

The need for a new US foreign policy

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

US foreign policy is based on an inherent contradiction and fatal flaw. The aim of US foreign policy is a US-dominated world, in which the US writes the global trade and financial rules, controls advanced technologies, maintains military supremacy, and dominates all potential competitors. Unless US foreign policy is changed to recognize the need for a multipolar world, it will lead to more wars, and possibly World War III.

The inherent contradiction in US foreign policy is that it conflicts with the UN Charter, which commits the US (and all other UN member states) to a global system based on UN institutions in which no single country dominates. The fatal flaw is that the US has just 4 percent of the world population, and lacks the economic, financial, military, and technological capacities, much less the ethical and legal claims, to dominate the other 96 percent.

At the end of World War II, the US was far superior to the rest of the world in economic, technological, and military power. This is no longer the case, as many countries have built their economies and technological capacities.

President Emmanuel Macron recently spoke the truth when he said that the European Union, though an ally of the US, does not want to be a vassal of the US. He was widely attacked in the US and Europe for uttering this statement because many mediocre politicians in Europe depend on US political support to stay in power.

In 2015, US Ambassador Robert Blackwill, an important US foreign policy strategist, described US grand strategy with exceptional clarity. He wrote, "Since its founding, the United States has consistently pursued a grand strategy focused on acquiring and maintaining preeminent power over various rivals, first on the North American continent, then in the Western hemisphere, and finally globally," and argued that "preserving U.S.



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primacy in the global system ought to remain the central objective of U.S. grand strategy in the twenty-first century."

To sustain US primacy vis-à-vis China, Blackwill laid out a game plan that President Joe Biden is following. Among other measures, Blackwill called on the US to create "new preferential trading arrangements among U.S. friends and allies to increase their mutual gains through instruments that consciously exclude China," "a technology-control regime" to block China's strategic capabilities, a build-up of "power-political capacities of U.S. friends and allies on China's periphery," and strengthened U.S. military forces along the Asian rimlands despite any Chinese opposition.

Most US politicians and many in Britain, the EU, Japan, Korea, Australia, and New Zealand support the

United States' aggressive approach. I do not. I view the US approach to China as contrary to the UN Charter and peace.

China has the right to prosperity and national security, free from US provocations around its borders. China's remarkable economic accomplishments since the late 1970s are wonderful for both China and the world.

During the long century from 1839 to 1949, China was driven into extreme poverty in a period marked by European and Japanese invasions of China and Chinese civil wars. Britain invaded in 1839 to force China to buy Britain's addictive opium. Other powers piled on during the following century. China has finally recovered from that disastrous period, and in the process, ended poverty of around 1 billion people!

China's new prosperity can be both peaceful and productive for the world. China's successful technologies – ranging from vital cures for malaria to low-cost solar power and efficient 5G networks – can be a boon for the world. China will only be a threat to the extent that the US makes China into an enemy. US hostility to China, which mixes the arrogant US aim of dominance with long-standing anti-Chinese racism dating back to the 19th century, is creating that enemy.

The dangers of US foreign policy extend beyond China. The US goal to expand NATO to Ukraine and Georgia, thereby surrounding Russia in the Black Sea, helped stoke the Ukraine War. Countless nations see the danger of this approach. Major nations from Brazil to India and beyond aim for a multipolar world. All UN member states should recommit to the UN Charter and oppose claims of dominance by any nation.

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Letters...Letters...Letters...Letters...Letters...Letters...Letters...Letters...Letters...Letters...Letters...Letters...

