

Countering Chinese Multidomain War (Economic War) IN 2023

By Brig Hemant Mahajan, YSM

Author is M Sc, M Phil in Defence Studies. He joined IMA Dehradun in July 1973 and passed out as a Commissioned Officer on 15 June 1975. He commanded his battalion 7 MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY in Operation Rakshak in the most difficult areas of Poonch and Rajouri.

China will continue its multi domain Warfare (MDW) (Combination of hybrid war, grey zone War and unrestricted War) in 2023. No diplomatic warnings is likely to have any effect on the Chinese activities. Chinese multi-domain war against India will be fought over many years. They also understand that with the present Government and leadership they are unlikely to force a border settlement with India on the Chinese terms.

The Chinese aim to at least slow down India's economy and ensure that India does not emerge as rival to China in Asia for many years.

For China, MDW can be defined as conventional and/or non-conventional war carried out by state, non-state (criminal gangs) or state sponsored actors (Pakistan) using hard and soft power during conflict/ peace, by day or night. These operations will be overt or covert.

It is important that each of these domains where China carries out inimical activities is identified. Still more important is to work out methodology to counter against these Chinese warlike activities.

Actions Post Galwan

India banned Tiktok and 59 other Chinese apps following the clashes with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley in Ladakh on 15th June. Since then, there have been growing calls in the country to boycott goods from China. Chinese products, services, and investments are deeply entrenched in India's supply chain.

China is India's biggest trading partner in the world and India also has the largest trade deficit with China (which means that India imports more than it exports to China). This deficit has doubled in less than a decade.

What does India trade with China? Our primary exports are organic chemicals and raw materials like iron ore, slag, cotton, natural pearls, etc. We import finished goods like machinery, power-related equipment, telecom, organic chemicals, and fertilizers which overshadow our raw material-based exports Investments.

China has entered the Indian market through venture investments in start-ups and penetrated the online ecosystem with its popular smartphones and apps. Chinese tech investors have put an estimated \$4 billion into Indian start-ups.

Alibaba, Tencent, and Byte Dance rival the U.S. penetration of Facebook, Amazon, and Google in India. Chinese smartphones like Oppo and Xiaomi lead the Indian market with an estimated 72% share, leaving Samsung and Apple behind.

Chinese products form a critical part of the supply chain for firms in many sectors in India.

India gets 70% of active pharmaceutical ingredients or APIs used in drugs from China and a disruption in that would adversely affect the sector.

India is heavily dependent on China for components for consumer durables. China is a key supplier of sub-components used in the engine, electronics, tires, China caters to a majority of smartphone demand in India. India imports a vast portion of its solar modules from China. Chemicals and agrochemicals: The Indian agrochemical industry imports a high amount of raw materials from China.

Last few years government has lead lot of stress on Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make In India, Make For The World. Government has also started many schemes such as “Production Linked Incentive” to start manufacturing in India. Despite the best efforts, dependence on the Chinese supplies has not reduced but only increased.

Economic war, economic subversion, trade war is one of the most important facets of China's multi domain Warfare against India. It is also using neighbouring countries and sea borders to carry out illegal trade and smuggling to damage the Indian economy. You require central government, state governments, all security Agencies including Intelligence Agencies and the common citizens of India to work unitedly to win this war.

Winning the economic and trade war with China

There have been frequent reminders that Indians must boycott Chinese goods but the Indians seem to be more busy in fighting with each other, for many reasons rather than helping India in fighting multi domain war Against China.

Look at the news in today's newspapers. The trade deficit of imports and exports with China has increased to all time high of rupees 125 billion dollars as on 14 Jan 23. What are the patriotic Indians doing? Who is responsible for such dangerous situation?

The people who are most responsible are the Indian trading community who buy cheap Chinese goods in containers and earn easy profits. The corporate world thinks that they cannot sustain themselves without cheap Chinese goods or raw material. It is very clear that China has beaten India in the economic war in 2022 despite all the efforts by the government.

