

The 9/11 Attack Terrorist Attacks Has Become A Geopolitical Gift to China

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Abstract

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, commonly known as 9/11 attack, have changed the course of history. "The twin building of World Trade centre", Newyork, and "Pentagon in Washington" was attacked by terrorists on 11 September, 2001 which not just shook the "United States(US)" but also had significant implications worldwide. 9/11 attack has brought the 'US-China relationship' closer as well. The US understood such kind of tragic events should never happen again and decided to root out the terrorist organizations and their leaders in the world and decided to go on the "War on terror". While it changed it's focus on combating terrorism and seeking justice for the victims, and making sure that such an attack could never happen again, some analysts argue that the aftermath of the 9/11 attack inadvertently became a geopolitical gift to China.

Keywords: superpower, terrorist attacks, war on terror, foreign policy, China's rise.

INTRODUCTION

The US has been recognized as the global superpower for so many decades since the "Soviet Union" dissolved and "the cold war" ended in '1991'. "Since World War II, the United States has typically played an active leadership role in global institutions." (Joe Rosenthal, 2023). When it comes to military, economy, science and technology, the US was the number one and only superpower. "With the world's largest economy, hundreds of overseas military bases, and leadership positions in various international institutions, the United States is an undeniable global power." (Joe Rosenthal, 2023). Most of the major international problems or global challenges end up involving the United States. Their focus on growing their country, strategic competitors and focusing on their allies was so perfect that it was very hard for any other country to set their foot on the same level as they are.

The US and China have had a mix of cooperative and competitive relationships since the beginning of their relationship. However, beneath the surface of cooperation, there was also underlying tensions and disagreement between them. As the US is a democratic country and China is a socialist democracy and a people's democratic dictatorship (as the government of China stated), these countries have different ideologies of leadership, which makes these countries hard to follow the same path. Before the 9/11, the US has its new 43rd president, George W. Bush. The Bush administration was actually not very fond of China. According to "the Bush administration", "they did not see China as a strategic partner", but as a "strategic competitor". "In the first stage of this cycle, the 2000 election appeared to be no exception, as presidential challenger George W. Bush sharply criticized Bill Clinton's notion of a "strategic partnership" with the PRC and proposed instead that the U.S. and China were "strategic competitors." (Richard Baum,

2001, From “Strategic Partners” to “Strategic Competitors”: George W. Bush and the Politics of U.S. China Policy, Research Gate). Formal president Clinton believed that bringing China into the World economy will help the America in greater economic interest as well as helps China to be more open to the world. He tried to normalized the relationship between these two countries. But the Bush administration brought out a completely different China policy which is very much reversal of Clinton's Policy, to increase the military capabilities, and also to sale the offensive weapons to Taiwan, as he believes that China's rise will be a threat for the America and also be struggle for the free wolrd. "PresidentBushthinks that China is a threat to free world and to the US."(Warren and Bartly, 2021, page-19-20).The US was concerned about China’s growing military capabilities and its human rights records, while China viewed the US as a potential threat to its own national security and sovereignty. The two countries continued to engage in trade and diplomatic but there were also issues such as a U.S. reconnaissance plane collides with a Chinese fighter, Taiwan issues, and the South China Sea. China thinks that the US should not be interfering in their internal affairs because China counts Taiwan and the SouthChinaSea as their own territory. 'China warns Bush over Taiwan as Washington has proposed for the US troops and allies in Asia'.(BBC news, 2001, January 19). 'China tells to stop interfering the US.'(BBC news, 2001 January 25). 'China asked US to stop selling missile technology to Taiwan.'(BBC news, 2001, March 19). The Bush administration saw China as a threat to the US as well as to its allies in East Asia and Southeast Asia and in order to keep balance of power in the region they wanted to keep China in control. China was also negotiating to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) since decades, since late 1980s. As the US plays the important role in WTO, some leaders from the US, as well as other countries were not ready to let China be part of it, the main reason was because of its trade barriers and its tariffs were high, China was not the type of country which is open in market or market access problems, and during that China was seen as developingcountry by many countries, there were some agreements and rules for China which they find it too much to follow, etc. During Clinton's administration, he promised China that he will try his best to let China in into the WTO but he could not do it. But when president Bush came into office after Clinton in January, 2001, he was not going easy on China. Many small or big issues arises between the US and China in 2001 like Taiwan issues, human rights and religious freedom, Dalai Lama, plane collides incident etc. The Bush administration finds China as a threat and was keeping its eye on China to keep China on its track as it sees China as a 'Strategic competitor '. Everything was going well, until the 9/11 attack happened and the US lost its focus on China while focusing on the War on terror and beacuse after the 9/11 attack, China had a chance to impressed the US as its allies and had a chance to maintain the relationship, as well as it was accepted to be the part of WTO and started rising, today we called 9/11 attack as 'the geopolitical gift to China'.

