

The Next World War?

By Musafir

The resurgence of Russian ambitions, Chinese 'Star Wars' capability and the radical Islamic agenda are the three biggest threats facing the American hegemony on the global scene.

Contrary to the popular belief, Russia is still a military superpower despite the breakup of the Soviet Union. We should not forget that their deliverable nuclear missiles are still aimed at the U.S and the European countries. Thanks to the reversal in their financial fortune, Russia is now planning to reestablish its naval base in the Mediterranean which will be a definite threat to American naval supremacy, and that is just the beginning.

On top of that, Russia recently lodged its flag onto the seabed at the North Pole. Russia has thus reiterated its claim to the billions of tons of oil and gas reserves in the Arctic. Canada and Denmark (Greenland) are two other countries which claim parts of the Arctic, but they do not have the might and resources of Russia to validate their claim. The U.S. has the proximity to a small part of the Arctic that borders Alaska. Some U.S. Senators are advocating going to the International Court to resolve the issue, but they forget that power and not international law will ultimately settle this issue.

China recently destroyed an idle satellite in space. Let's not forget that there is more to it than meets the eye. The anti-satellite test (ASAT) is a major threat to America as a superpower. American military might is dependent on its capability to monitor enemies' activities from space. As long as the U.S. has this capability, it can unleash its power anywhere in the world. The only way to stop America from doing this is to shoot down its vital information gathering satellites. China has conveyed that message to America very effectively. China knows that it cannot match U.S. militarily, but can establish its hegemony in Southeast Asia by blinding the U.S. by destroying its satellite capabilities. "This is a shot across the bow of U.S. military power that will give advantage to Beijing during a possible conflict in the Taiwan Strait." With the United States heavily depending on its satellites in space for real-time communications, weapons targeting and intelligence gathering, China's ASAT is a message to Washington that Beijing can overcome its military handicap in a relatively simple way.



There is no secret that the radical Islamists hate America. They are a more dangerous enemy today than ever before. el Queada is as strong now as it was before 9/11 with increased capability in Iraq and on the Pakistan-

Afghanistan border. Its reach has spread throughout the Muslim world and Europe where it has developed a large cadre of operatives. Osama bin Laden has mounted a successful Islamic resistance to America worldwide and his ideas are drawing more followers everyday. Their combined strategy is to draw America into war with more Muslim countries thus bankrupting its resources like they did to what used to be the Soviet Union. Additionally, the Islamists are the enemies of Israel. America alone is supporting Israel. China and Russia are not concerned with Israel's security or survival. At the same time, the ethnic war between Jews and Arabs in Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank shows no sign of abating.

Now imagine the above three forces (China, Russia and the radical Islamists) ganging up against the U.S. The indications are that this is already happening. Russia's foreign policy is quite disturbing. Moscow has given Iran diplomatic protection for its nuclear ambitions. With its enormous oil and natural gas reserves, it has already threatened to stop the much needed lifeline to the Baltic nations and has put the European Union (EU) on notice. Relations with Russia are too vital to the security and prosperity of the EU. As a result, the EU may be forced to share a common foreign policy with Russia. With high energy prices allowing Russia to emerge from the trauma of post-communist transition, it is ready to reestablish its hegemony over the Balkan and beyond. Apart from its ambition in Europe, Russia is trying to be a more active participant in the dynamic Asia created by China.

China is playing its own game by winning friends in Islamic countries and influencing Africa and Latin America. Beijing is seeking to erode Washington's influence in the Western Hemisphere. China's imports from Latin America increased six-fold between 1999 and 2004 and its exports more than tripled. In addition to that, China sent 125 peacekeepers to Haiti, the first

military operation in the Western Hemisphere with Chinese troops. China needs natural resources for its growth, particularly oil. Thus China has made special pact with Venezuela and Iran, two countries on U.S.' boycott list.

Amid festering concerns about China's burgeoning global power, Beijing has firmly set its sights on expanding its influence in Africa. According to Peter Brookes, "The jury is still out about whether China's strong engagement in Africa is a good or a bad thing. Some have praised Chinese involvement in Africa, while others have called it neo-colonialism." Think about it, with over 50 nations, the countries of Africa represent more than one-quarter of the United Nations General Assembly — a significant voting bloc which can go in China's favor.

The above scenario presents a dilemma for the United States. Its financial future is linked with the global economy. Therefore, it cannot afford to have enmity with emerging markets of which China and Russia are the key players. Sooner or later the world will have to contend with oil above \$100 a barrel. Politically and economically, the EU and the rest of the world will be drawn towards Russia and the Middle-east for that reason. If history is any guide, only economic stabilization and reassertion of U.S. authority are likely to halt the drift towards chaos. Neither is a likely prospect and this may lead to World War III.

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"Without the inspiration of Sputnik and the space race, I would have probably become an English teacher," said Hickam.

After seeing Sputnik cross the night sky when he was teenager, Hickam decided he wanted to be a rocket engineer and began launching model rockets with friends in his hometown of Coalwood, W.Va. The book he wrote on that experience, "Rocket Boys," was a New York Times best-seller and turned into the movie "October Sky." Eventually, he became an engineer with NASA in Huntsville.

Ralph Petroff said he might still be living in Canada if it hadn't been for Sputnik. Instead, he's a Huntsville entrepreneur and member of the local 50th Anniversary of America in Space Committee.

Petroff's father, Peter Petroff, tried to emigrate from Bulgaria to the United States after World War II, but he got only as far as Canada. Petroff said his father was told by U.S. immigration authorities that, with the waiting list at the time, it would be 2007 before he and his family could get into the country.