The only way ahead is to speed up Atmanirbhar Bharat and make in India program. We have to produce essential items in India itself or alternatively we have to look at supply chains other than China, especially Japan Taiwan Korea and Southeast Asian nations.

Stop illegal trade and smuggling from China

China is a currency manipulator. It always ensures that it's currency Yuan is artificially much below the dollars and other international currencies. The whole world is increasing interest rates to control inflation, while China is reducing interest rate to increase liquidity and encourage exports. It will never let India export anything except raw goods while taking full advantages of the huge Indian market to keep on increasing exports to India.

The Indian rupee has reached an all-time low with regard to Dollar and today for \$1 we have to pay 81.29 rupees. If this continues, we will have a serious situation with regard to balance of trade and current account deficit. There are maybe reasons for rupee going down but one of the most important reasons is huge imports from China putting pressure on the Indian rupee.

We should give a time frame of say 1 to 2 years to the corporate world and tell them to look for alternate supply chains and reduce over dependence on China.

We need to increase import duties and anti-dumping duties on Chinese goods to stop unnecessary and unessential imports. Europe, USA have rejected number of Chinese products on the grounds of environmental considerations and due to substandard quality. Can we not use similar tactics? One of the most important actions is to improve productivity of our small scale and medium scale sectors.

Increase And Improve Manufacturing in Small And Middle Scale Sectors

Lot of goods in China are produced in the small-scale sector. The Chinese women manufacture them at home. Therefore, the price is very less. They get cheap raw material while Indian traders think that if Chinese can supply you goods cheaply why should you manufacture them in India? They buy containers worth Chinese goods, put their labels and earn easy profits. They don't realize, that they are helping the Chinese economy and in turn increase potential of Chinese PLA. In other words, unnecessary imports by the Indians is funding the aggressive activities by the PLA on the line of actual control.

If you have to compete with the Chinese, then we have to create a small-scale sector by giving them all the facilities which Chinese get such as raw material skills training, cheap land and so on. Then only will we be able to compete with China in producing cheap goods.

Express Your Dissent by Productive Activities

Calling for lock downs, blocking roads at the slightest pretext, burning and destroying public and private properties is done routinely by many political parties, NGOs and criminal elements. Many think that calling for bandh is their basic right. Political parties can have difference of opinions on various issues, but why should they disrupt Indian economy by calling for agitations and blocking roads and thereby helping the Chinese? They can express dissent by doing something productive for the country such as Shramadan (श्रमदान), cleaning of roads or improving civics amenity, helping the poor.

Unfortunately, the Indian media does not give publicity to any good and productive work but any violent activity like burning property, blocking roads gets headlines on the first page of the newspapers and breaking news on the TV Channels. Therefore, many people think that doing violent activity is the only way to attract attention of everybody. Any violence should be reported very briefly on the middle pages. The headlines should be devoted to positive news in the country. There are a lot of positive development activities taking place in the country and due importance should be given to these activities.

Becoming More Efficient Than the Chinese

There are hardly any violent activities in China. The Chinese only work, work and carry out constructive activities. The average Chinese has therefore helped China to become number 2 economic superpower in the world. If you have to compete with then we definitely have to become more efficient than the Chinese in every field.

Common Indians have to contribute in this economic war by boycotting Chinese goods, and also those traders who buy them. The Chinese economy will definitely suffer. Corona is increasing at a fast speed in China. Chinese economy is likely to go into recession, but Indian economy is one of the brightest spot in the whole world. This is a good opportunity for India to replace China as factory of the world and become more reliable in the supply chain. This will help India to reduce the trade deficit and difference between Chinese and Indian economy.

Newer Methods of Multi-domain war

IMF expects per capita growth in India to be higher than that of China in each of the six years, 2022 through 2027. The average per-capita growth rate for India and China, 2022-27: India 5.4%, China 4.3%. India's economy is set to thoroughly outpace its fellow G20 members over the next five years.

This could be a great opportunity for startups in India to rise up to the occasion and build products and services for making India more self-dependent. Key infrastructure products allotted to Chinese firms could also come to Indian firms.