Research Questions

- 1 What is the 9/11 attack?
- 2 What is the impact of the 9/11 attack on the relationship between the United States and China?
- 3 How has 9/11 become a geopolitical gift to China?

Objectives

The objective of this study are as follows:

- 1 To find out what is the 9/11 attack
- 2 To find out how the 9/11 attack has brought the change to the relationship between the US and China

3 To find out how the 9/11 attack has become a geopolitical gift to China

Significance of the study

Studying about this topic is very important because it has affected the US very much as well as its relationship with China. China had better chances to grow after the 9/11 attack as the US became more closer to China politically, economically, scientifically, and militarily as well after the 9/11 attack. The US focus on growing economy was distracted by the “war on terror” and that is why some experts called the 9/11 attack was a “geopolitical gift to China” because China has better chance to grow after that incident. Today, China has been growing continuously, it has become the second most powerful country in the world and China is also having tensions like economic and defence issues with the US. There is competition going on between these two superpowers. To know today’s tension between these two countries, it is important to know their history. We need to find out the history, how the only superpower country, the US, lost its focus on its track and how China took the advantage of it to grow and become the second most powerful country in the world so fast.

Literature Review

Since World War II, and the 'Soviet Union ' dissolved in 1991, the United States had been superpower country, the strongest country economically, politically, scientifically, technologically and militarily.(Joe Rosenthal, 2023).

There were many issues between the U.S and China. Since the 'Tiananmen Square' incident, the US and the other countries has trust issues on China because of it's human rights policy.(Richard Wike, 2014). After the 'Tiananmen Square' incident, the US has different views on China and stop working with China. There was no more student exchanges for cholarship, suspended military sales, economic exchanges were suspended, there was no more exchanges between these two countries' officials.(Office of Historian, 2018).

To make these tensions worst, China did a test firing missiles near the 'Taiwan Strait' in 1995 and 1996.(Andrew Scobell, 1999).

Seeing the Chinese being aggressive in 'Taiwan Strait', the US being on the side of Taiwan responded by sending aircraft carriers close to the 'Taiwan Strait ', for which the US was warned by China for interfering in between.(Patrick E Tyler, 1996)

Tensions grew between the two nations but on October 28, 1997, when president of China met president of the US Clinton, while he visited Washington, it somehow ended the tensions as president Clinton decided to work with China again after many years.(U.S. Department of State, 1998).

There were student exchanges, economy exchanges, and official exchanges between these two countries again. But when the Chinese embassy in Yugoslavia was accidentally bombed by the US NATO and killed 3 people, the tensions grew again. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs The People's Republic of China).

However, when the US president Clinton agreed on China’s entry to WTO in November, the tensions went down. Unfortunately, he was not able to do it until his last days of administration. After president Clinton, 'George w. Bush' became a president of the US.(Miller center).

The new president of the US, George W. Bush was very though on China, he sees China as a "Strategic competitor" instead of "Strategic partner".(Richard Baum, 2001).

Previous president, Clinton believed that bringing China into the World economy will help the US to grow more but the new president, Bush, believes that China is a threat to the US and it will disturb the free

world.(Warren and Bartly, 2021, page-19-20).

Bush started saling weapons to Taiwan as soon as he became a president, for which China warned the US not to interfere.(BBC news, 2001, January 19), (BBC news, 2001, January 25), (BBC news, 2001, March 19).

During 2001, April 1, the US military aircraft and Chinese military jet fighter crashed over the 'South China Sea', Chinese pilot died on the scene and was never able to find his body, which was a very sad moment for China, knowing that the accident was caused by the mistake of chinese pilot, the president of the US did not apologize and instead he said in a television interview that "if the island came under attack from China, he would order 'Whatever it took ' to help Taiwan defend itself." It was clear to knowthat new presidentoftheUSwas not very fond of China.(David E. Sanger, 2001).

