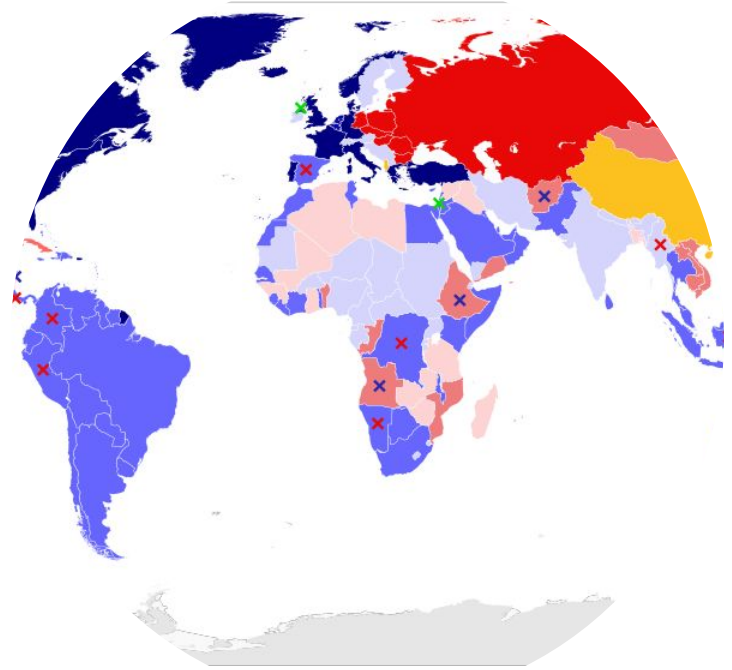


**“How has China emerged since the Cold War era and how has it grown into a significant world power”**



# What is the cold war?

**Cold War:** A period of tension between the capitalist USA and the communist USSR that developed after World War II and lasted from 1945-1990.

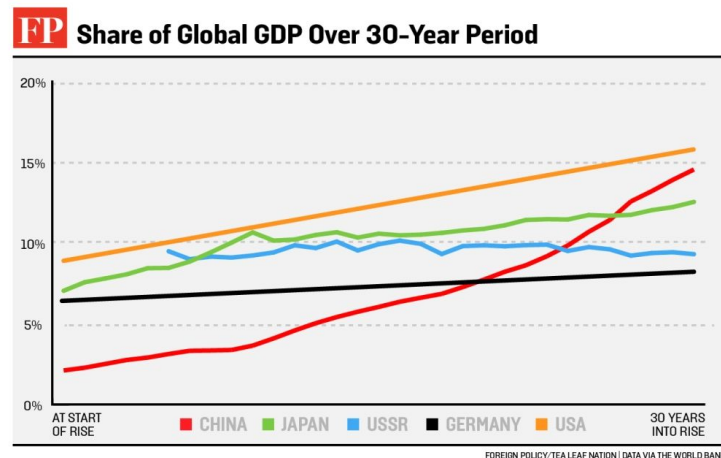
It was also the period when nuclear weapons, and systems to deliver them, were perfected adding to the tension.

*Soviet Union countries* - Moldova, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Ukraine.

# China's GDP

China, 1982 - After the Communist Party completed its sixth five-year plan, China started to grow economically, initiating a new era of economic reform and opening to foreign trade.

In 1982, China accounted for 2.2 % of global output. However, in 2012, China produced 14.6% of the world's GDP. These figures show how rapidly China is growing, compared to that of other global superpowers.



“China suffers from weaknesses as well. If you look at its GDP, China is the second largest in the world. But if you measure GDP per capita, it is still a middle-income country. You also see weaknesses even in areas where it is catching up to advanced capitalist powers. For instance, Huawei mobile phone, which is now a world brand, was developed not just by its own Chinese scientists, but more importantly, by hiring four hundred Japanese scientists. This shows that China was and is still heavily reliant on foreign human resources for research and development.”

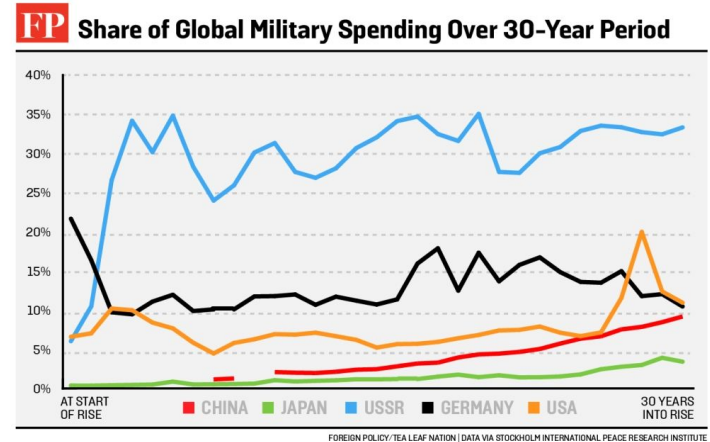
- International Socialist Review

# China's military spending

China's share of world arms spending has advanced slower than its share of global GDP and trade.

