

# Comment

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EDITORIALS

## Against the Olympic spirit

NOT ONLY CHINESE DOUBLE GOLD MEDAL-WINNING swimmer Ye Shiwen, but also every sports fan who believes in the Olympic spirit that transcends nationality, race, color and politics deserves the apology rendered by Nature magazine on Monday.

That's because the doubts cast upon 16-year-old Ye's integrity by some Western media outlets, foreign coaches and the article on Nature's website is anything but reasonable.

Ye is not the only one to come up with incredible feats at the London Olympics. For example, 15-year-old US swimmer Katie Ledecky won the gold in women's 800 meter freestyle by beating defending Olympic champion Rebecca Adlington of Great Britain and 2008 bronze medalist Lotte Friis of Denmark. Another American teenager, Missy Franklin, 17, broke the world record in women's 200 meter backstroke.

They all outperformed themselves. But none of their feats was questioned. There were no insinuations of drug use, which was reserved for Ye after she won the 400 meter individual medley and then went on to clinch the 200 meter medley, events that she has excelled in since last year.

John Leonard, executive director of World Swimming Coaches Association, described Ye's feat as "disturbing". He said Ye's swim was either "the greatest swim in history" or "something that is not correct", implying she had taken performance-enhancing drugs.

Nature went even further, describing Ye's world record-breaking feat in the 400 meter individual medley as "anomalous" and gave the impression that testing negative for drugs did not rule out the possibility of Ye taking performance-enhancing drugs.

If Ye's extraordinary feat is what the doubters have based their arguments on, then why did they point a finger only at the Chinese swimmer and not at the other outstanding athletes? Is it simply because Ye is a Chinese? Does it have anything to do with the China phobia deeply rooted in the Western mindset?

Westerners think they are physically superior to people from the East, Chinese in particular. That's why they refuse to accept a Chinese swimmer performing such a feat. But such notions run contrary to the Olympic spirit.

In the Olympic arena, the efforts of every athlete to test himself or herself to the limit deserve respect. Accusing any athlete who performs extraordinarily of wrongdoing without sound evidence is an affront to the fundamental spirit and principle of sports.

## Japan ignores history lesson

HISTORY SHOULD HAVE TAUGHT JAPAN SOME serious lessons on how to deal with the rest of the world.

Confrontation seems to be Japan's choice in times of crises. The country has been in the doldrums since its economic bubble burst in the early 1990s and thwarted its plan to build itself into a political and military power. This contrasts sharply with the emerging economies including China, and has left Japan frustrated.

After last year's earthquake, some Japanese people asked their government to enhance cooperation with Asian countries to emerge out of the crisis. But distraught Japanese politicians think only jingoism can restore Japan's rightful place in the world. And right-wing politicians are resorting to confrontation in Japan's foreign policy to hold the nation together.

It is in this context that Japan has lost its power of restraint in the Diaoyu Islands issue. The Japanese government and Tokyo Governor Shintaro Ishihara are competing with each other to purchase three of the islets that are China's inherent territory.

About 40 Japanese politicians are reported to have landed on the islands on the pretext of paying tribute to the dead. Also, Japan will take advantage of the Osprey aircraft in Guam to patrol and monitor the areas near the Diaoyu Islands.

Japan's tough stance on the Diaoyu Islands issue means it is ready to be used as a pawn by the United States, which has declared its return-to-Asia strategy. This is one method the ruling Democratic Party of Japan is using to resolve its domestic political challenges, overcome its frustrations and get Japanese people's support.

Can confrontation with China help Japan relieve its anxiety? The Diaoyu Islands issue is just one of the territorial disputes Japan has with its neighbors. Will Japan confront all the countries it has a dispute with?

The commemoration of the first atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima on Monday should remind Japan that extreme nationalism almost destroyed it 67 years ago. Japan had waged horrifically aggressive wars throughout Asia from 1937 until the US dropped the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The survivors of the two bombings have recorded the pain, trauma and destruction they suffered. They have also reminded the world of the unimaginable sufferings a war causes.

The lessons of war, it seems, have failed to teach Japanese politicians that restraint and rationality are the orders of the day.

