

# Time To Stop Demonising China

By **Alexander Baron** - Jun 18, 2015

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*China Prepares For War?...and China, U.S. sign agreement to boost army cooperation* were two recent contrasting headlines. Cristina Silva's article in the *International Business Times* of June 12 and that of *China Daily* Editor Wang Fan of June 15 paint entirely different pictures of the country that is now the world's second largest economy.

Is China a belligerent military power, or is it the Far Eastern tiger that will dominate if not the world then certainly its own hemisphere becoming a stabilising influence in the region and bringing prosperity to both its own people and its neighbours? There is one group of people who would almost certainly opt for the latter; they are called Africans. According to *The Economist* of March 23, 2013, there were around a million Chinese living in Africa; they come to trade, they come to invest, and they come as tourists. If China's relations

with some of its more immediate neighbours are not quite so cordial, this is not a one-way street, but let's not mention Tibet.

More to the point, does America have anything to fear from China? One person who appears to believe so is Chris Christie. Currently Governor of New Jersey, Christie is a possible Presidential candidate; he has also **stated publicly** that the US should adopt a “military approach” to dealing with China. Is he serious? Perhaps not entirely, according to one pundit, China bashing is almost mandatory for Presidential candidates nowadays.

There is though an alternative approach the US might take. Since the demise of the Soviet Union, America has been the world's *de facto* policeman, and the result has been an unmitigated disaster.

The Middle East hates the US (and Europe) as much as for its continuous intervention in Arab affairs as for its partisan support of Israel. America is also spying on the world. Does its empire really benefit America, or would it be better off abdicating and leaving the running of the world to a nation with four times its population? Whatever, the likes of Chris Christie must not be allowed to start yet another war, albeit a proxy war or merely a war of words. China has now well and truly arrived on the international stage; it would be better for all concerned if US politicians in particular were to accept that simple fact.

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