

on china by henry kissinger pdf

on china by henry kissinger pdf has become a highly sought-after resource for students, historians, policymakers, and anyone interested in understanding the intricate history of China's modern transformation. Written by Henry Kissinger, a pivotal figure in U.S.-China relations and former U.S. Secretary of State, the book offers an in-depth analysis of China's historical development, diplomatic strategies, and the nuanced relationship between the two nations. This article aims to explore the significance of the book, its key themes, and how to access the *on china by henry kissinger pdf* for those interested in deepening their knowledge about China's diplomatic history.

Overview of *On China* by Henry Kissinger

Background and Context

Henry Kissinger's *On China* was published in 2011 and quickly garnered international attention. Drawing from decades of diplomatic experience, Kissinger provides a comprehensive historical narrative that traces China's evolution from ancient times to the 21st century. The book is not just a diplomatic history but also offers insights into the strategic thinking that has shaped China's policies and worldview.

Kissinger's perspective is unique because he has been directly involved in shaping U.S.-China relations for over four decades. His access to confidential diplomatic archives and personal experiences enrich the narrative, making it a valuable resource for understanding the complexities of Chinese diplomacy.

Key Topics Covered in *On China*

- Historical Foundations: Examines China's imperial history, the influence of Confucianism, and the impact of Western encounters.
- 20th Century Turmoil: Discusses the fall of the Qing Dynasty, the rise of communism, and the Cultural Revolution.
- Reform and Opening Up: Analyzes Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms and their implications.
- Modern Diplomacy: Explores China's strategic priorities, relationship with the U.S., and its role on the global stage.
- Future Outlook: Offers insights into China's potential trajectory based on historical patterns and current policies.

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Analyzing the Content of *On China*

Historical Perspective

Kissinger emphasizes the importance of understanding China's long-standing history and philosophical traditions, particularly Confucianism, which has profoundly influenced Chinese governance and societal values. Recognizing these roots helps explain contemporary Chinese policies and diplomatic behaviors.

Diplomatic Strategies

The book details key diplomatic moments, such as Nixon's 1972 visit to China, which Kissinger played a vital role in orchestrating. It discusses the delicate balance of power, the importance of strategic patience, and the art of diplomacy that has characterized U.S.-China relations.

Modern Challenges and Opportunities

Kissinger provides insights into how historical patterns, such as China's desire for respect and recognition, continue to shape its foreign policy. He discusses issues like trade wars, technological competition, and regional influence, emphasizing the importance of understanding China's worldview.

Reviews and Reception of *On China*

Many experts praise Kissinger's *On China* for its depth, historical accuracy, and insightful analysis. It is regarded as a crucial resource for policymakers and scholars looking to grasp the complexities of Chinese diplomacy. Some critics, however, suggest that the book may reflect a Western-centric perspective, urging readers to consider multiple viewpoints.

How to Use *On China* for Academic and Personal Growth

For Students and Researchers

- Use the PDF to cite specific historical events or diplomatic strategies.
- Cross-reference with other scholarly works to develop a nuanced understanding.
- Analyze the evolution of Chinese foreign policy through the lens provided by Kissinger.

For Policymakers and Business Leaders

- Gain insights into China's strategic intentions.
- Better understand cultural and diplomatic nuances to improve negotiations.
- Anticipate future trends based on historical patterns.

Conclusion

Accessing the *on china by henry kissinger pdf* opens a window into one of the most comprehensive analyses of China's diplomatic history available today. Whether for academic research, policy development, or personal interest, the book offers invaluable insights into China's past, present, and future. Remember to seek legitimate sources to ensure the quality and legality of your copy. By engaging with Kissinger's expert analysis, readers can deepen their understanding of one of the world's most influential nations and its complex relationship with the United States.

Additional Resources

- Official publisher websites for legitimate digital copies.
- Academic libraries offering digital access.
- Interviews and lectures by Henry Kissinger discussing *On China*.
- Related books on Chinese history and diplomacy for further reading.

Keywords: on china by henry kissinger pdf, Henry Kissinger, China history, U.S.-China relations, diplomatic history, China PDF download, Chinese diplomacy, modern China, strategic analysis

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of 'On China' by Henry Kissinger?