The film and entertainment industry has become a new investment ground for the CCP, and celebrities earning through that source take pride in mocking our Armed Forces. Some scholars even dare to discredit everything Indian. Champions of the Maoist revolution masquerading as Human Rights activists get financial support to fight their battles.

With the growing economic might, China has successfully invested in academia, media and think tanks to peddle its narrative in India and worldwide. China is using cyberspace effectively to create dissent in India. This Chinese incursion in our mind space is much more dangerous. Our soldiers can handle the situation on the borders and Chinese will be beaten in conventional war. The real challenge is to detect and deal with the Chinese agents intellectually and legally.

One Year Of Ukraine War: A Conflict That Has Become A Contest Of Will Between Russia And The West

By D B Venkatesh Varma

The author is a former Ambassador to the Russian Federation, 2018-21

A year on, the Russia-Ukraine war has become a bonfire of ambitions. Russia is too weak to win and Ukraine too strong to lose. Battles fought with 21st century weapons are stalling battlefronts resembling those from the last century. American sanctions cut Europe off from Russian energy but hardly dented its war aims. The war has morphed — from a Russia-Ukraine war to a proxy war of the US against Russia. Global security has been strained like never before.

At the onset of war, I had laid out its main drivers ('The Putin Pushback', IE, February 24, 2022) — Russian pushback against aggressive NATO encroachment, Ukraine's high price in the war, the return of American dominance over European security and energy policies, and the expected US incapacity to pursue dual containment against both Russia and China simultaneously. A year on, these points remain largely valid.

With the aim of breaking the current stalemate during the military offensive season in late spring, NATO is feverishly rearming Ukraine with modern tanks, aircraft, and long-range missiles. Russian paramilitaries are grinding away at Ukrainian defences. A refitted Russian army bolstered by new conscripts is preparing for the summer offensive. Its defence industry is in full production mode.

The prognosis for Ukraine is bleak. Wars of attrition turn on the exhaustion of military means. Due to superior resources and staying power, some military incompetence notwithstanding, Russia will gain the upper hand. Last year, NATO said Russia will be defeated. Now it says Russia cannot be allowed to win. Ukraine's tragedy may be its permanent division — one part incorporated into Russia, the other drifting into EU and NATO, with a contested dividing line floating between de-facto practicality and de-jure hollowness. We can expect Putin to pursue Russian war aims resolutely. Likewise, the US and NATO will oppose Putin's pursuit doggedly.

This is no longer a war of overturning aggression. Rather it is a contest of will between Russia and the West, and a test of the credibility of US global power. As the recent speeches of President Putin to the Federal Assembly and President Biden in Kyiv show, Russia is digging in and America is doubling down. With neither side prepared for mutual accommodation, unless they first gain the upper hand on the battlefield, the crescendo from the tolling bells of escalation will continue to rise. Russian suspension of the New START Treaty takes this to a new level. With attacks on Nord Stream II and Engels Strategic Air Base in Russia, the US is pushing limits like never before.

The Ukraine conflict is this century's first geopolitical war. Turning its back on the West, thus reversing a 300-year quest for political and culture acceptance, Russia, sullen and determined, is lunging inwards. With Orthodox Christianity and Russian nationalism forming a powerful mix, Russia's inward pivot, its schism with the West and its belief in civilisational self-sufficiency will have far reaching consequences — the more its international isolation, the stronger will be its mystical patriotism.

Likewise, in the West, the Russia threat is no longer defined in terms of state interests but in vituperative and demonic terms often with racist overtones. It is not a clash of interests but of the realities of existence.

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Politician's Socialising Curse!

By Sanjay Sahay

Author is former Police Officer of Karnataka. Now he is Founder & Director of TechConPro Pvt Ltd., Bengaluru

What does a politician do most of the time and most of the times large number of his family members too? They spend in socializing. Anything you do in politics since the days we got independent is with people as the target. It generates all the political capital to take off. They are required for show of strength at times of crisis, a large do or die brigade ready to be at your beck and call, seems to be a must for proving your democratic worth. That most of the people are not interested in doing anything proactively for politics or in politics is a given.

