

## Editorial

### *China card a dangerous delusion*

When you see an article about “geopolitics,” you know there is a problem right away. Zbigniew Brzezinski, as a past master on this theme, has coined a variation, “geostrategy.” Geopoliticians, from Hitler’s mentor, the infamous Karl Haushofer, to Brzezinski today, are notorious for theorizing about how to cut up the globe.

In the spring issue of *Foreign Affairs* magazine, he has written an article entitled, “America’s New Geostrategy.” His thesis is that the United States should in the next period, shift its alliances from its West European partners, effectively ceding the area to the Soviets—although in print he would deny this consequence—and turn to the East instead.

For geopoliticians like Brzezinski, the nation-state is a convenient fiction, or at best a pawn in the global strategy games of oligarchs. At any time, the map may be redrawn. The new superpower condominium between the United States and the Soviets, which is planning to redive the world through a series of regional partitions, is a geopolitician’s wet dream. The only problem is that geopolitics does not really work.

Zbigniew may really believe that Western Europe is so locked into the U.S. orbit that it can politically survive abandonment by the United States, and he may equally believe that the Soviet Union is incapable of dominating a weakened Western Europe, but what he believes is, in the final analysis, a matter of indifference. Whether he is a deliberate traitor or merely stupid, if his wrongheadedness continues to guide U.S. policy, we are headed for a new dark age in which the Russian empire is hegemonic.

Brzezinski’s most devastating fallacy is his conviction that the United States can play a China card. According to his delusion, the Chinese are moving away from Communism and can be brought into the U.S. orbit, because of their fears of the Soviets. As is typical of a racist, he completely underestimates the Chinese and misunderstands their culture.

Indeed, top intelligence sources concur, that the major problem with Zbigniew is not that he is an evil

man, although he surely is, but that he is so stupid. However, they do not find him to be too much worse in this regard, than the typical U.S. China hand. Every self-styled U.S. expert on China, whatever his political persuasion, is so beguiled by questions of ideology that he or she completely misses the point.

The situation in China is really quite simple. Chinese policy is shaped according to three priorities: power, family, and money. And practically speaking, money is the most important. At present, the Chinese are trying to move between the cracks of U.S.-Soviet deals. They do not intend to be “played” by anyone. They intend to maximize their own advantage.

Brzezinski, in his article, poses an alliance between the Japanese and the United States to turn Asia into a free-trade zone. In actual fact, the Japanese are responding to the combined pressures of U.S. trade war and blackmail against them, and increasing U.S. political and economic weaknesses, by looking for other flanks.

In these circumstances, the Japanese and Chinese have been considering an accommodation. Both agree that for the next 10 years there will be no points of serious conflict between them, but that both will be facing areas of conflict with the Soviets.

One area under dispute between the Chinese and Soviets is Vietnam and Cambodia. Is this a question of ideology? Not at all. Zbigniew Brzezinski would like to ease the Japanese out of Southeast Asia by instituting free-trade zones—that’s his proposal in the cited article—but the Chinese have their own ideas. China also wants to make money out of Southeast Asia.

China is still essentially a Confucian society, run on the principles of bureaucracy—much like the British permanent civil service, which was based upon the Chinese model. They are old hands at the kinds of games that Brzezinski would like to play, and they are not about to be anybody’s pawns, if they can help it.

It will be the tragedy of Western civilization if fools such as Brzezinski are at the centers of power.