'On China' explores the history, strategy, and diplomacy behind China's rise and its relationship with the United States, drawing from Kissinger's personal experiences and diplomatic efforts.

Where can I find the PDF version of 'On China' by Henry Kissinger?

You can find the PDF version of 'On China' through authorized ebook platforms, academic libraries, or purchase it from reputable online booksellers. Ensure to access legitimate sources to respect copyright.

Is 'On China' suitable for those new to Chinese history and diplomacy?

Yes, 'On China' provides a comprehensive yet accessible overview of Chinese history, diplomacy, and strategic thinking, making it suitable for both newcomers and those with some background knowledge.

What are some key themes discussed in 'On China'?

Key themes include China's historical philosophy, strategic culture, the evolution of U.S.-China relations, and insights into diplomatic negotiations and decision-making processes.

How does Henry Kissinger portray China's leadership in 'On China'?

Kissinger portrays China's leadership as pragmatic, strategic, and deeply rooted in a long-term vision, emphasizing their focus on stability, sovereignty, and gradual modernization.

Can I find reviews or summaries of 'On China' in PDF format?

Yes, many academic reviews, book summaries, and analyses are available online in PDF format, often on educational websites, academic journals, or book review platforms.

What insights does 'On China' offer about U.S.-China diplomatic relations?

'On China' provides in-depth insights into the diplomatic strategies, challenges, and historical context of U.S.-China relations, highlighting the importance of understanding Chinese perspectives.

Does 'On China' include Henry Kissinger's personal

experiences?

Yes, the book incorporates Kissinger's personal diplomatic experiences and anecdotes from his time working on China policy during the Nixon administration.

Are there any legal considerations for downloading 'On China' PDF online?

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What makes 'On China' a recommended read for students of international relations?

'On China' offers valuable historical context, strategic insights, and firsthand accounts of diplomacy, making it a highly recommended resource for students studying international relations and geopolitics.

Additional Resources

On China by Henry Kissinger PDF has become a pivotal resource for anyone seeking a comprehensive understanding of China's complex history, diplomatic evolution, and strategic significance. As one of the most influential foreign policy thinkers of the 20th century, Henry Kissinger's insights encapsulated in the book provide a nuanced perspective on China's transformation from a closed society to a global superpower. This guide aims to unpack the core themes of On China by Henry Kissinger PDF, offering a detailed analysis of its key ideas, historical context, and contemporary relevance.

Introduction: The Significance of On China by Henry Kissinger

Henry Kissinger's On China is more than just a memoir; it's a strategic reflection on diplomatic history, cultural diplomacy, and geopolitical strategy. The availability of on china by henry kissinger pdf has made the work accessible to a global audience eager to understand China's past and future trajectory through the lens of one of its most influential architects.

The book offers a blend of historical narrative, personal anecdotes, and policy analysis, making it essential reading for policymakers, students, and history enthusiasts alike. Through this guide, we will explore how Kissinger's insights remain relevant today amid ongoing US-China relations and global power shifts.

Historical Context: The Origins and Evolution of On China

The Background of Henry Kissinger's Engagement with China

Henry Kissinger's engagement with China dates back to the early 1970s, a period marked by Cold War tensions and a desire for strategic realignment. His secret diplomacy paved the way for President Nixon's historic visit to China in 1972, which dramatically shifted international relations.

The Genesis of On China

Published in 2011, *On China* reflects decades of diplomatic experience, historical research, and personal reflection. The book is structured as both a memoir of Kissinger's diplomatic journey and an analysis of Chinese history and philosophy.

The accessibility of *on china by henry kissinger pdf* has played a crucial role in disseminating these insights beyond academic circles, making the complex themes easier to explore.

Core Themes and Insights from On China

1. The Intersection of History and Diplomacy

Kissinger emphasizes that understanding China requires a deep appreciation of its historical narrative, which is characterized by cycles of unity and division, external threats, and internal resilience.

Key Points:

- The importance of historical memory in shaping Chinese foreign policy.
- The influence of Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism on Chinese governance.
- The significance of events like the Opium Wars, the fall of the Qing Dynasty, and the Cultural Revolution.