The harsh reality is that the political juggernaut has to move. The relationships politician builds up from his young days would last for a lifetime, increasing in number and intensity as time passes by and the political stature of the person keeps growing. If it doesn't take off vertically, at the barest minimum he would like to consolidate his position at the horizontally, in his geographical area, you may loosely call it his fiefdom. His utility depends on what he has to offer to the leader above him in the political ladder. Herein comes the crux of the matter and the role of political socializing and political interpersonal relationships in Indian political life.

Votes remain the single most independent asset in Indian politics. The capability and the acumen to get legislators to support, you when you are one of the competitors to lead, is the real killer. In the world of realpolitik nothing works on merit, talent, expertise or any demonstrated ability to deliver. It works on purely personal relationships which he keeps improving upon with more and more of focused socialization. Otherwise, at critical moments, the turncoat practice of Indian politics will come to bite you and you would not know where to hide you head in shame and whom to blame.

This the socializing curse of the Indian politician. He is damned if he cannot excel in this art and keep practicing relentlessly. There have hardly been any exceptions. The paraded ones have a limited span and impact. They never feel like a leader too. A politician has to be available at all milestones of his constituent's life, for all those who matter, and in turn those constituents perform the same exercise further. Only his socializing being one with as many as possible, delivering some benefits and influence too, does the trick when it is required the most. At the end, he needs the votes and unfortunately that does not happen automatically. In a country, feudalistic in nature, running of emotional familial and societal bonds, intense socializing only pays. It is an individual quid pro quo, given a political format, which has become completely intertwined with Indian democracy.

Nigerian Election

By Dr.Santhosh Mathew

Author is Assistant Professor, Centre for South Asian Studies, Pondicherry Central University.

Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa. Nigeria is not only the largest economy and the most oil producing nation in the continent. Nigeria deserves prominence with the most Muslim population in the African continent.

The controversies over the just concluded presidential election there are before the court. Mr. Bolatinubu, aged 70, of All Progressive Congress has won the elections. The victory was by winning 37% of the total votes (almost 88Lakhs). Mr. Adiku Abubakar, the former Vice President and the main opponent of People's Democratic Party, won 29% of vote share. Mr. Peter Obi, the independent candidate, won 25% of vote share and reached the third place. The results were announced on the 1st of March.

Mr. Abubakar and Mr. Obi had already demanded in February that there were malpractices and therefore re-election had to be done. Mr. Mohammed Buhari, the outgoing President wished Mr. Bola Tinubu success. Mr. Buhari quit the position after two terms as the President. The election was held on the 25th of February. The opposition claims that the delayed results were proof of sabotage. But Mr. Muhammad Buhari says that the voting was peaceful and there were no reports of any violence even though the results came much later.

Mr. Tinubu was the Governor of Lagos twice. Lagos is a large city in the country. Tinubu was born in 1952 in a Muslim family in Yoruba caste which is the majority in the southwest part of Nigeria. He migrated to the U.S. in the 1970's. He did the works like washing the vessels, driving the car and as a security guard. Tinubu won his bachelor's in business administration from the University of Chicago in 1979.

He returned to Nigeria in the 1980's after working in some U.S. Consultancy firms. Tinubu is known as the "Godfather" of Muhammad Buhari who is leaving the presidency in May. Tinubu helped Buhari to win in 2015 and 2019 and be in power. Obala Tinubu was in the background of All Progressive Congress (APC), the party of Muhammad Buhari, the present president. Now he is reincarnated as the king maker. Tinubu has come to the limelight as there is no provision for a person to contest the elections twice. Tinubu entered politics as the right hand of Buhari.

Tinubu who was the member of the Senate, the upper house, was elected twice as the Governor of Lagos (1999-2007), the largest city and the commercial capital of Nigeria.

