



Luo Yuan Describes an Asymmetric Approach to Weaken the United States

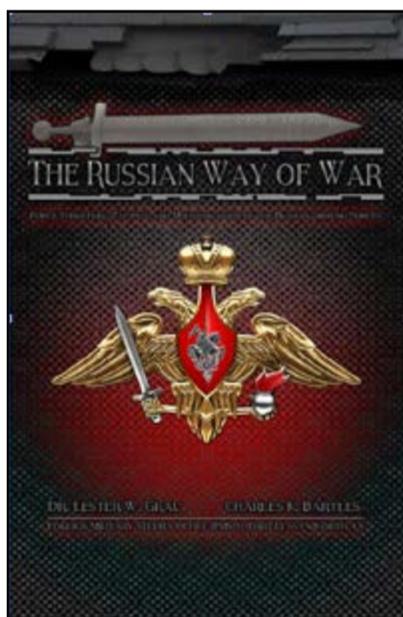
OE Watch Commentary: Retired Major General Luo Yuan, who is regarded as a key figure among China’s “military hawks” due to his hardline opinions against the United States and US allies, gave a speech underpinned by classic Chinese military thinking during the recent 2018 Military Industry Awards Ceremony and Innovation Summit. In his speech, Luo, who currently serves as the executive vice president and secretary general of the China Strategic Culture Promotion Association, offered, as he put it, insight from “the angle of national strategy, using methods of formal logic.” In his speech, Luo talks about some of the changes he has seen in the United States under the current administration. He talks about the “America First” policy, how the United States now views China as “the chief threat to its security” and “its primary competitor,” the use of “competition strategy” to replace an “engagement strategy,” and a “change in nuclear strategy” to name a few. Luo goes on to describe the United States as having “a kind of strategic anxiety,” which he states is because “China has already developed into the world’s number two power,” and therefore the United States believes “China is going to surpass them.”

Luo argues that China is not advocating for a trade war. However, “if the United States wants to fight,” China “will fight to the end.” He goes on to describe five asymmetrical measures to combat U.S. strengths. First, the United States relies on its military as “a pillar of the nation.” Therefore, he states that China should strengthen the building of its own national defense power in such a way that does not merely catch up and that China must “develop what our opponent fears.” It should attack US strength. An example is in the development of the DF-21 and DF-26 missiles, known as aircraft carrier killers. Luo explains that “if we sink one aircraft carrier, the United States loses 5,000 men. If we sink two... they lose 10,000.” Therefore, rather than trying to catch up to the United States by building an equal number of aircraft carriers, having the missiles is more effective because they are developed “from the angle of the United States’ weak spot.” Second, since the United States views the US dollar as one of its pillars, China must diversify the international finance system by internationalizing the RMB. Third, since the United States relies on talent as one of its pillars, China should continue to develop its own high-tech industry with independent intellectual property rights. Fourth, since votes are important in the choosing of US leaders, China should attack industries that can impact the outcome of future elections. For example, agricultural states and the manufacturing and commerce industries have been Trump supporters. If China strikes at soybeans first, of which 62 percent are exported to China, it will hit Iowa especially hard. Iowa is “a state that supported Trump in the 2016 election.” Finally, Luo argues that if the United States wants to see China as an enemy, China can temper itself into an “impenetrable enemy,” then create new friendships, “until your enemies are more and more while your friends grow fewer and fewer.”

Luo, who has hundreds of thousands of followers on Sina Weibo, a popular social media platform, frequently appears on national television and is likely influential within the military. His outspoken, hawkish nature on past events has raised concerns both domestically and internationally. His thinking is in line with ancient Chinese military strategies and philosophies, such as the 36 Stratagems, which describes cunning tactics that can be used in war and politics, and Sun Tzu’s Art of War. Chinese strategy teaches using a more asymmetrical approach to attack the enemy. As Luo explains, China “should use strengths to attack the enemy’s weaknesses... attack what the enemy fears! Where the enemy is soft, we develop!” **End OE Watch Commentary (Hurst)**

“If we first attend to our own matters and develop China, then we will find ourselves in an invincible position, and no one shall get the best of us.”

- Deng Xiaoping



THE RUSSIAN WAY OF WAR by LESTER W. GRAU and CHARLES K. BARTLES

At any given time, assessments of the Russian Armed Forces vary between the idea of an incompetent and corrupt conscript army manning decrepit Soviet equipment and relying solely on brute force, to the idea of an elite military filled with Special Operations Forces (SOF) who were the “polite people” or “little green men” seen on the streets in Crimea. This book will attempt to split the difference between these radically different ideas by shedding some light on what the Russian Ground Forces consist of, how they are structured, how they fight, and how they are modernizing.

