

Preface

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The German philosopher Georg Hegel once famously said, “*We learn from history that man can never learn anything from history.*” As ironic as it may sound, it has been proven by history countless times already, be it World Wars, Cold Wars or now the NATO expansion and Russo-Ukrainian War, human history has been a history about conflicts and wars. Cold War itself is not an exception.

It is often put that Cold War in the last century is a fight, a competition, a rivalry, a battleground between the Proletariat and the Bourgeoisie. Then, what does these phrases mean? Certainly, when we discuss the origins of these two distinct classes, we have to travel back millennia into history. However, if we are simply tracing the origins of these two terms with the context in mind, it would be much easier. In order to understand these two terms, look no further than the Marxist theory established by German philosopher Karl Marx (1818 – 1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820 – 1895). Defined in Marx’s famed work, *the Communist Manifesto*, he wrote,¹

The place of manufacture was taken by the giant, Modern Industry; the place of the industrial middle class by industrial millionaires, the leaders of the whole industrial armies, the modern bourgeois.

Hence, the bourgeoisie are those who took over the means of production, which is what we, humans use to create product or value. In this case of a capitalist society, the factories, raw materials, tools, lands etc.² In contrast, when discussing about the proletariat, he wrote,³

¹ Karl Marx and Friedrich Engles. 2015. “The Communist Manifesto.” *London: Penguin Books*: 15.

² UMassAmherst. “Radical Social theory: Basic Definitions of Marxian Concepts.” Accessed 16th July, 2023.

³ Karl Marx. “The Communist Manifesto.” 18.

[T]he modern working class [are called] the proletarians... [They are] a class of labourers... who must sell themselves piecemeal, [and] are a commodity, like every other article of commerce.

Proletarians are, in Marx's eyes, treated with no differences with other assets. Then, we can certainly view the competition between the two classes only in a micro-sense, focusing on individuals, between workers and capitalists. However, does the struggle between the two only involve individuals? Reality says otherwise. For the chance of any revolutions or overturning, the proletariats need to unite to form a formidable power, as the classic communism slogan implies "*Proletarians of All Countries, Unite!*", or "*Пролетарии всех стран, соединяйтесь!*", often used by leaders of the former Soviet Union. Therefore, it simply does not make any logical sense for us to purely discuss based on individuals, but more about a broader sense, in a macro scale, and hence, why the struggle can be seen across the globe in the Cold War era.

Shortly after the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, it could be said that the United States for a couple years, became the sole superpower on the planet, but the same may not be true today. Geopolitics changes rapidly, and with China's GDP growth rate constantly at more than double the global growth rate⁴, China is not a power to be neglected. Clearly the American government are also aware of the Chinese development and has input great effort to rival with the Chinese, best illustrated by various punitive tariffs, the HuaWei Meng Wanzhou (孟晚舟) incident, and the ban of Tiktok on public servant devices during the Trump administration. Hence, I would like to draw your attention to give the contemporary international relations another assessment. Could this be called as a continuation of the Cold War with China becoming the successor of the Soviet Union? Or is this in fact a whole new type of rivalry between the two states? Our talented academicians have given their answers in this Journal.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude towards everyone who has kindly contributed to this Journal – Dr. Oscar Sanchez-Sibony for his thought-provoking foreword; our various contributors, both featured or prose, for their personal insights on different matters. As Dr. Sanchez said before, that the world is in need of special views and opinions instead of a unionized and rigid viewpoint on a single matter, I am confident to say that, at the very least, the contributors of this Journal has achieved it remarkably well.

⁴ Fulya Koksoy. "The Rising Eco-Power in Global World: An Analysis over the Economic Growth Model of PRC" *Development&Growth: Economic Impacts of Globalization*, no.3, October 2018: 135.

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