The US was under attack by the terrorist in New York City as well as in pentagon on 2001, September 11. Four commercial airplanes were hijacked by terrorists and crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Centre and pentagon. One was crashed in Pennsylvania field after passengers tries to fight back the terrorist. It killed thousands of people. (BBC news, 2025).

This 9/11 attack had a big impact on Americans and their foreign policy, international relations, global security, and American society as well.(Phillip H. Gordon, 2001).

It was not the first terrorist attack in the US but ut was the deadliest terrorist attack. After seeing how it has destroyed the city and hurt people. The president of the US, promised his people that he will root out all the terrorist organizations and leaders and take revenge for what they have doneto the people of America. On September 18, with the authority of the 'Joint resolution from congress' to use "all necessary and appropriate force", Bush announced to start the 'Global War On Terror'. The US started to send military troops to 'Afghanistan' around October, 2001 and started the operation. The US also warned Taliban military organizations or anyone else if they support the terrorist organizations they will faced the same fate.(Stephen J, feaver, 2023).

196 countries supported this "GWOT" to fight against terrorist groups. During 2001, more than 69 countries helped the US in this operations and more than 20 countries even sent military troops to fight with the US against terrorists. It was not the fight only for the US but it was the fight for the world against terrorism. (US Dept of Defense Address the Pentagon, Washington D.C 20301, United States, 2002).

The GWOT led to the military occupations in 'Afghanistan and Iraq'. The US with the help of coalition leaders all over the world went on the war and even get to capture many terrorist lieutenants and leaders of the terrorist organizations. 'Osama bin Laden ', the founder of terrorists organizations like 'AL-Qaeda' were a.so killed in the operation. China also played a very importantrole in this GWOT.(Zekeriyya AKDAĞ, 2022).

After the 9/11, China's president Ziang Zemin, called Bushm the president of the US, and talked with him. Sending condolences and promising the US that China is against terrorism and will fight with the US.(Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN, 2001).

The US realized that it has to changed it's national security and it started focusing on having allies all the world and that is how China started becoming close to the US. The US started seeing Vhina as a 'Strategic partner' after the 9/11. They even started working together economically, scientifically, technologically, politically as well. China has become important to the US over a year and the US even started attending summits in China, Olympics in China etc. The US even stop saling weapons to Taiwan putting China first. After China successfully entry in 'World Trade Organization(WTO)', it started growing so fast. America was criticized by the world for 'Iraq war', while China was growing continuously and making its way to

the world's superpower.(Tom Wicker, 2005, June 15).

Focusing on the GWOT instead of China was a huge mistake made by the US. The US thought it was the terrorism, who will bring them down but did not realized that it's own alliance was gonna be it's biggest competition one day. The 'war on terror' has drained the US financially, wasted its time and people's lives as well.(Dan De Luce, 2021, October 17)

Because the US was focused on the 'War on terror', China could grow faster and today it has become the second largest economy in the world and it is standing in front of the US as it's competition. 9/11 was like a 'window open' for China. It is the best 'geopolitical gift to China ' because only after the 9/11, China had a chance to grow and show the world, what it is capable of. (Yun Sun 2021).

Summary of the literature review

Before 9/11, the US and China had a complex relationship with tensions. There was a trust issues in between because of 'Tiananmen Square' incident and because of Chinese market which is not free, human rights issues in China, it was not agreed to be part of WTO by many countries. But after 9/11 attack in the US, the US started working together with China, in order to led counter terrorism all over the world to prevent such attacks(9/11 attack) again. On December, 2001, China succesfully joined the WTO and since then China has been growing continuously very fast. The US started focusing on the 'War on terror' instead of China for many decades, which drained them financially, wasted their time, and People's lives as well. While the US was focused in fighting terrorist, invading 'Afghanistan and Iraq', China started influencing its economy all over the world focusing on getting stronger. The US was criticized by the world for 'Iraq war' while China was positioning itself to emerge as the global superpower. When the US realized China's growing influences, it was too late. Today China is standing next to the US, as it's biggest competition for the superpower. That is why, many scholars says that, 9/11 attack was a 'geopolitical gift to China' it was like opening a window for China to grow globally.