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Continued: Luo Yuan Describes an Asymmetric Approach to Weaken the United States

Source: Luo Yuan, “在2018军工榜颁奖典礼与创新峰会上的演讲 (Speech at the 2018 Military Industry Awards Ceremony and Innovation Summit),” *Sina.com*, 23 December 2018. http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:vunMQieQ8eYJ:blog.sina.com.cn/s/blog_549c1d970102yl42.html+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us

The first major change is that the United States has now formally written “America First” into its “United States National Security Strategy.” ... The second major change is that the United States has now taken China both as the chief threat to its security, and as its primary competitor. ... The third major change is that the United States’ Trump administration is currently using “competition strategy” to replace the “engagement strategy” of the Obama era. ... The fourth major change is the replacement of the “Asia Pacific Rebalancing Strategy” with the “Indo-Pacific Strategy.” ... The fifth major change is that Trump has already replaced an “automatic spending cuts plan” with “Restoring American Military Power.” ... The sixth major change is one that we must be even more cautious toward—it is a change in nuclear strategy.

I have had multiple discussions with many experts who are researching the United States issue, with the conclusion that from top to bottom, the United States has a kind of strategic anxiety. ... It is because China has already developed into the world’s number two power, and this naturally causes anxiety for the number one.

This is what the Central Government has been saying. We do not advocate for a trade war, but we also do not fear fighting one. If the United States wants to fight, we will fight to the end. But, this fight also has two choices. The first choice is a “symmetrical counterattack.” If you fine us 50 billion US\$, we will fine you 50 billion US\$. ... What is the advantage of this? We have seized the moral commanding point. But, the United States cannot be hurt this way.

The second choice is an “asymmetrical counterattack.” I support making an “asymmetrical attack.” Just as our soldiers fight, we should use strengths to attack the enemy’s weaknesses. We attack what the enemy fears! Where the enemy is soft, we develop!

Today, I want to ask the chief engineers and experts sitting here, what is it that the United States fears? ... In understanding the strengths of the enemy, we must also know his weakness. You cannot always be comparing height and strength. In this way, the enemy will drag us down.... What are the United States’ strengths? I believe that the United States has five major pillars of the nation:

The first is that the United States relies on military as a pillar of the nation. Without strong military power, the United States could not have become a powerful country. Therefore, we must strengthen the building of our national defense power. ... I personally believe that we cannot just catch up and surpass in a straight line. We must swerve to pass. That is to say, we must develop what our opponent fears. Currently, the United States has 11 aircraft carriers. Do we need to develop 12 aircraft carriers before we can contend with the United States? I believe that this way of thinking is wrong. We cannot deal with an arms race. ... We currently have DF-21 and DF-26 missiles. These are aircraft carrier killers. If we sink one aircraft carrier, the United States loses five thousand men. If we sink two aircraft carriers, they lose ten thousand. Does the United States not fear this? Therefore, our military industrial chief engineers must consider development from the angle of the United States’ weak spot.

The second is that the United States relies on the US dollar as a pillar of the nation. ... We must internationalize the RMB.

The third is that the United States relies on talent as a pillar of the nation. ... I believe that this trade war is essentially a contest of technology and talent. That is why as soon as the trade war broke out, Chairman Xi quickly adopted three major measures: first, the convening of the National Technology Conference; second, a meeting between the Supreme People’s Court and the Supreme People’s Procuratorate; and third, an inspection of high tech industry.... Now, we need to tighten our belts again and join in anger against the enemy to develop our own high-tech industry with independent intellectual property rights.

The fourth is that the United States depends on votes as a pillar of the nation. If politicians in the United States have no votes, then they cannot stay in power. Where are Trump’s votes? They are in agricultural states and the manufacturing and commerce industries. Therefore, we first strike at soybeans; 62% of United States soybeans for export are exported to China. This accounts for 34.39% of Chinese soybean imports. A penalty on United States soybeans will hit Iowa especially hard, a state that supported Trump in the 2016 election. ...

The fifth is that the United States relies on making enemies as a pillar of the nation. ... Do you not want to see us as an enemy? Then we will temper ourselves into an impenetrable “enemy;” then, we will create new friendships, until your enemies are more and more while your friends grow fewer and fewer.

This year is the 40th anniversary of the Reform and Opening Up. We cherish greatly the memory of the advocate and chief designer of the Reform and Opening Up, Comrade Deng Xiaoping. Comrade Deng Xiaoping had a famous saying which I have borne in mind even until today. Today, let us all revisit these words of mutual encouragement, as I use them for the closing of my speech: “If we first attend to our own matters and develop China, then we will find ourselves in an invincible position, and no one shall get the best of us.”