Bring opportunities to youths in marginalized communities

Dear Editor,

At a moot held earlier this year by the International Republican Institute, facilitated by Ms. Sara Bharrat, Guyanese youths across the country were shortlisted and invited to participate in an intellectual debate as a means of valuable engagement. While I was a candidate and did not speak, I wish to share my thoughts as part of the opposition at the time, in disagreement on the subject that 'Guyanese youths have access to diverse educational and capacity building opportunities'. As such, I contend that while there exist many opportunities for Guyanese youths, there are those who are neglected and forsaken in the wider community or part of society,

in particular, marginalized youths in underdeveloped communities and households. Hence, I represent their voices which are often perceived as insignificant. These communities, often ravished by crime, violence and poverty, have skilled and talented youths who cannot access existing opportunities because they do not meet the requisite requirements. These are youths who are prone to crime and violence, dropped out of school at an early age because their families struggle to make ends meet. Their literacy levels are low, making them subjects of misdemeanors in the community. I am yet to hear of a programme, developed or crafted, to help these youths to access available

opportunities. One might say that we cannot spoon feed everyone but it is my belief that government, institutions and organisations can tailor specific programmes if we are going to change lives. Therefore we have to bring opportunities to these youths in marginalized communities.

Every day, in the media, we read about the Guyana's development; its high revenue growth, major expansion of our economy and the transformation of our skylines but this new booming economy leaves much to be desired based on what is portrayed in the media. There are many gaps yet to be filled than being talked about, in particular when it comes to our youth. If we are going to be talking about development, then this shouldn't just be about infrastructural development, constructions across the country. These things are meaningless if we fail to meet the needs of our young people who are the future of our country. There are many young people who are ambitious and seek a better life and underprivileged youths deserve every attention and right to access the same opportunities that we have. If we don't take care of our youths today, then, I fear that we don't have a bright future to look forward to.

While we hear about the visually challenged being able to write CSEC, how many visually impaired persons are able to? The numbers that we hear and read about are very low. These statistics can be quite convincing especially when we look at our recent budget, but these figures and numbers are like looking at Stabroek Market, beautiful in front but ruins at the back or like the construction of new roads

but when one travel across the country, one sees many dilapidated roads and streets filled with potholes. What am I saying is while there is development, many areas lie in waste and wreckage - many opportunities exist but a large fraction of young people feel abandoned. Several letters have been written in various newspapers calling for attention be given to youths from the ghettos. Others advocate safe spaces for youth [Juliana Lopes, SN] where she cited crime and violence as prone to ghetto communities, obviously due to lack of valuable opportunities. Similarly, she highlighted that training workshops are barely advertised "publicly as many of them are facilitated by organisations with a certain aim for desired audience." Another letter, by Mark Devonish, titled, "Give ghetto youths a ladder to climb out of that despair" related how he managed to escape the wayward life but ache for the youths who are unfortunate, unlike him. He stressed that opportunities be given for vocational and rehabilitation programmes, financial and social support.

Then there is the disabled. I am unaware of initiatives to help disabled youths. Many of them did not choose their body shape nor their bodily functions. They are humans with dreams and ambitions but how frequent are they afforded opportunities and platforms to do what they love or to excel in? No often, but yet we talk about growth, progress and educational opportunities for our young people. Every year, young people are left on the

I too am yet to receive any...

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the Ministry of Tourism, under Geoffrey DaSilva, commissioned me to produce a musical 'Guyanese Roots and Rhythms' which I wrote and directed for World Cup Cricket in 2007, staged at the Sophia Exhibition Centre.

I am appreciative of the fact that I have received an award from the Guyana Cultural Association of New York as have so many of us in and out of Guyana. I have also received a Lifetime Achievement Award for Theatre Arts from the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture in 2014 and a Women of Distinction Award from the YWCA. I am yet to receive a National Award for my 42+ years as a producer and co-producer, having staged a myriad

of productions, 250+ to date, ranging from classical and jazz concerts, comedic and dramatic plays, TV sitcoms, the popular Link Shows staged annually (1981-2022), youth theatre workshops, over 12 overseas tours to the Caribbean and North America, from 1983-2007 and the list goes on...so welcome again to the CLUB. I am forced to wonder, however, who or what committee decided on the 'Creative Arts Awards' recently made by the Theatre Guild of Guyana, not because of the persons who received them, but because of those who did not and should have.

Kind regards,
Gem Madhoo-Nascimento
Director
GEMS Theatre Productions

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