The 9/11 attack

The 9/11 attacks, also known as the September 11 attacks, was a series of coordinated terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, carried out by AL-Qaeda , an Islamist extremist group, during the Bush administration in the United States. "On Tuesday 11 September 2001, suicide attackers seized US passenger jets and crashed them into two New York skyscrapers, killing thousands of people."(BBC news, 2025, September 11 attacks: What happened on 9/11?). On September 11, 2001, the four commercial airplanes were hijacked by terrorists group called as Al-qaeda which was lead by Osama bin Laden. The two airplanes , American Airline Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175, crashed in the North and South towers called as the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York City. The twin towers collapse due to crashes and subsequent fire, killing thousands of people who work in that building. It also killed police officers and firefighters who were trying to fight the fire and rescue people from the twin towers. Another airplane, American Airline Flight 77, crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the fourth airplane, United Airlines Flight 93, crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after passengers of that airplane attempted to overpower the hijackers. There are nearly 3000 people who died in the attack and more than 6000 people were injured. People from more than 70 countries died in this incident. All 19 terrorists who hijacked the planes also died at the scene. It was not the first terrorist attack in the US but it was the deadliest terrorist attacks in history. "Almost 3,000 people were killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, including the 19 al Qaeda terrorists. The shocking events of September 11 were televised globally

and left much of the world reeling in horror."(September 11 Attacks, 2010, <https://www.history.com/articles/9-11-attacks>).

The 9/11 attack had a big impact on Americans and their foreign policy, international relations, global security, and American society as well. "9/11 attack has made the 'US' changed its relationship and engagement with other countries in the world."(Philip H. Gordon, 2001). It was not the first terrorist attack in the 'US' but it was the most horrific and deadliest terrorist attack. There were full of cries and anger in their hearts for their people who died in the incident. Seeing the cries, fear and anger in his people's eyes, the president of the US, promised that he will root out all the terrorist organizations and its extremist leaders for what they have done to the US and its people. On September 18, a 'Joint resolution from congress' gave President Bush, its authority to use "all necessary and appropriate force" against whoever have planned and instigated the attack. After two days, the president announced publicly about the start of 'Global War On Terror(GWOT)', and that is how the War on Terror started. "President George W. Bush promised his people to "win the war against terrorism," and even asked Taliban leaders to hand over the terrorists hiding in their land or else they will also face the same fate."(Councils on foreign relations, 2025).

War on Terror

When America was attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001, it was like waking a great lion up from his sleep. "The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks jolted the international community into realizing the seriousness of the threat posed by terrorists. Resolution 1368 of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, adopted the next day, condemned the September 11 attacks and stressed that those responsible for aiding, supporting or harboring the perpetrators, organizers, and sponsors (including states) of these acts should be held accountable"(Ishihara Yusuke, 2007, East Asian Strategic). America has become insured after the 9/11 attack about the terrorism.(Huddy, L., & Feldman, S., 2011). After the 9/11 attack, the "war on terror" was announced by the president of the US(George W. Bush), as he pledged to take action against terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda. "Clearly, after 9/11, the first responsibility of the American president was to defend and protect the country."(Stephen J. Feaver, 2023, Hands-Off, Brookings Institution Press). It was not even a month since the September 11 attacks, but the US military was ordered to move to Afghanistan after getting information from intelligence that terrorist groups are residing in Afghanistan.(Matthew Green, 2017, September 8). America launched airstrikes on 'Afghanistan' in 2001, October 7, in response to September 11 attack. "On October 7, 2001, the President announced that the United States had begun military action in Afghanistan. The initial strikes were against al-Qaeda terrorist training camps and Taliban military installations. In addition to military action, the United States and Coalition allies would provide humanitarian aid to the citizens of Afghanistan."(Global war on terror, n.d., www.georgewbushlibrary.gov). The US President Bush aimed to take out all the terrorist organizations all over the world with the help of his global allies, and so he decided to go on the war on terror. "I became a wartime president. And my administration had to adjust its focus accordingly. After the 9/11 attacks, my responsibility was to lead the country in its psychological and economic recovery and to make sure that such attack could never happen again."(Stephen J. Feaver, 2023).

The War on Terror encompasses various military, political, and legal actions, including:

1. Afghanistan War (2001-2021): The invasion and occupation of 'Afghanistan' to defeat 'al-Qaeda and the Taliban.'

2. Iraq War (2003-2011): The invasion of 'Iraq', initially justified by the claim that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction.
3. Drone strikes and special operations: Targeted killings and raids against terrorist suspects in countries like Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia.
4. Homeland security: Enhanced security measures and surveillance in the United States to prevent terrorist attacks.
5. Global military presence: Expansion of US military bases and deployments in the 'Africa, Middle East, and Asia.'

