

Article Title: Are we off to a war?

By: Andreas Papagiorgis

There is a great deal of discussion in the public sphere about the potential for an American-Chinese alliance, with many analysts suggesting that the two superpowers could emerge as the dominant players in the event of another global conflict. As a Political Science graduate and a holder of an MA degree in European Studies, I was able to explore the potential of such a possibility through an academic lens. During my research, I identified six main reasons for this “rivalry” in the making, which are as follows:

1. **Economic competition:** China's rapid economic rise and its emergence as a major global economic power have shifted the balance of power and created economic competition between China and the United States. This competition has led to tensions and mistrust between the two countries.
2. **Geopolitical fears:** China's view of the United States as a global hegemon with the ability to deploy its power almost at will has created geopolitical fears in China. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the U.S. military success in the Gulf War highlighted China's vulnerability in a unipolar world dominated by the United States.
3. **Deep mistrust:** There is a deep mistrust between China and the United States, fueled by their differing political systems, ideologies, and historical grievances. China resents the United States' perceived meddlesome global hegemony, while the United States deplores China's repressive government and its use of force against its own population.
4. **Lack of strategic communication:** There is a lack of strategic communication between China and the United States, which leads to



misunderstandings and misinterpretations of each other's intentions.

This lack of communication exacerbates the tensions and makes it difficult to find common ground or resolve conflicts peacefully.

5. **Military capabilities and ambitions:** China's unrivalled economic success and its military expansion have raised concerns in the United States and other countries. China's military budget has doubled, and it has invested in new technology and improved its naval and missile forces. This has led to fears of China's aggressive intentions and its potential to reshape the international order.
6. **Nationalism and hubris:** Both China and the United States exhibit signs of nationalism and hubris, which contribute to the antagonism between the two countries. China's leaders take pride in their country's rise and assertiveness, while the United States sees China as a major threat to its interests and engages in policies aimed at containing China's rise.

However, in my estimation, the probability of a global conflict occurring in the near future is low. Both countries are currently experiencing rapid economic growth, and it is clear that their economies are closely interrelated. The USA is the largest importer of Chinese goods, while China relies on Western markets to maintain its position as a global economic powerhouse. Therefore, it can be concluded that economic conditions have a significant impact on social, political, and intellectual aspects of life, as Karl Marx outlined in the Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy in 1895.



This image was created using AI (Co-pilot)