Nigeria stepped into democracy in 1999 ending the military rule. President Muhammad Buhari took the presidency in 2015 after 6 years of rule of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Buhari was a leader who stood at the front foot of democratic revolution. Buhari, the leader of All Peoples Progressive Congress Party promised to end Islamic terrorism and lead the economy to growth. The promises were not fulfilled despite getting the power for the second time in 2019. The first thing that Buhari did after taking up the Presidency was taking loans from both the World Bank and IMF under the liberalised conditions. Many subsidies and privileges given to the people were cancelled as an after effect. He entrusted the distribution of oil to the private companies. Naturally, there were protests from the public. People started losing faith in democracy. Only 39% voted in the election of 2019. It came down to 27% in the just concluded election. The election of February is 7th one after the restoration of democracy.

The whole world, therefore, looks closely at the election of Nigeria for the elections to both 36 states and Governors to 28 states. President Buhari had banned the currency in the country. People were in a crisis due to the unavailability of the new notes. There were bloodsheds in many places due to confrontations between people.

There were long queues in front of the ATMs, a reminder of the note ban in India. People are struggling to get the bare necessities due to the deficiency of new notes. The order of the president says that the time for exchange of Naira of 500 and 1000 will be 10th April.

The controversies over the presidential elections are in the court. Peter Obi of Labour Party, the third power, made a notable growth in this election. The politics introduced by this 62-year-old man, the hope of the future of Nigeria, had the nature of a social democracy. The present Labour Party is the old Part of Social Democracy. The labour unions and the left parties supported Peter Obi in the elections. Obi got the best support from the youth. The topics of unemployment, inflation and the need to get more wages for the employees were new to the politics of Nigeria. Obi spoke also against the increase in the treaty made in the labour field. There is no doubt that this businessman was the former governor of the province of Anambra. Obi has decided to go ahead legally as many foreign agencies opined that the elections were not transparent.

Nigeria is the first in gas conservation and second in oil preservation. But Nigeria is 163 in the index of human resources. It is 159 in economic inequality and 33 in unemployment. Unemployment rate among the youth is 42.5%. Nigeria, the western African country, gives the picture of a nation which has to live in poverty in the midst of wealth. Both Boko Haram and Islamic state of Western African Province, the offshoot of it, continues to organize continuous attacks. The eastern area echoes the sound of disintegration. The North-western part is the centre of terrorists. Nigerian Special Anti -Robbery Squad (Saras), formed by the Nigerian Government to counter these groups, has turned out to be the force which loots and murders people. People raised voice against it in the name of 'End Saras'. So far almost 100 people were killed including the 12 protesters of Likia of Lagos in 2020. Thus, life of people is unbearable looking from any corner.

However, the world stares at the new ruler to see if he can control inflation and rising prices in this African country which has a population of 22 crores.

Does Technology Win Wars?

By Jacquelyn Schneider

Author is a Hoover Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and an affiliate of Stanford's Center for International Security and Cooperation.

It is ironic that, despite two decades of U.S.-led conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq, it took just a few months of Russia's war in Ukraine to finally draw attention to the depleted state of U.S. weapons stocks and the vulnerabilities in U.S. military supply chains. In recent months, American military leaders have expressed increasing frustration with the defense industrial base. As the U.S. Navy's top officer, Admiral Mike Gilday, told Defense News in January, "Not only am I trying to fill magazines with weapons, but I'm trying to put U.S. production lines at their maximum level right now and to try and maintain that set of headlights in subsequent budgets so that we continue to produce those weapons." The fighting in Ukraine, Gilday noted, has made it clear to military leaders "that the expenditure of those high-end weapons in conflict could be higher than we estimated."

Tellingly, just 100 days after the United States approved the transfer of Javelin and Stinger missiles to Ukraine, the missile manufacturers Raytheon and Lockheed-Martin warned that it could take years to restore their stocks to pre-invasion levels. As the war drags on, the United States will face not only production line challenges but also difficulties gaining access to semiconductors and raw resources such as cobalt, neon, and lithium—elements that are essential to the manufacture of modern military technology and that China increasingly controls. The United States will have to develop the means to sustain its current weapons arsenals without sacrificing the resources it will need to research and develop next-generation platforms and munitions.

