

Editorial

Reshuffling the China Card

Certain Anglo-American banking and intelligence circles are proposing a new kind of China Card. They recognize that the old version—the use of a militarily strong China against the Soviet Union—has been made obsolete by Peking's military budget slashes and its decimation of industry.

Like the ruling Deng Xiaoping factions, the supporters abroad of the new China Card are prepared to write off China as an industrial or military power. Indeed, they are prepared to write off most of mainland China, except for certain coastal enclaves.

Instead, they hope to use the new Special Economic Zones emerging on China's coast as the center of a Pacific economic and political bloc encompassing the two Koreas, Taiwan, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Hong Kong. This bloc will huddle happily around the oil extraction in the South China Sea, the resources of the surrounding countries, and the sweatshop economies of Hong Kong, Singapore, and the Hong Kong-like Special Economic Zones in China. Supposedly this U.S.-led, China-centered bloc would suppress any nationalist tendencies among the nations of Southeast Asia while keeping the Soviets out of the region.

As *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche told a Washington, D.C. audience in February, this insane scheme will no more come to pass than the original China Card, but the stubborn pursuit of this policy by our nation's leaders could spell disaster.

The reason, as *EIR* will document fully in an upcoming Special Report, is that China is going through a classic "dynastic collapse" that will make the 1958-61 Great Leap Forward, in which some 20 million people died, seem mild by comparison. The notion that the coastal regions of China can remain immune from this collapse, or that the surrounding nations will join a China-centered bloc under such conditions, is ludicrous.

China faces this collapse because its current rulers are repeating the same policies which caused such catastrophes in centuries past. The term "communist" is completely without meaning in China—as

would be the term "capitalist." The current regime holds the same ideology as its oligarchical forebears.

Foremost in this ideology is a hostility to urban-centered technological progress. The Deng faction—whose days in power are numbered—has in the last year drastically cut production of every item needed for industrialization: oil down 5 percent, steel down 5 percent, machine tools down 25 percent, power generating equipment down 65 percent! In a drive to prevent industrialized agriculture, they have cut tractor production by half and irrigation by an as yet undetermined amount in time of flood and drought—exactly the pattern of previous regimes.

This means China cannot support its population. For centuries China's population had never risen above 60 million. Instead its population rose and fell in dynastic cycles, each of which ended with the death of millions. This is beginning to happen again. As part of a campaign to reduce its population by 300 million by 2080, China is enforcing abortions and even murder of newborns under a one-child-per-couple law. The regime is about to cut the subsidies that keep 250 million from outright starvation.

The other nations of the area understand this process, even if U.S. leaders do not. This is why they are aghast at U.S. cooperation with Peking in trying to put Pol Pot back in power in Cambodia, at our plans to arm China, and at our attempt to subordinate their economies to a China-centered bloc.

These Southeast Asian nations remember very well that in the mid-19th century, the last time China faced a collapse as vast as it faces in the coming years, millions of Chinese refugees from the southern provinces ravaged countries to the South as far as Singapore. They fear this could be repeated.

There are even some people in the West who apparently see such an eventuality as the "final solution" to the Vietnam problem and the nationalism of Malaysia and Indonesia—the eventual third stage of the China Card. Everyone who indulges in such scenarios should know that those are the conditions that breed global war.