During the 1990s, and then again during the 2000s, China nearly tripled its share of global military outlays.

The Defense Department estimated that China's total military-related expenditures for 2012 lies between \$135 billion and \$215 billion.

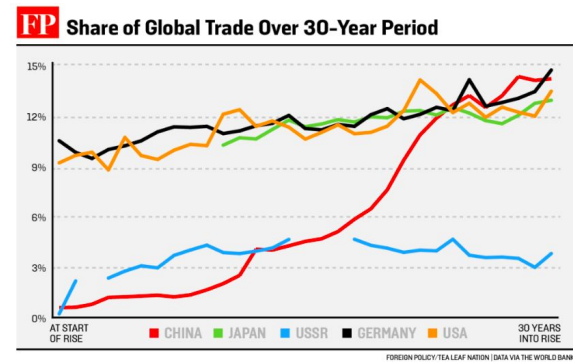


# China's trading power

In just thirty years, China has skyrocketed in terms of its trading, going from just 0.6% globally to now being the second largest trading power and trading around 14% just behind Germany who trade 14.9% of the total figure. The reason for this increase is due to many things but the main factor was containerisation as china has a large shipping market and also a sizeable production market leading to an even bigger need for trade and consequently - containerisation.

In 1995, the value of China's trade of goods was \$280.9 billion - 3 percent of global trade. By 2018, this figure had jumped to \$4.6 trillion amounting to 12.4 percent of global trade. The US - 11.5 percent of total trade, followed by Germany with 7.7 percent.

<https://chinapower.csis.org/trade-partner/>



**Growing world power:** <https://isreview.org/issue/112/chinas-rise-world-power>

### **The land mass -**

The size of china extends out to the very edges of the natural borders between countries; it is surrounded by mountains (Himalayas), deserts and nomadism (people that travel from place to place to find fresh pasture for animals and have no permanent home). The size of china has often had a poor influence on the stability of it government, being particularly prone to rebellions, warlordism (warlord: a leader able to exercise military, economic and political control over a subnational territory) as well as weak governments.



The land mass can be seen as a soft power method in itself, intimidating other countries into submission at the threat of being in conflict with one of the largest countries in the world. The physical geography is important to consider; its constricting China from comfortably being able to conquer less dominant regions, but also it weakens China politically. Perhaps if China was smaller, it would have risen to be a global power much sooner than it has.

“China has other advantages that other countries do not have; it is huge, not just in size of territory, but also in population. Since the 1990s, China has been able to have a division of labor within three parts of the country. Guangdong has a labor-intensive export processing zone. The Zhejiang delta is also export oriented, but it is much more capital extensive. Around Beijing, China has developed its high tech, communication, and aviation industry. This diversification is part of the state’s conscious strategy to develop itself as an economic power.”  
International Socialist Review

## **Growing world power:**

### **China's economy -**

#### **What has caused the economic rise to power?**

1. The reorientation of production within global capitalism.

During the period of colonisation, many of the colonies linked China to the world economy even before its full entry into the world system. Hong Kong played a huge part in China's modernisation and development, without it China would not have been able to import as much technology. It used Hong Kong as a way to gain access to a foreign currency, to take advantage of its skilled labour force and import technology. Taiwan was also very important for capital investments, but more importantly for its technology transfer. Hong Kong and Taiwanese investors were also one of the key reasons for rapid growth in three Chinese provinces.

2. The “privilege of historical backwardness” - Leon Trotsky

Mao Zedong's Communist Party took advantage of the country's precapitalist past. It inherited a strong absolutist state that it would retool and use for its project of national economic development. Later, China drafted its labor force from the countryside into the big cities to work as cheap labor in export processing zones. They made nearly 300 million rural migrants work like slaves in sweatshops. Thus, the backwardness of China's absolutist state and class relations offered the Chinese ruling class advantages to develop both state and private capitalism. China's backwardness also made it possible for it to leap over stages of development, skipping straight to advanced capitalist methods of development, particularly in technology.



<https://isreview.org/issue/112/chinas-rise-world-power>