



Is Sino-Russian War Game a Game?

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<http://www.ck-wong.ca/China/Is%20Sino-Russian%20War%20Game%20a%20Game.pdf>

Introduction

Starting from August 5, 2005, China and Russian started the war game code name “Peace Mission”. This is the first ever war game China and Russian jointly conducted. Definitely there is a historical significance. The two old friends and rivals from the beginning of Twentieth Century have a forged a new relationship. What can we tell from this event?

Archival

China’s Communist Party is a local chapter of the internal Communist Party. The Sino-Russian relationship has a long history of love and hate. The major issues are, not surprise, resources, resources and resources. Confrontations were shown in the access to non-frozen port and natural resources.

The Sino-Russian land borderline was the center of many confrontations. So does the coastline. The coast line was important to Russian to save the long winding trip to delivery merchandize to Asian through Suez Canal or Cape Hope. Now it is the oil. The land borderline again is among the dispute of the natural resources of mineral, forestry, oil and the less known fresh water.

During the beginning of ’50, Communist China traded technologies with Soviet by everything from natural resources to chicken. The relationship deteriorated rapidly at the beginning of ’60 which led the first total pull out of the Soviet advisors. China survived from that.

The confrontation was not just around the Sino-Russian border. It happened in Vietnam, India and many countries in China during China’s pre-UN time.

Nonetheless the cold war united all the Communist countries. The infrastructure of China is highly Russian compatible; from military equipment to political architecture. The ally will not be a meaningless and non-influential. Someone at Pentagon may have many sleepless nights.

Game or War

Both Russian and China still maintain a very respectable armed forces. In the foreseeable future, there is no threat to invasion. The necessity to grow cannot be justified in any way. The theory of trying to use the military to provoke American is not a sound one. Its

just too uneconomical. It is better for China to do some magic on the U\$700B to get what she wants. On the other hand would American attack China? History has proven that capture part of China or Russia is easy, holding is difficult. Small country like Iraq is costing American U\$1B per day. The need to maintain the armed forces for defense is not high.

While there is no invasion threat but there is sovereignty threat if China does not exercise it. Forget Mongolia which has been source of Sino-Soviet dispute on the natural resource for the last 20 year, now is the oil patch at the continental shelf. China has a very long coastal line which consistently facing challenges from the ever growing aggressive Japan. This concern will continue to be intensified by the expansion of Japan's Defense Force. The Japanese Naval has been checking out the Chinese coastal boarder while Japanese building landmarks to extend her claim especially in East Sea and South China Sea. In the near future, it would be less surprise that American will do the same when the oil patch at East Sea and South China Sea becomes commercially viable. Let's hope the excuse is not finding the MDW; it is there and there is no reason to believe why it will no be used in defense.

The defense of the costal line could not be easily done economically. It has to be done following the rule of the game: exercising the sovereignty right by showing China can defense it. And more important, sending an economic message written in natural resources. Japan's oil hunting has been overlooked. Japan produces no oil. Currently she is negotiating sourcing oil from Russian by building a pipe line. China is doing the same. Now the game theory[†] kicks in. For Japan to get something, she has to give up something. The war game illustrates the influence of China on Russia at a very naked way.

This act is dangerous and may cost China dearly if it is interpreted wrong by the world. China has to manage the perception conceived by the world. Rather than causing a global alarm, the whole war-game has been carefully orchestrated its communication and labeled as a "Peace Mission".

It is reasonably to believe that economic invasion is far more safer and cheaper than military invasion.

[†] The game theory is a rarely known branch of mathematics which applies the math by combining statistics, probability, combinatoric and operation research. It has been wonderfully explained in simplified language in the movie Beautiful Mind. In the scene of the dating strategy in the bar, Russell Crowe demonstrated how to achieve subtle influence to achieve desirable results.