2. The Role of Chinese Philosophy

Kissinger delves into the philosophical underpinnings that influence Chinese perspectives on power, diplomacy, and strategy.

Main Philosophical Ideas:

- The Doctrine of Flexibility: Chinese strategic culture favors adaptability and indirect approaches.
- Harmony and Balance: Central themes in Chinese thought, emphasizing stability and long-term relationships.
- The Mandate of Heaven: Historical legitimacy rooted in moral authority rather than conquest.

3. Strategic Patience and Long-Term Planning

Kissinger advocates for understanding China's patience and emphasis on long-term stability over short-term gains.

Implications:

- The importance of patience in diplomatic negotiations.
- The value of incremental progress and strategic patience.
- Recognizing China's focus on sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national rejuvenation.

4. The Evolution of US-China Relations

The narrative traces the evolution from initial contact, Cold War tensions, rapprochement, and the current strategic rivalry.

Key Phases:

- The Nixon-Kissinger opening in the early 1970s.
- The post-Cold War engagement period.
- The rise of China as a global power in the 21st century.

Contemporary Relevance:

- Understanding the foundational principles can inform current policy.
- Recognizing China's strategic aims rooted in its historical worldview.

Practical Lessons from On China

Navigating Cross-Cultural Diplomacy

Kissinger emphasizes the importance of cultural understanding and respect in diplomacy, particularly with China, which has a distinct worldview.

Tips for Diplomats and Policymakers:

- Respect historical sensitivities.
- Recognize the importance of indirect communication.
- Patience and long-term engagement are vital.

Strategies for Engaging with China

Based on the book's insights, successful engagement involves:

- Building trust through consistent dialogue.
- Emphasizing mutual benefits.
- Understanding China's strategic priorities, such as sovereignty and stability.

The Limitations of Western Approaches

Kissinger cautions against imposing Western values unilaterally, advocating instead for a nuanced approach that respects Chinese traditions and strategic culture.

Critical Analysis of On China

Strengths of the Book

- Deep Historical Insight: The book synthesizes centuries of Chinese history with diplomatic experience.
- Philosophical Depth: Offers a rich understanding of Chinese worldview and strategic thinking.
- Practical Wisdom: Provides lessons applicable to current diplomatic challenges.

Limitations and Criticisms

- Western Bias: Critics argue that Kissinger's perspective may lean towards a strategic realist view, potentially underestimating internal Chinese dynamics.
- Lack of Focus on Contemporary Issues: While rich in history, some readers find the book less detailed about recent developments like China's technological advancements or domestic policies.

How to Access and Utilize On China PDF

Benefits of the PDF Format

- Accessibility: Read on multiple devices.
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Final Reflections: Why On China Remains Relevant Today

Henry Kissinger's On China is not merely a historical account but a strategic guide that offers timeless lessons on diplomacy, cultural understanding, and strategic patience. As China continues to play a vital role in global affairs, revisiting Kissinger's insights helps policymakers, scholars, and global citizens navigate the complexities of US-China relations.

The availability of on china by henry kissinger pdf ensures that these lessons are accessible worldwide, fostering a more informed and nuanced dialogue about China's past, present, and future.

Conclusion

Whether you are a student of international relations, a diplomat, or simply curious about China's diplomatic history, On China by Henry Kissinger provides invaluable knowledge. Its PDF version makes this wisdom readily accessible, allowing readers to delve into the intricacies of Chinese culture, history, and strategic thought.

By understanding the core themes and applying the insights from Kissinger's work, we can foster more constructive engagement with China and contribute to a more stable and cooperative international order.

Note: To fully benefit from *On China* by Henry Kissinger, consider reading the complete PDF version alongside supplementary materials, such as historical texts, Chinese philosophy, and current geopolitical analyses.

