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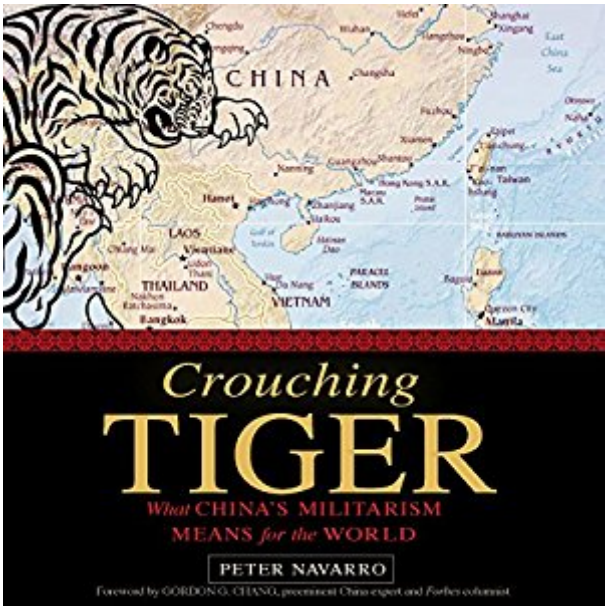
Crouching Tiger: What China's Militarism Means For The World



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Synopsis

Will there be war with China? This book provides the most complete and accurate assessment of the probability of conflict between the United States and the rising Asian superpower. Equally important, it lays out an in-depth analysis of the possible pathways to peace. Written like a geopolitical detective story, the narrative encourages listener interaction by starting each chapter with an intriguing question that often challenges conventional wisdom. Based on interviews with more than 30 top experts, the author highlights a number of disturbing facts about China’s recent military buildup and the shifting balance of power in Asia: the Chinese are deploying game-changing "carrier killer" ballistic missiles; some of America’s supposed allies in Europe and Asia are selling highly lethal weapons systems to China in a perverse twist on globalization; and, on the US side, debilitating cutbacks in the military budget send a message to the world that America is not serious about its "pivot to Asia". In the face of these threatening developments, the book stresses the importance of maintaining US military strength and preparedness and strengthening alliances, while warning against a complacent optimism that relies on economic engagement, negotiations, and nuclear deterrence to ensure peace. Accessible to listeners from all walks of life, this multidisciplinary work blends geopolitics, economics, history, international relations, military doctrine, and political science to provide a better understanding of one of the most vexing problems facing the world. Cover design by Jacqueline Nasso Cooke.

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Customer Reviews

I have the Kindle edition.This is an easy read and what seems to me to be a reasonably fair assessment of the current military situation and the recent geo-political history of the region. Anybody who has studied China and Chinese history must surely appreciate the astonishing degree of militarisation that has taken place in China since 1949 and that its pace has accelerated in the last decade - and this is something that Navarro doesn't really get in great detail on. He devotes a lot of space to tales of hardware and espionage and somewhat less to historic background (understandable given the amount of material that he'd need to add). I feel that he in some ways understates the degree of threat that China poses to the current political situation in E. Asia. I would hesitate to say the the current regime seeks revenge for past injustices, but they certainly like to rub salt into their own wounds...just in case.

China and the Chinese people are different from us in the United States. They have a long term perspective and have a moral compass that is heavily weighted in priorities that vary from those of America and may of our allies. Peace in the South China Sea Basin depends on leaders of the "Free World" understanding not just what China and its leaders want but how they will likely go about getting those concessions and what they are willing to LOOSE in the process. it is a mistake to expect the Chinese or the North Korean's to think even remotely as we in the West do - and likewise they place value differently as well. It is important to understand that China is heavily dependent on sea trade and is not landlocked but is strangled by the island nations ringing the South China Sea and the shipping lanes that course through those areas. China cannot tolerate disruption of their bustling oceanic trade.Between China and India nearly one in every four people alive on Earth live in those two countries. They are ignored at the peril of the rest of the world - we must understand them better - and we must engage them on their terms in the South China Sea. Peter Navarro understands and attempts to explain this in lay terms. It is more than just militarism. (less)

A must read book for policy makers, politicians and anyone concerned about World order with China emerging as a super power intent on dominating Asia and its neighbors. By enabling China economically through free trade, US opened door for China to invest heavily into defense and get on par with US. A real conflict may be the horizon unless US reevaluates its military strength and make strong alliances in Asia and keep an active engagement. China is already pushing boundaries on what it considers its national waters by artificially building up islands and its own forward bases.

With distractions in Middle East, US is unable focus on its strategy to Pivot to Asia. With not so strong economy, costly wars, and declining military spend, US may have no choice and pull back from Asia. If that ever happens, it will be a disaster for China's neighbor countries like Japan, Taiwan, Philippines and India. If US were to slow down China's military growth, it needs to revisit trade policies and balance its trade, improve domestic manufacturing, diversify trade with other countries like India with military alliances.

Once upon a time we fought to protect the capitalist in Viet Nam from being taken over by the communists. The communists won the war and kicked us out after we lost 55,000 or so American lives. Now we once again have military troops in Viet Nam but we were asked by the communists to come back and protect them. It seems that their communists brothers in China are strip-mining their waters of fish, drilling for and stealing oil in their coastal waters and mining up all their minerals and taking these resources back to China and paying the Vietnamese nothing. What a revolting development! No wonder more and more Americans are thinking that maybe we should come home and protect ourselves and let the rest of the world go to hell -- and this example is just a minuscule part of what's in the book.

Right after the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“callÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• between the President Elect, and the President of Taiwan, I decided I needed to catch up on ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“China!ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Navarro is on the transition team, though I found him through an article in Foreign Affairs. Also, I purchased ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“AsiaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s CauldronÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, Robert Kaplan and ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The China CrisisÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, James Gorrie.The book is just plain frightening; it is a series of articles set as chapters, each starting with a series of questions, outlining how the Chinese are systematically developing asymmetrical naval forces with the intent of; first denying the US Navy free access to the South China sea, and second , after we have pulled back, asserting hegemony over the same, including the immense hydrocarbons there. The Chinese offensive is far broader than just military and includes propaganda efforts to shape ChinaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s image in the US, and the west generally and diplomatic offences as well.The book covers the conflicts in the Mabini Reef, the Spratly islands, Senkaku Islands, etc., as China pushes against, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, and of course Taiwan. In particular Navarro outlines the importance of Taiwan to the forward US Naval presence.The book is timely, important and frightening, I only gave it four stars because is a bit redundant.

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