Since the end of the Cold War, the Pentagon has invested in technology that limits casualties but does not decrease the cost of manpower. It has spent heavily on expensive and scarce technologies for first-strike offensives, largely ignoring the effect of such expenditures on its ability to fund wars and to secure supply chains. Thirty years into this technological push, the United States lacks the technology and resources to maintain support for Ukraine at present levels, much less to deter China from invading Taiwan.

Now that these weaknesses have been revealed, they deserve serious attention. The difficulties the United States has faced in meeting Ukraine's weapons needs hint at the far greater challenges Washington would likely confront in maintaining its edge in a war fought with more cutting-edge battlefield technologies. A clear understanding of the historical relationship between technological change and war suggests that the United States should urgently prioritize technology that reduces not just the political costs but also the economic costs of war.

SEEKING AN EDGE

War is the ultimate contest of human will. At its crudest, it is a lethal competition for power and survival in which the weak are destroyed and the strong persevere. But although warfare may fundamentally be a contest of human strength, it is also human nature to seek a technological edge over an opponent in order to shift the balance of power.

The Old Testament book of Samuel recounts how David used a slingshot and a well-aimed stone to defeat the Philistine giant Goliath. During the Hundred Years' War, the invention of the English longbow gave England an advantage over France. Stealth aircraft developed by the United States at the end of the twentieth century were used to great effect during the "shock and awe" phase of the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq. With arrows or with aircraft, military planners have always sought new technology to give them an edge over their enemies on the battlefield.

Nevertheless, states often struggle to translate battlefield technological advantages into strategic victories. For example, Germany's development of blitzkrieg in the 1930s represented a revolution in mechanized maneuver warfare, yet the technique wasn't enough to allow Germany to hold territory once American materiel and manpower were committed to retaking Europe.

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Nation is Indebted to:

Saint Balumama

1892 - 1966



Saint Balumama was born in 1892, in a village called Akkol in Chikkodi taluka of Belgaum district in Karnataka. His father was Mayappa and mother was Satyavva. (a shepherd family of the Kuruba Gowda/Dhangar community). He spent his childhood with his parents but was always lost in meditation and was a quiet boy.

He is considered a saint and has many millions of followers in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

A shepherd, by the very nature of his job, has to come in contact usually with people who are at the very low status of society, whose life was sunk in vices and bad habits. A shepherd cannot remain unaffected by them. However not so was Balumama. He was not an ordinary shepherd.

It was these men of vices and bad habits, who could not remain unaffected by him, their life was completely changed almost beyond recognition by him. He was a practical guide and counsel to them. Their wretched and immoral life was transformed into a civilized and spiritual one. They could not thank God sufficiently for their good fortune to have such a spiritual guide.

While shepherding his sheep, he was known to have performed several miracles and help lots of poor and downtrodden people. It has been mentioned in his biography after meeting several people who have actually seen the Balumama and his miracles.

He used to travel long distances with his sheep including parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka. He was fluent in both Kannada and Marathi. Whatever he said came to pass without fail. So, he had a huge disciple group among the rural poor, who began to worship him as a saint. The sheep's which Balumama had were considered as holy as well. If the herd of Balumama's sheep stayed or passed through a person field, he was bound to have had happiness, health and wealth.

After his death in 1966, a temple was built in his memory in Adamapur which lies between Nipani in Karnataka and Radhanagari in Maharashtra. The Temple is looked after by the "Shri Balumama Trust". The sheep numbers have now grown to lakhs which are looked after by the temple trust.

No words can explain the greatness of Balumama who by his innate commitment for the wellbeing of simple, poor shepherders, brought an everlasting change in their day to day life to a positive note. And it is not surprising that today Balumama is in the hearts of millions of people and revered as a saint.

Write to us at:

bulletin@finsindia.org

*OFFICE :4, Belle View, Lakhamsi Nappu
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