

IRAN, A WORLD-WAR IN ONE COUNTRY.

For the first time China is stepping forward to militarily confront the USA. Evidence suggests China is shipping to and setting up serious defensive assets in Iran alongside Russia. On the other side the US is pouring weapons especially F35s into the region to assure dominance. The Iranians have warned about a regional war should they be attacked, but this is shaping into a big power war.

The war in Ukraine is a proxy war against Russia. The impending war in Iran will be a proxy war against China. If the US attacks Iran it will be the opening salvo of the hegemonic war against China. If the US does not or cannot attack, it will represent the passing of the old-world order, with the sun finally setting on the US Empire established eighty years ago during the Second World War. Khomeini spoke about a regional war, he was wrong, this will be a global war involving all three superpowers except for the EU which will sit it out.

Whether it was President Xi's purging some of the top brass in the PLA or whether Beijing now understands the strategic implications of losing Iran as an ally, the reason for this qualitative change in China's support for Iran is not known. What is known is that China is pumping in very advanced defensive equipment into Iran particularly its YLC-8B strategic radar systems capable of detecting stealth aircraft at ranges up to 350 KM. [This article](#) provides an excellent overview of the capabilities of this system. In addition China has delivered [advanced anti-aircraft/missile batteries](#) to Iran together with the phased array JY-26 radar to detect targets and launch these missiles. Iran has also now completely switched over to the Chinese Baidu GPS system reducing the ability of the US and Israel to spoof incoming Iranian missiles thereby increasing their terminal accuracy. And finally, China has placed naval assets around Iran, particularly one of its formidable spy ships with advanced air, surface and underwater detection capabilities which no doubt will be tied into Iranian systems.

This advanced weaponry designed to detect and engage targets at distance, nullifying the advantages the US and Israel have always relied on, undermining their offensive doctrine, compliments a sophisticated defensive screen which Iran has built up over many years. The shaping of the battle theatre in Iran's favour provided by this screen is ably [described in this article](#). Most importantly, this screen is designed for a prolonged war, exactly the kind of war which is an anathema for the USA. To retain the integrity and viability of this screen, command and control systems have been decentralised, split into autonomous sectors, so that if one is taken out, others remain functional and can fill the gaps. Moreover, as an adjunct to the screen, there are the supporting military organisations in Iraq, Yemen, Palestine and Lebanon, as well as the presence of many Shiite majorities in Gulf Kingdoms ruled by Sunni elites, all of which can hurt the US, stretch its resources and lengthen and broaden the war.

The scale of US weaponry being flown and sailed towards Iran seems to answer the question which surfaced earlier, whether Israel is choosing to hang back, at least until it can be established whether the USAF has so degraded Iranian missile bases and arsenals that Israel can survive a missile armada over the skies of Tel Aviv. Whether the Israeli's will have the luxury of sidelining themselves to begin with also depends on Iran, which may decide at the outset, when attacked, to attack Israel as well as the US military. There is a third scenario, if things go badly for the US, then Israel will be ordered to join in the war at which point the war will spread to Israel. It was always going to be the case that Israel would end up paying a high price for being the US's attack dog in the Middle East, up to and including

its own destruction, not because Iran was an existential threat to Israel, but because of the US's imperial ambitions. It makes for eye watering irony.

In every way China is now stepping in using its mighty industrial base to provide weapons the Russians cannot provide because they remain stretched by the war in the Ukraine. If it is the case that there is a substantial build-up of Chinese weaponry in Iran transforming its systems, then it follows that the US needs to strike sooner rather than later. Systems take a while to bed down and integrate, it takes time for Chinese technicians to familiarise themselves with the terrain, to instruct the Iranian army about the capabilities of their system, to adapt previous procedures and processes and to set up lines of secure communication. The longer the US delays, the stronger Iran's defences become.

US ambitions.

One thing is certain; the US is pouring more weaponry into the Gulf than at any time since the last invasion of Iraq in 2003. Not so much ground troops, in fact they are being withdrawn to prevent them becoming missile fodder, as much as it is aircrews. When the second carrier group arrives in the Eastern Mediterranean it appears the US will be able to launch around 300 aircraft supported by at least 20 tanker aircraft. That number is close to the total compliment of Israeli combat jets numbering 348. And this figure of 300 does not include long range heavy bombers such as the B2 and B1s. Clearly, the United States will be focusing on airborne munitions and ship launched missiles to attack Iran rather than a ground invasion, even a limited one.

What is not certain is what goals the US is seeking to achieve. The hidden script is regime change, but how? The likelihood of a surgical strike is minimal now that Russia and China are active in the country to suppress US and British and Zionist intel. Will the bombing be confined to military assets, will it include infrastructure such as water and electricity, will it include bombing of cities Zionist style, no one knows. Analysts such as Colonel McGregor have questioned the methods and goals pointing out that this is a typical failure on the part of US imperialism, unless it isn't, or to put it another way, perhaps the intentions in all US wars was simply to create failed states so it could more easily exploit and manipulate them.

I have argued for years that the answer has always been clear in military terms. The resource rich gulf with its maritime lanes, connects the Mediterranean via the Indian Ocean to the South China sea. Iran and Yemen have the capacity to block sea borne traffic. This would present a logistical nightmare for the US military despite its large blue seas fleet. It would separate the European Theatre which contains substantial US bases and ports from the Pacific Theatre, forcing military supplies to go around the Cape of Good Hope, [adding up to 10 extra sailing days](#), the difference between supplies arriving in time or too late.

Thus, from the vantage of any war in the Pacific fought by the USA, the Gulf represents an unsecured flank. This is a major disadvantage which advantages China with its land-based routes, some historical, many newly established via its Belt and Braces projects. It follows that prior to any war in the Pacific that flank needs to be secured and for this to happen the military threats posed by Iran and Yemen need to be eliminated. The USA depends on every edge, because the USA [will struggle to subdue China](#) in any Western Pacific conflict even with Japan's help, and with each passing year, the balance increasingly favours China due to the industrial imbalances between the two superpowers. That is why I have called any all-out attack on Iran by the USA and its pestilences, as representing the opening salvo

of the war on China. And for the first time, China by its actions, seems to recognise this threat. This change in stance needs to be recognised.

Conclusion.

Countries only go to war when it is too costly for them not to go to war. The US endgame is based on two perspectives. Firstly, to keep on securing its hegemony, and if this is not possible, to prevent another hegemon from rising. The US declared [economic war on China in 2018](#) when the Chinese challenge first emerged as China transitioned from being the workshop for Western Imperialism to developing an independent economy. Seven years later that economic war has failed. China has conquered one technology after another and progressively eliminated technical bottlenecks. Any technological lags, for example in chip fabrication and jet engine production, are being quickly eliminated. The USA survives not because of the dollar but because of its remaining technological hold on the global value chain which provides it with the monopoly profits keeping its economy upright. Strip that away and the USA becomes a super-sized failed state. If China triumphs economically the US loses socially which is why war is inevitable.

Unless you fully appreciate what is at stake, the tumultuous events shaking the world remain inexplicable. The US is fighting for its hegemonic life, and it is losing. That makes our world a very dangerous place. Empires do not go quietly into the night; they set the night on fire. In the next two weeks it will become clear whether a boxed-in and increasingly unpopular-at-home Trump retreats or sets the Gulf alight. What is different about today compared to 2003, is the absence of the massive anti-war protests, some over two-million strong, that were staged in London and Rome at the time. This needs to change. We are closer to midnight than at any point in our history.

