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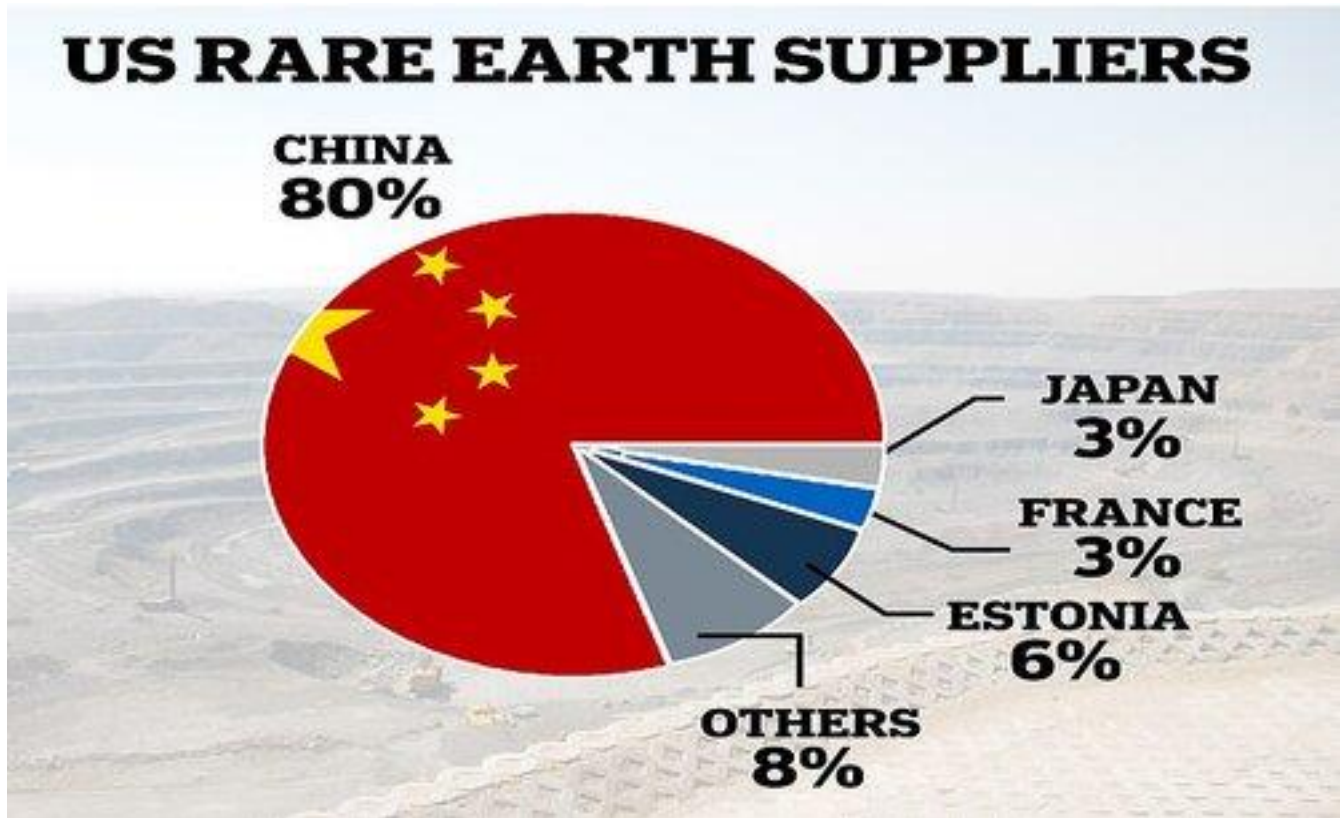
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"Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him." Tozer

US Reliance On Chinese Strategic Resources Set Stage For War Disaster

Prophecynewswatch.com



Imagine what Joe Biden or a future president of the United States would do if Chinese dictator Xi Jinping dispatched another spy balloon toward America and declared: "If America destroys our peace-loving balloon, we will have no choice but to suspend immediately, and until further notice, all U.S.-bound exports of Chinese-made antibiotics and antibiotic precursor chemicals. We eagerly await the White House's response."

That chilling hypothetical and last week's all-too-real spy balloon fiasco should make it excruciatingly clear that America urgently needs to repatriate critical industries from China back to the USA.

If, God forbid, the Chinese Communist Party attacked Taiwan, it's hard to imagine that Beijing would not use antibiotics and other vital drugs to extort U.S. neutrality while China conquers and communizes that nation.

