

Encircling America

by Earl P. Holt III

In his uniquely insightful book *The Hundred Year Marathon*, Michael Pillsbury introduces Westerners to the Chinese principle of *shi*, a complex strategy to defeat a stronger opponent by slowly but steadily undermining it. The trick is to do so incrementally, so the opponent remains unaware that it's even happening, much as a python stealthily encircles its prey before striking. It's even more effective when the enemy assists in its own demise.

The concept of *shi* evolved almost 2,000 years ago during China's "Warring States" period, and a chapter was devoted to it in Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*. It has guided communist China's military and intelligence policy since Mao Zedong, despite decades of fatuous advice to the contrary from America's so-called "China Experts." As Pillsbury pointedly remarks, **NOT ONE OF THOSE EXPERTS SPOKE MANDARIN CHINESE**, unlike Pillsbury.

China's reliance on *shi* as a strategy is glaringly evident in a variety of contexts, but especially in its so-called "Belt and Road" initiative: Here, China has pursued infrastructure projects having strategic value all around the globe, while busily concentrating a great deal of investment in Latin America, particularly Panama's *Canal Zone*. These are funded by China's half-trillion dollar per year trade surplus with the U.S., and an equivalent amount from its annual theft of U.S. technology.

Projecting three miles into the Pacific Ocean, the *Amador Causeway Islands* help define the skyline of Panama City and guard the entrance to the Panama Canal. 40 enormous cargo ships sail past the Amador Causeway Islands each day on their way through or from the Canal, which represents two-thirds of all shipping to or from the U.S.

These islands once housed a dozen U.S. military installations, which are now derelict buildings in various states of disrepair. Their decline began in 1979, when Jimmy Carter and a "*Democrat*" Senate surrendered the Canal to Panama, with assistance from "*Republican*" traitors in our "*Political Class*" such as Jack Danforth (RINO-MO.)

When communist China announced plans to build its Panamanian Embassy on the Amador Causeway Islands, the Trump Administration objected, thereby reminding the world of the current and continued strategic significance of the Canal. China's plans to build on the Amador Islands were halted when the Trump Administration pressured Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela to rescind his permission for China to build there.

The Amador Islands and the Panama Canal Zone became a potential strategic flashpoint, just as opponents of the *Panama Canal Treaty* predicted in the late 1970s. Prior to the Biden Administration, the islands had become a focus of rivalries resulting from China's rapidly growing influence in Latin America. Since China owns the Biden Family and many prominent "*Democrats*" as surely as it owns the *Wuhan Level IV Virology Lab*, China's menacing presence in Latin America will be reflexively excused or studiously ignored by the Biden administration.

In June of 2017, Panama ended diplomatic relations with Taiwan and substituted diplomatic ties with communist China. In 2018, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic followed Panama's lead, greatly concerning officials in the Trump Administration. Moreover, China has begun offering generous economic incentives to Latin nations in order to dominate them through its previously-mentioned "*Belt and Road*" initiative.

While communist China's influence has accelerated in the Canal Zone, America's has waned. Fortunately, the Panamanian People are brighter than their leadership -- much like here -- and the idea of permitting China

to build on the Amador Islands was unpopular with a majority of Panama's citizens. They probably recognized that as China's influence in Panama grows, its citizens will increasingly find their autonomy disappearing.

Since Xi Jinping visited Panama in December of 2018, the two nations have signed 28 "*cooperation agreements*." The subjects of these included trade, banking, infrastructure and tourism. Moreover, Chinese contractors have been awarded large contracts for building a new bridge to span the Canal, in addition to work on a port, and another contract to erect a convention center.

Needless to say, the growth of Chinese investment and influence in Panama was the source of growing unease in Washington during the Trump Administration, but the communists and organized crime figures who staff the Biden Administration seem indifferent to China's encirclement of America. Like Latin American officials, the Biden administration is as vulnerable to Chinese bribery as African World Health Organization officials.

A so-called "*competitive Intelligence specialist*" for Panama's Canal Authority has declared that Washington refuses to accept the reality that the Canal Zone "***has shifted from a military asset to a commercial one.***" Likewise, the Panamanian Trade Minister declares "***We will become the gateway for Chinese goods into Latin America...I think Panama will be an example of how smaller countries can negotiate with China.***"

Encouraged by such staggering naivete, China has aggressively advanced its "*Belt and Road*" initiative in Panama and other Latin nations.

This self-delusion among Latin American officials is reminiscent of the way the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979 under the auspices of the

Soviet -- Afghan Friendship Treaty of 1978. We all know how that worked out for the Afghans...

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