That changed after Sputnik. His father was an engineer, and the United States was scrambling to find technically trained people. His father got his green card about 18 months after Sputnik launched, Petroff said.

Peter Petroff worked for NASA at Cape Canaveral and later Huntsville during the 1960s. He left NASA but stayed in Huntsville, where he invented the first digital watch and first wireless heart monitor. Peter Petroff died in 2003.

Huntsville and beyond

Sputnik transformed Huntsville. It was a thriving town of about 46,000, driven mostly by Army missile work. But by 1970, the city had 136,000 people. Today it has more than 168,000 people and is home to the world's second-largest research park.

World history, not just Alabama's future, would have been different if the United States had been first to launch a satellite with its Vanguard program, said several who lived through the space race.

"I think there would have been no NASA and no landing on the moon," said Konrad Dannenberg, 94, a member of the German rocket team.

The Soviets' beating Americans in space embarrassed national leaders, who wanted to reclaim supremacy. The space race was on, and it didn't slow until Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon.

Otherwise, Petroff said, the United States might not have been pushed into a race to the moon until 2019, when China says it plans to send men to the moon.

The space program led to major technological advancements. Better computers and satellite radio are two examples.

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Interestingly, matters are overlooked when it comes to woman's dignity such as, "Be in subjection to one another in fear of Christ" (Ephesians 5:21). Obviously, the position that the Bible places on woman is one of dignity and respect.

Although there are physical and physiological differences between man and woman, spiritually speaking, there is no distinction between male and female. The law of Christ tears down all distinctions that human traditions have built up like barbed fences by stating that for true followers of Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor freeman, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one [person] in union with Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26-28).

It can be concluded that God sees man and woman as equals. The Bible teaches "The truth will set you free (John 8:32)". It is not human traditions but God's word that is truth. Therefore, it is God's word that frees women from the traditions that bind them to servitude onto abusive men. Once women accept and believe these absolute truths and display them consistently in their lives, they will stop being attracted to abusive men.

On Gay Marriage

By Robert Bickmeyer

I learned early not to be anti-gay when, back in the 1930s and '40s, two of my father's best friends were a gay couple – two fine, respectable men. Today they would be warmly welcomed in my home and church, but I would never dance at their wedding. In Massachusetts, the only state where gay marriage is legal, the state supreme court legalized it with a close 4-3 vote. In fact, my state, Michigan, was one of 18 states where gay marriage was banned until the 2006 election when six more states voted to ban gay marriage. In spite of the liberal media's guardianship of the homosexual community, more and more states will adopt similar amendments to their constitution. Bet on it!

A recent news report disclosed that many thousands of sexual molestations by Catholic priests during prior years were reported in 2005. The guilty clerics were labeled pedophiles by the media, but pedophilia is a sexual desire directed toward children (below the age of puberty). The priests are homosexuals. Homosexuals who prey on pubescent teenage boys are as wicked as heterosexual men who prey on pubescent teenage girls – but neither of these predators are pedophiles.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007 (H.R. 1592) will include homosexual behaviors in federally-protected "minority" groups. How silly. The shameful murder of homosexual Matthew Shepard in Wyoming by two straight men some years ago was a high-profile case, quoted over and over again in support of a hate crime bill. But no one heard of 13-year-old Jesse Dirkhising in Arkansas who was tied up with duct tape by a pair of homosexual men, drugged, blindfolded, gagged with his own underwear, tortured and repeatedly raped by one of the men while the other man watched. Police found the boy's body covered in feces and duct tape. You are unaware of Jesse's brutal murder because the media chose not to report it.

The killers of both youth, Shepard and Dirkhising, deserved the ultimate penalty existing in their respective states without the need for any special laws.

Christians tolerate gays without endorsing their lifestyle or giving them special rights because we love the sinner, but despise the sin. The Bible clearly states its opposition to homosexuality. Leviticus 18:22 reads: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind; it is an abomination." This is not vague.

No human society, not one during about 5,000 years of recorded history, has ever tolerated marriage between members of the same sex.

If we tolerate such marriage, then what next? Polygamy? Incest? Bestiality? A man in Tennessee was dumped by his girlfriend. He became so bitter toward women that he decided to marry his sports car that he loved. The state of Tennessee refused his application for a marriage license, explaining that they allow marriage only between man and woman. Kudos to Tennessee for drawing this line. Once exceptions are made there could be no end to weird unions – men marrying their cars, men marrying their grandmas, whatever.

Michigan law prohibits marriage of the mentally retarded even though they were born mentally retarded. It is probably a safe assumption that all 50 states have similar laws. If homosexuality was genetic it would disappear from the gene pool as they do not reproduce. If genetic, identical twins would both be gay, but this does not happen.

Those who compare the civil rights of gays with the civil rights of African Americans should know that Gen. Colin Powell said, "Skin color is a benign, non-behavioral characteristic. Sexual orientation is perhaps the most profound of human behavioral characteristics. Comparison of the two is a convenient but invalid argument."

If, for example, two brothers or even two close friends live together, they are not considered family. However, if two men living together commit sodomy with one another, they believe such a "union" should be sanctioned as a family with the benefits of marriage, adoption, joint tax returns, health coverage, social security, ad infinitum! Two men who live together as friends would not receive these entitlements simply because they do not commit sodomy.

A bird house hangs outside our kitchen window. Every summer at least two "families" of baby sparrows are hatched and fed until they take flight and leave the nest. This care and feeding is always provided by two parents, one female and one male. Never are the parents the same gender, whereas some humans believe same-sex parents are an emotionally healthy environment for children. I have to wonder, "Who are the bird brains?"