America could face this rotten choice: Defend Taiwan and, before long, watch helplessly as strep throat, gonorrhea, meningitis, and other bacterial infections go untreated, perhaps fatally so, or keep the life-sustaining antibiotics flowing as Beijing strangles Taipei.

Letting the Chinese Communist Party crush its island neighbor would trample the Taiwan Relations Act, America's de facto commitment to the integrity of that prosperous, free-market, constitutional republic. American military and diplomatic prestige would plunge even as atrocities and bloodshed in Taiwan soared.

"Right now, the U.S. has virtually no capacity to manufacture antibiotics," health care expert Rosemary Gibson wrote in Market Watch. "That's because China currently controls roughly 90% of the global supply of inputs needed to make the generic antibiotics that treat bronchitis, pneumonia, pediatric ear infections, and life-threatening conditions, such as sepsis."

Congress should pass and Biden should sign robust incentives to entice U.S. pharmaceutical, strategic-mineral, and other concerns in China to come home. Specifically, eligible companies that repatriate their operations should face a federal corporate tax rate of 0% for the first five years after they leave Communist China and return to the Land of the Brave.

This massive shot in the arm would help lure these organizations back and entice them to erect U.S. facilities, employ American workers, etc. Similar incentives should be available to domestic startups and business expansions in this life-and-death sector.

Democrats also must stop being bipolar about electric vehicles.

In Tuesday's State of the Union address, Biden touted "tax credits for the purchase of electric vehicles." Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act teems with EV subsidies.

California, Oregon, and Washington have banned sales of new gasoline-powered cars as early as 2035. If this seems comfortably distant, 2035 is nearer into the future than the 2008 financial meltdown was in the past.

Love or hate this new largesse and these new laws, if the Left insists on EVs, then why are they making it harder to build them?

"Joe Biden banned mining in 225,000 acres of Minnesota's Iron Range, and locked up development of taconite, copper, nickel, cobalt, platinum-group elements, and more," Rep. Pete Stauber, R-Minn., lamented on Jan. 26.

Democrats blocked the Twin Metals mine, home to 34% of U.S. copper, 88% of American cobalt, and 95% of domestic nickel reserves. Thanks to Team Biden, this all remains underground.

If Democrats shutter domestic sources for EV-component minerals, where else would they be?

China.

A typical EV's 1,000-pound battery requires 25 pounds of lithium, 30 pounds of cobalt, 60 pounds of nickel, 90 pounds of copper, and 110 pounds of graphite.

Naturally, China possesses or processes 60% of the earth's lithium, 80% of cobalt, 5% of nickel, 43% of copper, and up to 80% of graphite.

It is theatrically absurd for Democrats to seal the mines whose contents compose the EVs that they insist Americans purchase. Instead, to hand Red China a giant stick made of these minerals and wait for it to blackmail the U.S. is either the nadir of boneheadedness or the zenith of self-sabotage.

America must in-source these lifesaving, technology-driving materials before it's too late. If not, nosy balloons will be the least of our worries.

Tensions rise as Iran threatens Israel, reveals new underground airbase

Iranian general issues threatening message to Israel while revealing underground airbase

Iran officially revealed the first-of-its-kind underground airbase Tuesday dubbed "Eagle 44," capable of housing fighter jets and long-range cruise missiles, first reported Iranian news outlet IRNA.

An opening ceremony was reportedly attended by Iran's top military commanders, including its Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri and Army Commander Major General Abrolrahim Mousavi.



Iranian officials not only championed how the airbase will enable its military to better conduct varied operations, but struck an aggressive tone when it came to its chief adversary, Israel.

Iran's Army chief, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, and Iranian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri visit the first underground air force base, called "Eagle 44," at an undisclosed location in Iran. (Iranian Army/West Asia News Agency/Handout via REUTERS)

"Any attack on Iran from our enemies, including Israel, will see a response from our many air force bases including Eagle 44," Bagheri told state-run TV, reported Reuters.

The comments come as tension between Iran and Israel continues to escalate, particularly following the election of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who vowed to be tough on Iran from the campaign trail.

One Iranian defense expert told Fox News Digital the latest base reveal "represents a continuation of a trend we've seen in the Islamic Republic's security policy for quite some time now."

"The regime understands that long-range strike assets, particularly drones and missiles, are its most significant deterrent weapon," Behnam Ben Taleblu, a senior fellow with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies explained. "It understands the threat that these weapons pose to Iran's neighbors."

Israel and Iran have long engaged in a proxy war in Syria and covert operations across the Middle East — a shadow war Jerusalem has dubbed "the war between the wars."