After 9/11 attack, the world has witnessed a relentless effort to combat terrorism and ensure the safety and security of civilians around the globe. This declaration was like the bringing of the new era in international relationships, characterized by an increased focus on countering the terrorism efforts and the use of military troops to combat extremist organizations. Over the years, the 'war on terror' was evolved and expanded to encompass a wide range of activities, from drone strikes and special operations to intelligence gathering and international cooperation. More than 20 countries around the world have joined forces to dismantle terrorist networks, disrupt their financing, and prevent attacks before they occur. Global coalition of military equipments, operations, thousands of troops were sent to counter attack the terrorist helping the US in War OnTerror. "To date, there are 69 nations supporting this war with 20 nations having deployed over 16,000 troops to the U.S. Central Command's region of responsibility." (US Dept of Defense Address the Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301, United States, 2002).

As the president of the US, Bush, aimed to go search and kill the terrorist leaders, who have ordered the attacks in the US on September 11. The 'war on terror' went on for many years, continuous operations of the military were held in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and so on. President Bush and his administration ended as the war goes on and during president Obama's presidency, in May, 2011, the military was able to successfully kill 'Osama bin Laden', who was known as the founder and leader of the terrorist organization 'AL-Qaeda'. He was killed in Pakistan, during a raid by the United States Navy SEALs at his compound in Abbottabad. "US president Barack Obama has announced that Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda, was killed on Sunday in a US operation in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad, about 60km north of Islamabad." (Aljazeera news, 2011). Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a top lieutenant of Bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri, helped found al-Qaeda, Saddam Hussein, former leader of Iraq, Saif al-Adel, all of them leaders of terrorists organizations and thousands and thousands of terrorists were killed, successive leaders of Al-Qaeda like Abu Zubaydah, KSM and other terrorists were also captured and detained during the operation in the war on terror. "Abu Zubaydah, KSM, successive AQ leaders who replaced them, and other AQ operatives involved with the 9/11 attacks have been captured and detained and await trial for war crimes. In addition, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and other AQ lieutenants have been killed in military operations abroad." (Stephen J. Feaver, 2023, Hands-Off, Brookings Institution Press). It was called the 'Global War On Terror (GWOT)', because 196 countries have supported in this war financially.

Despite the successes achieved in the 'war on terror', the threat of the terrorism continues to persist globally. There were around or more than 7000 United States Armed Forces who died during the war on terror and more than 52,000 US troops who were badly wounded, and many good civilians as well. (Matthew Green, 2017, September 8). For more than two decades the US spend millions and millions of money on their supplies, wars, equipments and so on, which some scholars say that the War on terror was a waste of time, waste of money and waste of people's life.

The relationship between the US and China before the 9/11 attack

The relationship between the US and China has never been smooth, they are always on and off when it comes to their relationship. Before 1989, the US and China somehow had a good relationship. However, the Tiananmen incident in 1989 have turned their warm relationship down. ", America's relationship with China was very different than it is today. Before that event, the American public generally had a favorable view of China, and as the Tiananmen protests unfolded, most Americans wanted to show support for the pro-democracy movement. But in the years since, economic ties and economic competition have become the dominant topics between the two nations, while at the same time the relationship has become more distrustful." (Richard Wike, 2014). Their high level of exchanges in economy as well as exchanging students for scholarship studies were also suspended. Because of China's human rights issues, America has view china in a completely different way. "In the aftermath, President George H.W. Bush denounced the actions in Tiananmen Square and suspended military sales as well as high level exchanges with Chinese officials." (Office of the Historian, 2018). To make it worse, 'People's Liberation army (PLA)' test fire in 1995 near the 'Taiwan Strait'. Again in 1996 March, the military exercise were ran by Chinese government and test missiles, test firing much more nearer than 1995 test firing, for which the US responded by directing the aircraft carriers close to 'Taiwan strait'. "According to (Andrew Scobell, 1999), it (China) also did military exercises and missile testing nearby to Taiwan strait around June 1995 and March 1996.". According to China, Taiwan and China is one China. "China thinks that the U.S should not interfere in their internal affairs" but as "Taiwan" claim themselves as a different country from China and as they had a different government, the US sees Taiwan as an independent island as a part of China and the US also maintain unofficial relations with Taiwan and they also provides military support to the territory. "China warns the United States today to keep its naval forces away from the Taiwan Strait." (Patrick Tyler, 1996).

