable stage.

A recent article published on the French news website Worldeunch said that "China's ascent is renewing the importance of the Caribbean and may turn it into an authentic, geopolitical pivot within the century." However, a tour in Latin America tells us that the existence of China in the "backyard of the US" has become a norm. China's presence in the land is primarily different from that of the US in Asia. China is coming by cargo ships filled with consumer goods, and helping build commercial ports for the country and inspiring a passion for common development.

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Global Times: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1125391.shtml>

DOJ accusation part of US smear campaign against China

Source:Global Times Published: 2018/10/31 22:33:40

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) said Tuesday that Chinese intelligence officers who work at China's Jiangsu Province arm of the Chinese [Ministry of State Security](#) conspired to steal confidential business information related to a turbofan engine together with "hackers and co-opted company insiders." The report pointed out all the officers' names, saying that the engine was being developed through a partnership between a French aerospace manufacturer with an office in Suzhou, China's Jiangsu Province and a company based in the US. The report also mentioned to "redouble our efforts to safeguard America's ingenuity and investment."

This is the third time that the Jiangsu security authorities became a target for the US since September. In early October, the US extradited a so-called Chinese intelligence officer of Jiangsu from Belgium, accusing him of stealing information under the guise of asking US scientists to deliver a presentation in China.

As the DOJ has not shown conclusive evidence for these accusations but only a one-sided description, we cannot believe the statement is true. We do not believe the US owns overwhelming superiority in the US-China intelligence battle when Washington keeps accusing Beijing of espionage while Beijing remains silent.

The US has made wrong accusations and hyped "Chinese spies" in the past. It has become Washington's political and diplomatic measure to express its attitude toward Beijing.

Continuous US accusations against the Jiangsu security authorities are obviously coordinated with Washington's policy adjustment toward China. This is a political action disguised as a judicial one.

The latest accusation is part of the campaign which also includes the US Department of Commerce's decision to block China's Fujian Jinhua from buying US components and high-ranking US officials' claims that there are many spies among Chinese students in the US, slandering China for infringing US intellectual property rights. The US is promoting political mobilization against China and so pressuring Beijing.

Bloomberg recently reported that China infiltrated the supply chain of computer hardware maker Super Micro Computer Inc to plant malicious chips that could be used to steal secrets, claiming that Amazon and Apple were both infiltrated by the chips. These companies strongly refuted the report. The US government, politicians and media together created a false impression that the Chinese government is organizing commercial espionage against the US.

Those radical US elites arrogantly believe that China stole its modernization from the US and every Chinese person looks like a spy to them. As China and the US share a wide and complicated exchange, such extreme thinking is harmful. It not only hurts the two countries' normal exchanges but also threatens the safety of innocent people and leads to miscarriages of justice.

Accusing the Chinese government-backed hackers of attacking US institutes' internet will induce real criminals to fake internet attacks in such a way as to evade detection. History has proved that when a society indulges in political impulses, right and the wrong will be confused and real criminals take to such chaos like a duck to water.

Those Chinese who live in the US must feel great pressure as Washington plays on the issue of "Chinese spying". Certain groups' rights have been trampled in the US due to diplomatic confrontation and now it's obvious that the US is falling into the same trap and is even going to extremes.

We appeal to China's national security institutions to make US espionage in China known to the public and let the world see US spies' behavior. If China always remains silent in the face of US provocation, it will only foster US arrogance and make itself passive. The US is the largest intelligence-gathering country and the PRISM program has revealed Washington's hypocrisy. It seems the US has forgotten the pain and believes that it is the victim of an intelligence attack.

Catching alleged Chinese spies has damaged China's reputation. It's time for China to act and eliminate the adverse effects.

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Global Times: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1125254.shtml>

(Presumably the others speaking at the event offered other opinions which Chinese state media chose not to highlight. Watch the debate here:

<https://www.brookings.edu/events/the-china-debate-are-us-and-chinese-long-term-interests-fundamentally-incompatible/>)

Former US senior diplomat says China not revisionist country in int'l system

Source:Xinhua Published: 2018/10/31 11:44:48

A former US senior diplomat said here on Tuesday that China is not a revisionist country in the current international system, and interests of the United States and China are not fundamentally incompatible.

Susan Thornton, former acting assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, made the remarks while attending a debate whether the long-term interests of the United States and China are fundamentally incompatible.

The Trump administration, in its national security strategy, labeled China and Russia as US competitors and revisionist nations. Its recent trade and diplomatic provocations against China have triggered widespread fear that Washington is re-directing and shrinking its engagement with Beijing.

Thornton said that the United States and China "both have an interest in the continuation of the international system," while noting that the two countries are both permanent members of the UN Security Council.

"In this respect, I would argue that China is not revisionist, that China sees itself as wanting to prolong and continue the existing international order albeit with some changes," she said.

While holding the view that the interests of the United States and China are not fundamentally incompatible, Thornton said there are ways to manage the differences via diplomacy.

"We have many interests in common with China, and some of these are at a level of abstraction beyond which we normally think," she said.

"China and the US are both interested in countering instability and conflict among regional hotspots," she said. "They are both interested in countering terrorism and extremism, countering large migrations of populations, pandemics, environmental and natural disasters, and other sources of instability, and problems in the world."

"Promoting prosperity for both of our countries and other countries in the globe is an obvious common interest," she argued.

As the two largest economies on the planet, the United States and China share interconnectedness in their economies which is important to both of the countries as well as the whole world, according to Thornton.

"While it is true that some of our interests are in conflict ... they must be managed through deterrence and diplomacy; while other interests are compatible and can be furthered with diplomacy and cooperation," she said.

All of the issues between the two nations regarding incompatibilities "can be worked on so that they become either manageable or less problematic," she added.

"It is not to say that there won't be tension in the relationship and that this tension could be actually constructive, but issues that may seem intractable, such as some of those we worked on

with China in the past ... we have successfully managed and we have successfully gotten progress on," Thornton said.

Noting the economic and environmental challenges that the world is facing, Thornton said "without US-China cooperation, we will not be able to affect any progress for the future of our future generations."

The debate is part of a string of events on US-China relations co-hosted by the John L. Thornton China Center at Brookings Institution and the Paul Tsai China Center at Yale Law School.