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on china by henry kissinger pdf: Nixon in China Nicole L. Anslover, 2025-09-30 This book reassesses Richard Nixon’s historic visit as the first American president ever to visit mainland China in 1972, personalizing the actors involved and exploring the event’s lasting impact. Nixon’s visit signalled a dramatic change not only in U.S.–China relations but in the overall trajectory of America’s Cold War foreign policy. With this visit, Nixon set in motion a new phase of the relationship between the United States and the People’s Republic of China, which is still evolving today. The volume places this important moment in its proper historical context by examining the various intriguing actors involved, and analyzing the lasting impact of this trip on U.S. foreign relations. It examines different types of diplomacy, Nixon and Kissinger’s unique style of implementing foreign policy, and how the trip impacted the U.S., its Cold War allies, and China. With its primary focus on the American side of the story, this book also importantly examines the Chinese goals, preparations, and apprehensions. This book will be of interest to students and scholars of U.S. diplomatic history, the Cold War, and American political history more generally.

on china by henry kissinger pdf: China vs America Oliver Letwin, 2021-08-24 China's rise as a global superpower has completely reshaped the landscape of international politics. As the country's authoritarian regime becomes increasingly assertive on the world stage, the United States grows ever more hostile to its Asian rival. Repressive moves by China in Xinjiang and Hong Kong, military activities in the South China Sea and Western measures against Chinese companies have only exacerbated tensions. While the great powers of East and West battle over hegemony, the world is being led inexorably towards a new Cold War. During his time as a Cabinet minister attending National Security Council meetings, Oliver Letwin realised that there was no agreement among Western politicians and academics on how to conduct a peaceful long-term relationship with China. *China vs America* traces the contours of history, both ancient and modern, to explain how China has emerged as a challenger to American power in the twenty-first century and why this has created such uneasiness in the West. In this robust and controversial assessment, Letwin argues that the international rules-based order is completely ill-equipped to foster a positive relationship between China and the United States and that the global community must act now to correct the collision course these two behemoths are currently on before it's too late.

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fully revised and updated, *The United States and China* offers a comprehensive synthesis of US-Chinese relations from initial contact to the present. Balancing the modern (1784–1949) and contemporary (1949–present) periods, Dong Wang retraces centuries of interaction between two of the world's great powers from the perspective of both sides. She examines state-to-state diplomacy, as well as economic, social, military, religious, and cultural interplay within varying national and international contexts. As China itself continues to grow in global importance, so too does the US-Chinese relationship, and this book provides an essential grounding for understanding its past, present, and possible futures.

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on china by henry kissinger pdf: The United States, China, and the Competition for Control Melanie W. Sisson, 2024-11-22 This book considers whether the United States and the People's Republic of China have irreconcilable visions of world order. The United States, China, and

the Competition for Control evaluates the twin claims that China seeks to dismantle the post-World War II international order and that the United States seeks to defend it. It defines the post-war order and examines how the United States and China have behaved within and in relation to it since 1945. An analysis of the two states' rhetoric and policy reveals that their preferences for international order are not as divergent as today's conventional wisdom suggests. The book therefore concludes that U.S. policies that treat China as a threat to international order are misplaced and offers policy recommendations for how the United States can both preserve the post-war order and protect its vital national interests. The book will be of interest to foreign policy practitioners, commentators, and analysts as well as students and scholars of security studies, international relations, and geopolitics.

on china by henry kissinger pdf: The China Choice Hugh White, 2013-07-04 China is rising. But how should the West - and the United States in particular - respond? This could be the key geopolitical question of the twenty-first century, according to strategic expert Hugh White, with huge implications for the future security and prosperity of the West as a whole. The China Choice confronts this fundamental question, considering the options for the Asian century ahead. As China's economy grows to become the world's largest, the US has three choices: it can compete, share power, or concede leadership in Asia. The choice is momentous - as significant for the future as any the US has ever faced. China is already more formidable than any country the US has faced before - and if America does not want to find itself facing China as an enemy, it must accept it as an equal partner. Weighing the huge difficulties of accepting China as an equal with the immense cost and risks of making it an enemy, in the end the choice is simple, even if it is not easy. The US simply must share power with China in Asia. The alternative is too terrible to contemplate.