However in October 28, 1997, Jiang zemin visited Washington and met president Clinton, which ended their problems and president Clinton decided to work together with China again in order to build a strategic partner." As part of his October 26-November 3, 1997 state visit to the United States, Chinese President Jiang Zemin met with President Clinton October 28 and 29. His was the first state visit to the U.S. by a Chinese president in 12 years." ('U.S Department of State', 1998). They started exchanging high amounts of students to study by scholarships and little by little their relationships were coming back to how it was before. But then other problems arises between the US and China. Chinese embassy was accidentally bombed by American military in May 1999 in Belgrade and killed three Chinese journalist. "According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs The People's Republic of China, in 11:45, 7 May 1999 local time (or 5:45 early morning of May 8, Beijing time), the US-led NATO fired five bombs at the Chinese Embassy in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from different directions (four of them exploded right away). Three Chinese journalists posted in Yugoslavia (Shao Yunhuan, a lady journalist from Xinhua News Agency, Xu Xinghu of Guangming Daily and his wife Zhu Ying) were hit and died heroically, 21 diplomatic personnel in the Embassy were wounded, and the Embassy properties were seriously damaged."

People in China, went out for rally and even threw stones to American embassy in Beijing in anger. The US apply for the accident but Chinese people and Chinese leaders were not happy with it. "The bombing triggered widespread protests across China and has been commemorated ever since as part of its "national humiliation" and shared historical grievance." (Liu Zhen, 2024). However on November, the US finally decided to agreed on "China's entry into the World Trade Organization(WTO)", which they have been asking for so many years and their problems went slow down. But because of complications in agreements

between China and the members of WTO about China's market and trade policy, they were not able to cooperate and succeed till the US administration was changed to new government or administration. "George W. Bush is inaugurated as the 43rd President of the United States after president Clinton." (Miller center).

Because of China's human rights, there were lots of American leaders who hated China. They think China is a threat to America as well as to America's allies in the Asia region, Hilary Clinton and George W. Bush were one of them. George W. Bush was completely different from previous president. He even criticized China for its human rights issues during his campaign for the president in 1999 and when he finally came to the office in 2001 as the new president of the America, he brought completely different administration from Clinton. President Bush sees "China as a strategic competitor". "Bush criticized President Bill Clinton's Administration saying, "China is a competitor, not a strategic partner." (Candy Crowley, 1999, CNN). Bush also sped up the sales of advanced weapons to Taiwan as he sees China has been trying to control them as the military of China is stronger than Taiwan. China warns Bush over Taiwan as Washington has proposed for US troops and allies in Asia on January 19, 2001. (BBC news, 2001). China asked the US to stop selling missile technology to Taiwan. (BBC news, 2001). China also tells to stop interfering US on January 25, 2001. (BBC news). After his three months of being in office, on April 1, 2001, a US Navy EP-3 military aircraft crashed with military jet fighter from China over the 'South China Sea'. 24 crew members made an unauthorized landing on the Chinese military airfield in Hainan island. The America crew members were detained for 11 days and sent back to America after 11 days. On April 11, 2021, Chinese people demanded for an apology from America but the America did not apologize for what happened but instead president Bush on April 25 in a TV interview, said that, "America will do whatever it takes to support Taiwan and make sure Taiwan is safe", as the fault was clearly because of chinese pilot, which makes China angry and after that incident many anti-Americans came out in China, more than ever. "In a television interview, President Bush said that if China attack Taiwan by chance, he would do anything to help Taiwan to fight back China." (David E. Sanger, 2001, Newyork times). The US with its new administration and China were not getting along. Bush administration was very tough on China unlike president Clinton.

