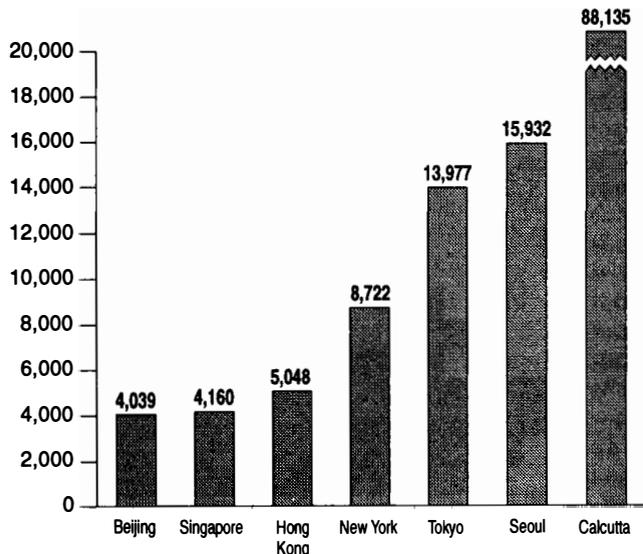


FIGURE 17

Population density of selected major cities
(population per km²)



Source: UNDP Human Development Report.

China's imperial policy designs

by Michael O. Billington

It is now widely believed in Asia that with the demise of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China is moving to fill the vacuum left by Moscow in Central Asia and in Southeast Asia. China's policy toward the region under Mao Zedong was overt sponsorship of subversive armed revolts on the model of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. With the coming of Deng Xiaoping's "reform," Beijing has moved toward increasing its economic activity in the region, attracting investments by its own cheap labor and dumping the goods produced with virtually no labor costs on the regional markets.

Beijing's long-term view has shifted to attaining hegemony over Asia within the next century. In 1987, the *People's Daily* bluntly declared that China's defense strategy for the period through 2020 "should be based on fighting major wars and fighting nuclear wars." With the fall of the Soviet empire, China considers itself even more vulnerable, and more in need of a "Greater China" on the lines of the ancient "Middle Kingdom," to which all nations in Asia paid tribute.

The most blatant threat was the February promulgation of a law declaring that virtually the entire South China Sea and most of the East China Sea were Chinese territorial waters, announcing that any military ships passing through these waters would be required to obtain the permission of the People's Republic of China. Similar rules apply to aircraft. The law states that China has "the right to adopt all necessary measures to prevent the harmful passage of vessels through its territorial waters." This move has not been taken lightly by Japan and others who are threatened by it, although China has insisted that the law was merely a codification of existing laws, and that there will be no change in practice.

The basis of the claim is China's claim to the Senkaku Islands north of Taiwan, which are also claimed by Japan, and the Paracels and the Spratlys in the South China Sea, which are also contested by Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines. China has simply claimed that all the area surrounding these strategic islands is Chinese territory.

These belligerent claims took on more meaning when it was learned that China had obtained the technology for in-flight refueling for its fighter-bomber fleet, giving it air superiority over any of the Southeast Asian nations that might test Beijing's claims to the islands—as Vietnam has in the past, resulting in skirmishes with the Chinese Navy. A *Wall Street Journal* report on March 23 quoted U.S. officials saying the technology came from Israel, following efforts by both the

males in the Chinese population), the younger generation is becoming proportionally smaller, leaving a shrinking proportion of the population making up the work force, which has to provide for the population as a whole.

Also, since the policy of the People's Republic is to hold the productivity of this proportionally shrinking labor force at an extremely low level, this must necessarily lead to a collapse.

While there is a problem of a high *relative* population density in much of China, this is due to the lack of development, not to the existence of too many people. Vast underpopulated areas of the west are available for irrigation, development, and settlement. The cities themselves are in fact *not* densely populated, except that the lack of basic water, electricity, housing, etc., leave them too densely populated *relative to the available infrastructure*. **Figure 17** shows the population density of China's most densely populated city, Beijing, compared with that of other major cities around the world.

Under a competent economic policy, such as those proposed by Sun Yat-sen or by Lyndon LaRouche, the most valuable resource of the nation is the expanding creative power of the population. This requires, first, removing the ideological straitjacket now imposed through judicial barbarism and tanks by the communist regime, so that the potential of the creative individual mind is free to contribute to the nation's development. In that context, it will be quickly apparent that there is no "overpopulation," but that an expanding population is essential for the work that lies ahead.

United States and Great Britain to prevent such a transfer from U.S. and British firms. The recent revelations about Israeli transfer of U.S. Patriot missile technology to China, despite the widely publicized disclaimers by Israel and the Bush administration, are in fact part of a longstanding "open secret" of Chinese and Israeli military cooperation which included joint operations in the Iran-Contra deals.

On April 29, Reuters revealed a Chinese secret service document which claimed sovereignty over Mongolia. "The Mongolian region has from ancient times been Chinese territory," the document said, adding that this included even the Mongol-inhabited areas of Russia. The Chinese campaign against the exiled Dalai Lama from Chinese-occupied Tibet could play a part in creating a confrontation of convenience with Mongolia, since much of Mongolia is Lamaist.

Militarily, the Chinese leadership has never halted its total support for the genocidal Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Although Beijing is party to the peace treaty there, the Khmer Rouge is still fighting, with a continued supply of Chinese

weapons, while a 400-strong contingent of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), armed with AK-47s, has taken up positions in Cambodia as part of the U.N. Peacekeeping Force. In addition, 350 civil engineers have been sent to Cambodia for purposes of road-building.

In Burma, the military regime is a virtual client state of Beijing, which provides its only significant military and political support. These operations are watched with care in India, which retains a cautious view toward China, despite improved relations. China remains a close ally of Pakistan, including military sales and support for Pakistan's nuclear industry. That alliance is not expected to decrease in intensity in the near future. Bangladesh also has strong military and economic ties to Beijing. China retains friendly relations with the royal house of Nepal, and is a major sponsor of the Nepal Communist Party, which has been challenging the current Congress Party government there. The road linking Kathmandu, Nepal, to Lhasa, Tibet, was completed last year by Chinese engineers and laborers.

Contested islands in the East and South China Seas