on china by henry kissinger pdf: Obama and China's Rise Jeffrey A. Bader, 2012-02-24 Future presidents will need to find the right balance in China policy, so as to maintain America's strength and watchfulness but not fall into the classic security dilemma, wherein each side believes that growing capabilities reflect hostile intent and responds by producing that reality. I believe that President Obama struck that balance. —From *Obama and China's Rise* In 2005, veteran diplomat and Asia analyst Jeffrey Bader met for the first time with the then-junior U.S. senator from Illinois. When Barack Obama entered the White House a few years later, Bader was named the senior director for East Asian affairs on the National Security Council, becoming one of a handful of advisers responsible for formulating and implementing the administration's policy regarding that key region. For obvious reasons—a booming economy, expanding military power, and increasing influence over the region—the looming impact of a rising China dominated their efforts. Obama's original intent was to extend U.S. influence and presence in East Asia, which he felt had been neglected by a Bush administration fixated on the Middle East, particularly Iraq, and the war on terror. China's rise, particularly its military buildup, was heightening anxiety among its neighbors, including key U.S. allies Japan and South Korea. Bader explains the administration's efforts to develop stable relations with China while improving relationships with key partners worried about Beijing's new assertiveness. In *Obama and China's Rise*, Bader reveals what he did, discusses what he saw, and interprets what it meant—first during the Obama campaign, and then for the administration. The result is an illuminating backstage view of the formulation and execution of American foreign policy as well as a candid assessment of both. Bader combines insightful and authoritative foreign policy analysis with a revealing and humanizing narrative of his own personal journey.

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new concepts and programs adopted by the Chinese new leadership and their important implications for China's new foreign policy behavior in the years to come.

on china by henry kissinger pdf: *A Contest for Supremacy: China, America, and the Struggle for Mastery in Asia* Aaron L. Friedberg, 2011-08-15 "Sober and well-informed. . . . A careful and compelling examination of the U.S.-Chinese relationship from a number of angles."—Financial Times There may be no denying China's growing economic strength, but its impact on the global balance of power remains hotly contested. Political scientist Aaron L. Friedberg argues that our nation's leaders are failing to act expeditiously enough to counter China's growing strength. He explains how the United States and China define their goals and reveals the strategies each is now employing to achieve its ends. Friedberg demonstrates in this provocative book that the ultimate aim of Chinese policymakers is to win without fighting, displacing the United States as the leading power in Asia while avoiding direct confrontation. The United States, on the other hand, sends misleading signals about our commitments and resolve, putting us at risk for a war that might otherwise have been avoided. A much-needed wake-up call to U.S. leaders and policymakers, *A Contest for Supremacy* is a compelling interpretation of a rivalry that will go far to determine the shape of the twenty-first century.

on china by henry kissinger pdf: *The Miracle of China* George N. Tzogopoulos, 2021-09-01 This book aims to explore China's miracle under the context of complex world full of uncertainties. The author knows China's history well which makes it possible to find clues to shape China's status quo and conduct logic behind. The book is composed of six chapters. Chapter 1 concisely narrates China's history and explores why unity has been a fundamental element in its course. Chapter 2 elaborates on the BRI. Chapter 3 discusses Sino-European relations. Chapter 4 functions as a case state that examines relations between an EU and NATO member states, Greece, with China. Chapter 5 re-contextualizes the debate about China by looking into the way interconnectedness and the skeleton of globalization permit it to weather storms in the global arena. Chapter 6 links China's development to the COVID-19 pandemic.

on china by henry kissinger pdf: *The Contest for the Indian Ocean* Darshana M Baruah, 2024-08-27 A major new examination of the Indian Ocean, revealing how the region has become a hotly contested geopolitical flashpoint Throughout history, the Indian Ocean has been an essential space for trade, commerce, and culture. Every European power has sought to dominate it. Now, after a lull in the postwar period, control of major shipping routes has once again become a critical aspect of every rising state's ambition to be a global power. Darshana M. Baruah shows how governments from Washington, DC, to Nairobi and Canberra are expanding their interests in the region. The Indian Ocean is resource rich, strategically placed, and home to over two billion people. Island nations have become more important than ever, with Madagascar forming ties with Russia and the Comoros with Saudi Arabia. It is also through the region that China engages with Africa and the Middle East. This is a compelling account of the geopolitical significance of the Indian Ocean—showing how the region has taken centre stage in a new global contest.