The 9/11 attack terrorist attacks has become a geopolitical gift to China

After 9/11 attack, America was in chaos. President and his administration were thinking what to do next. When America was in chaos because of 9/11 attack, president of China, Jiang zemin, in what was seen as a high pointing US-China relations and to point out about the 'Urghur terrorist threat', that Urghur terrorist is not a local terrorist but a worldwide terrorist, and to offered a deep condolences and his sympathy to president George Bush through telegraph to show him that China is against the terrorism and promised to support the US in counter terrorism. "President Ziang Zemin offered a deep condolencethrough the telegraph and talk with President Bush after the 9/11 attack." ("Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN", 2001, September 13). "United States" had to change "the National security", strategic priorities which involve creating new institutions re-purposing existing ones, enhancing intelligence sharing, obtaining new legislative and legal authorities, and strengthening and expanding international partners. "America needed to change its national security in order to fight the war on terrorism, because it needed the help of other countries or leaders to cooperate in it." (Sam Hananel, 2021, September 10). The US shifted its foreign policy towards combating terrorism and promoting national security. "The attention of America was shifted to war on terror." (Dan De Luce, 2021, October 17). After

the incident, America clearly knew that they have to wipe out terrorism and started anti-terrorism, in which China also took part pointing out the 'Urghur resistance terrorist' and that is how their relationship started to changed. Both countries started working together economically, scientifically, militarily, politically. That led to the occupation of 'Afghanistan' in 2001, and Iraq in early 2002 and 2003, as part of more extensive 'war on terror'. According to "George W. Bush Library, Global War on Terror", "Afghanistan was invaded in October, 2001 by the US troops and Iraq was invaded in early 2002 and 2003.". The prolonged conflicts in these countries drained American resources, both in terms of financially and human capital. The focus on military counter terrorism operations meant that other regions , including Asia, received less attention from the US. The war on terror strained America's relationship with its traditional allies, creating rifts in the transatlantic alliance and weakening its position as a global leader and as the US became embroiled in controversies military campaigns and faced criticism for its foreign policy decisions. "America was badly criticized for Iraq war as it was not able to find the 'Weapon's of Mass Destruction and many civilians death."(Tom Wicker, 2005, June 15). China positioned itself as a more stable and predictable actor to be the international arena while America was busy fighting war on terror and America, after 9/11 attack, instead of opposing China, president Bush saw an interest in aligning with Beijing. President Bush participated in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit the following month (September) in Shanghai and from that moment their relationship improved dramatically. On December 11, 2001, China finally enters the WTO and from that moment China Started to grow. America and China have cooperate in nuclear crisis, human rights, anti-terrorism, and economy as well. China worked with the US and initiated a six-party talk between 2003-2007. Both country started to grow close economically as well as politically. The US even stop supplying to Taiwan because of maintaining its relationship with China. The America's Congress pressures Bush administration to be though on China, as there were issues like unfair trade, manipulation of the value of its currency and also sometimes China acts though on America's request to talk with North Korea on nuclear issues and religious freedom issues etc. However Bush administration handled it smoothly by talking straight to China and asking for cooperation instead of going hard on them. Bush remained committed to China until his last year of presidency. When there was an Olympic opening in China in 2008, in Beijing, Hilary Clinton and Congress leaders and even other countries leaders asked Bush not to attend the Olympic opening ceremony in China but Bush ignored them and attended the ceremony knowing that China is one of the most important strategic partner for him and his country. According to "George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China, 2023", "For president Bush, China was the most bilateral relationship in te world and without each other both these countries cannot grow stronger."What his administration does not know was that even though China supported the US in countering terrorism, the 9/11 attack had no impact on China. China did not have to change its foreign policy and strategic priorities, it has nothing to lose and that is why China could easily grow itself peacefully without any disturbance by any other country or the US. The "War on terror" for two decades has allowed "China to rise" as a major player globally."America put aside China for nearly two decades focusing on the War on Terror."(Dan De Luce, 2021, October 17). With "the U.S." distracted with "military operations in the Middle East", Chinese influence was expanding "in Asia-Pacific region", and in other areas as well. "The US government" made a huge mistake focusing on the war on terror instead of China and by the time when new president Barack Obama entered the office 'white house', it was too late because he cannot just retreat from fighting the terrorism suddenly and the "Global war on terror" carried on for another years."Focusing on the global war on terror instead of China was the huge mistake of the US."(Dan De Luce, 2021, October 17). The Chinese government took advantage of its opportunity and work very

hard to strengthen its economic ties with neighbouring countries, invest in infrastructure projects and assert its presence in international forums, staying very close as an ally to the US, which the US never had realized earlier till China shocked the world by its continuously economic growth in 2016 for the first time. The 9/11 attack was like opening a window of strategic opportunity for China. (Yun Sun, 2021). Today China is so developed and strong economically, militarily, politically, as well as scientifically. And with that 9/11 attack has become the 'geopolitical gift to China'.