A fighter aircraft is seen at the first underground air force base, called "Eagle 44," at an undisclosed location in Iran. (Iranian Army/West Asia News Agency/Handout via REUTERS)

Just weeks into the new administration, Iran accused Israel of hitting a military factory with a drone strike, though it did not provide evidence to back its accusations. Israel has not commented on the attack.

Tehran has also relied on hyperbole and the potential risk its defense space poses as Iran continues to develop its nuclear capabilities and expand its missile stockpiles.

Iran has previously revealed similar underground bases used to house missiles and drones as well as its ability to launch ballistic missiles from underground.

Ben Taleblu said Tehran "understands that without hardening, dispersing them, and making them into a more survivable force, it's not going to be able to keep these weapons."

Iran's most recent underground base also points to Tehran's shifting strategy towards defense following the collapse of the nuclear arms agreement after the U.S. pulled out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in 2018, along with the correlating five-year arms transfer ban that lapsed in 2020.

"The regime is looking at procuring some more advanced conventional systems and this base could be making the space for that," Ben Taleblu explained.

The Real Purpose of the Chinese Spy Balloon

And it comes accompanied with mocking derision.

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Once upon a time, America's greatest military strength was the creativity of its people. Our adversaries didn't know what to expect from us on the battlefield or in the planning rooms, and it instilled the strongest of emotions in our adversaries – fear.

But there is no fear coming from the leaders of Communist China following its latest provocation of sending a spy balloon over the United States. Rather, China's claims of "help" from flying a stratospheric

“research” balloon over the heart of America sounds more like mocking derision.

Perhaps we should be thankful for their incursion as a lesson in what we must do better. For one, China is helping to test our air defenses and specifically our ability to deal with what defense experts call an asymmetric threat. This test provides insights as to what we can do and what we’re willing to do, both now and in any future response to this overflight.

Those of us who’ve dedicated our lives to defending this nation deeply understand traditional air defense and appreciate the new service dedicated to controlling the domain above the air, the [Space Force](#). But between these two layers is the stratosphere, specifically the upper portion where the air is very thin. This is where the Chinese balloon was flying.

The stratosphere is a high-ground for observation and communications that, unlike the lower atmosphere and space’s low earth orbits, allows for long endurance sensing and is not crowded. Consider it an untapped growth area. Historically, the stratosphere is considered part of a country’s territorial airspace which some of America’s capability developers have explored how to exploit and dominate against any threat.

Undoubtedly, China’s real test is whether or not the American people awaken to this issue. Those who understand the strategic importance of the stratosphere have proposed concepts for using and defending it to the Pentagon, and debated the potential of balloons meandering over the adversary’s airspace.

There are many tactical considerations involved: Could an adversary do anything about a unique, slow speed stratospheric system; how might they react; is it a good exchange (using a million-dollar missile to kill a cheap floater); what could be lost with the payload; and what is the capability value?

But instead of taking some nickels and dimes from earlier \$700+ billion defense budgets to explore the risks and rewards of establishing stratospheric capabilities, our keenly focused institutional processes and mega-suppliers yielded the same old stuff – traditional air defense, jets, rockets and satellites for space, and nothing in between; the space now occupied by China.

While Washington dithered, the Chinese were either thinking the same thing or took our concept and invested their yuan into actually building, and now using, a stratospheric balloon against us. Perhaps we should thank the Chinese for allowing us to see how our own stratospheric concepts might work.

The real purpose of this Chinese research experiment was to reveal both our military capabilities and our political resolve. They’ve likely concluded we lack the political will and, likely, the capability to effectively deal with this asymmetric threat, which lingered for days over the heartland of America.

In time China and other potential adversaries, as well as our allies, will witness how we react to this spy balloon stimulus. If we sluggishly respond by dumping hundreds of millions of dollars into the lumbering, traditional defense suppliers we’d be lucky to see anything in years, they’ll learn one lesson. But if we reopen the doors to America’s agile small business development community, they’ll learn another lesson: fear of the unbounded unknown and respect.

Will this past week's events be a wake-up call to the nation? Perhaps, maybe a small one. But will it be enough to change the Defense Department and dislodge a calcified establishment into meeting new threats with new ideas? We cannot say. Either way, the world is watching.

As Japanese Admiral Yamamoto is rumored to have said after the attack on Pearl Harbor, "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve." The world knows how that story ended but we've rested on those laurels too long.

Whether the spy balloon incursion has awakened a 21st century sleeping giant depends on the American people. If it has, perhaps the best thing we can say is, 'Thanks, China.'