on china by henry kissinger pdf: *In Pursuit of Prosperity* David Reed, 2014-10-03 *In Pursuit of Prosperity* provides a much needed exploration of the evolution of environmental sustainability in U.S. foreign policy. Through expert analysis of nine countries and regions of strategic importance, David Reed and his stellar team of experts in foreign policy and environmental affairs identify emerging threats to the prosperity and national security of the United States. They assert that U.S. foreign policy must shift away from its 100-year-old focus on obtaining energy and mineral inputs for the industrial economy. In the new millennium, U.S. foreign policy must be geared toward ensuring the prosperity of the country's trading and political partners around the globe. To the degree that our partners' economies and social stability are threatened by the natural resource scarcities and environmental change unfolding within their borders and in neighboring countries, threats to U.S. prosperity and national security increase proportionately. Directed to U.S. foreign policy makers, the intelligence and security communities, and influential think tanks and research organizations, the book proposes specific recommendations the U.S. government should embrace to respond to the

disruption of global supply chains, social instability in partner countries, disruptive impacts on regional relations, and expansion of illegal trade and criminal networks. This unique focus establishes *In Pursuit of Prosperity* as a seminal work in understanding the challenges facing the United States in this period of global environmental change.

on china by henry kissinger pdf: *China, Russia, and Twenty-first Century Global Geopolitics* Paul J. Bolt, Sharyl Cross, 2018 This book provides a comprehensive analysis of the Chinese-Russian bilateral relationship, grounded in a historical perspective, and discusses the implications of the burgeoning 'strategic partnership' between these two major powers for world order and global geopolitics. The volume compares the national worldviews, priorities, and strategic visions for the Chinese and Russian leadership, examining several aspects of the relationship in detail. The energy trade is the most important component of economic ties, although both sides desire to broaden trade and investments. In the military realm, Russia sells advanced arms to China, and the two countries engage in regular joint exercises. Diplomatically, these two Eurasian powers take similar approaches to conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, and also cooperate on non-traditional security issues including preventing coloured revolutions, cyber management, and terrorism. These issue areas illustrate four themes. Russia and China have common interests that cement their partnership, including security, protecting authoritarian institutions, and re-shaping aspects of the global order. They are key players not only influencing regional issues, but also international norms and institutions. The Sino-Russian partnership presents a potential counterbalance to the United States and democratic nations in shaping the contemporary and emerging geopolitical landscape. Nevertheless, the West is still an important partner for China and Russia. Both seek better relations with the West, but on the basis of 'mutual respect' and 'equality'. Lastly, Russia and China have frictions in their relationship, and not all of their interests overlap. The Sino-Russian relationship has gained considerable momentum, particularly since 2014 as Moscow turned to Beijing attempting to offset tensions with the West in the aftermath of Russia's annexation of Crimea and intervention in Ukraine. However, so far, China and Russia describe their relationship as a comprehensive 'strategic partnership', but they are not 'allies'.

on china by henry kissinger pdf: *The China-Pakistan Axis* Andrew Small, 2020 The first book-length analysis of an often secretive but mutually beneficial military and strategic partnership.

on china by henry kissinger pdf: *Asia's New Battlefield* Richard Javad Heydarian, 2015-11-15 This compact, insightful book offers an up-to-the-minute guide to understanding the evolution of maritime territorial disputes in East Asia, exploring their legal, political-security and economic dimensions against the backdrop of a brewing Sino-American rivalry for hegemony in the Asia-Pacific region. It traces the decades-long evolution of Sino-American relations in Asia, and how this pivotal relationship has been central to prosperity and stability in one of the most dynamics regions of the world. It also looks at how middle powers – from Japan and Australia to India and South Korea – have joined the fray, trying to shape the trajectory of the territorial disputes in the Western Pacific, which can, in turn, alter the future of Asia – and ignite an international war that could re-configure the global order. The book examines how the maritime disputes have become a litmus test of China's rise, whether it has and will be peaceful or not, and how smaller powers such as Vietnam and the Philippines have been resisting Beijing's territorial ambitions. Drawing on extensive discussions and interviews with experts and policy-makers across the Asia-Pacific region, the book highlights the growing geopolitical significance of the East and South China Sea disputes to the future of Asia – providing insights into how the so-called Pacific century will shape up.

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