Methodology

This research has used a qualitative approach. It is a secondary research collected and analysed from books, news, articles, and journals, which are related to the topic of the research paper ["9/11 attack was a geopolitical gift to China"].

Data collection

The data for this research paper was collected from primary types of secondary resources, which are:

1. Books: This study has used recognize books by the academic related to the topic from the library.
2. News articles: The sources were used from relevant news, articles and journals like BBC news, Newyork times, "PRC" news which are government's recognising news. Sources were also taken from articles which are recognized by academics. Some sources were also used from the US and China's government's official websites.

Data Analysis

The collected sources were analyzed by using Thematic Analysis to find the key themes and patterns comparing sources from Journals, articles and news.

Limitations

This study lacks primary data like interviews, and surveys. It is used completely from the secondary data collected from governmental recognize news, articles and journals recognize by academics etc.

Findings

The study found that "US-China" relationship was not stable after the "Tiannanmen Square incident". Because of what happened in that incident "China" was known for its human right issues, countries have trust issues on them, countries put sanctions on them, it also has a very low chances to grow and get accepted in the "WTO" because of it and its market systems, countries like America sees "China as a strategic competitors". The study also found that the terrorist attacks on America(9/11 attack) has hurt America so much and it has also led to changed the systems and "national security" of America as they started to go on "GWOT". The "US-China" relationship grew better as soon as America changes its "national security", "China" was accepted to enter the "WTO", which made China grow so fast, they also started working together in "countering terrorism", which made them closer economically, scientifically, militarily, politically, technologically. Coalition allies helps America during "GWOT" in "countering terrorism", which went on for decades. The study also found that because of it's focus on "GWOT", America did not realize China's growing influences in the world and when they realized, it was already too late because "Administration of Obama" cannot just return suddenly from it's operation in "Iraq and

Afghanistan", so the "GWOT" still goes on for another decade. The study found that "9/11 terrorist attack" has played as a very important role in China's growing. It was like a "geopolitical gift to China" or "opening a window for China". Many scholars says that, if there was no "9/11 terrorist attack", the relationship of the "US-CHINA" would not have gotten better, China would not have a chance to grow like this. Some scholars also argue that, America had made a big mistake focusing on "GWOT" instead of "China", and the "GWOT" was a waste of time, waste of finance, and People's lives because at the end of the day, they were not able to eliminate all the terrorist organizations all over the world(which was their aim). Today China is standing as the greatest competition of America and we never know maybe it might even surpass America soon.

Conclusion

Today, when people talk about the Bush administration, the 9/11 attack remains the defining event of the Bush presidency. Some scholars, when they discuss China's rising, still talk about it that it would not have been easy for China to grow like this if there had no 9/11 attack and if the United states had not focused only on the "War on Terror". Some scholars even say that it was such a waste of time, money, and human lives because at the end the great "US" was not able to wipe out terrorism all over the world but instead by focusing on the "War On Terror", they did not realize their own competition until it was too late.

While "9/11 attacks" was a tragedy that had devastating consequences for the "United States" and as well as to every part of the world, it has also changed the security systems in the world, they also inadvertently served as a "geopolitical gift to China", as China got a chance to show and prove the world about their human rights issues after jkinig "WTO" and also they had a chance to grow in economy as well. "The War on Terror" following "9/11 attack" has allowed "China" to expand it's influence, strengthen its relationships, and solidify its position as a rising power in global politics. Today, "China" is standing as the greatest competition of "US". There has been "tariff war" going on in between for years now, and we never know may be after some years "China" might even surpass "the great US" and might become the "new superpower in the world".

Note of Thanks

- I want to give my heartfelt thanks to my Guide, "Prof. Dr. Biradar Digambar Devidas", for his encouragement and instructions throughout my research. He have helped me improved my research with his feedbacks. This research paper is the part of my doctoral thesis, which made it even more special.
- I am also thankful to the faculty members and staffs from the Department of Political Science, KJ Somaiya College of arts, com & science, Kopargaon, for providing me good environment and availability essential resources.
- Lastly, I want to thank my loving family for encouraging me everyday and supporting me financially and emotionally throughout my studies for this research paper.

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