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CHINA FORUM | DAVID SHAMBAUGH

# Romney tests China policy

## Republican's pervasive theme of bolstering US military power reminds of Cold War and could lead ties into muddled waters

As the US presidential election enters its final three months, Republican challenger Mitt Romney is beginning to define his foreign policy beliefs. Until recently, Romney had limited his comments on foreign policy to a combination of tough talk and platitudes, but now he is beginning to flesh out more detailed policies on different foreign issues and parts of the world.

The official website of Romney's campaign recently announced the assemblage of a large foreign policy advisory team and a series of policy statements on national security and different parts of the world. Romney's foreign policy advisers are largely a collection of recycled George W. Bush administration officials.

Based on the official website's description, what might a Romney administration China policy look like? First, it is worth noting that on China and Asia, as with virtually every other part of the world, one consistent theme is pervasive: increasing American military strength.

On national defense, for example, the Romney platform takes the

administration of US President Barack Obama to task for slashing military spending and neglecting weapons' modernization, hinting that "weakness invites aggression". This suggests defense should somehow be exempt from budget cuts in the current fiscal austerity climate.

It is not that Romney wants to insulate and freeze the force from cuts, but he seeks to actually "grow" the military — adding nearly 50 ships to the navy and doubling the number of fighter squadrons.

This military-first mindset underlies the way the Romney team seems to approach every other foreign policy challenge — from Afghanistan and Iran to China and Russia. In each case, it is argued that American military strength will deter aggression. This simplistic zero-sum mindset is a throwback to the Cold War and is no substitute for nuanced policies to deal with today's complex challenges.

With respect to China, the Romney policy places a robust military and security presence first. While it does claim that "Our objective is not to build an anti-China coalition" and leaves the door open to Beijing for "becoming a responsible partner in the international system", the position paper predominantly takes a deterrence tack, emphasizing a

potential China threat that must be met with US strength:

"In the face of China's accelerated military build-up, the United States and our allies must maintain appropriate military capabilities to discourage any aggressive or coercive behavior by China against its neighbors."

Romney's position proceeds from the premise that China seeks to dominate Asia and, concomitantly, exclude the US from the region: "China must be discouraged from attempting to intimidate or dominate neighboring states. If the present Chinese regime is permitted to establish itself as the preponderant power in the Western Pacific it could close off large parts of the region to cooperative relations with the United States and the West and dim hope that economic opportunity and democratic freedom will continue to flourish across East Asia."

The policy statement also more than hints that Romney would authorize sale of advanced F-16 C/Ds to Taiwan (something the Obama administration has thus far eschewed) when it argues: "The Department of Defense should reconsider recent decisions not to sell top-of-the-line equipment to our closest Asian allies. We should be coordinating with Taiwan to

determine its military needs and supplying them with adequate aircraft and other military platforms."

The remainder of the China-Asia section, though, is not dissimilar from the "strategic pivot" policies that the Obama administration is already implementing in the region, if not more robust. One might describe it as "Pivot Plus".

Indeed, the Obama pivot finds its origins in the "strategic hedging" policies of the Bush administration. It is also no accident that the two lead members of Romney's Asia advisory team — Aaron Friedberg of Princeton University and Evan Feigenbaum of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace — served as senior officials in the Bush administration and were among the masterminds of the strategic hedging policy.

On other parts of the world, such as Africa, the Romney vision labels China a "global competitor". Romney has also argued on the campaign trail that he would "label China a currency manipulator on Day 1". The Romney campaign's statement on China does include a prominent role for human rights — not only concerning political dissent, but a broader conceptualization of promoting civil society. Indeed, assertive promotion of democracy pops up in the discussion of Latin America, Asia, Russia and the Middle East.

While this is largely drawn from official campaign sources, and it must be remembered that tough campaign assertions often fall by the wayside when a candidate enters office and confronts reality, the Romney campaign's description of China does offer an important prism into the thinking of Romney's advisers — if not Romney himself.

Much of it is tough talk, not dissimilar from the election-year rhetoric of Bush in 2000. But when taken together with the Obama administration's pivot to Asia, which is primarily motivated by the strategic uncertainties associated with the rise of China, relations between China and the US could be headed into contentious waters in the years ahead.

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LUO JIE

# Let reform and opening-up be the guide

**Editor's note:** Party General Secretary Hu Jintao addressed the opening session of a workshop for ministerial and provincial officials on July 23. The following is People's Daily commentary on the speech:

All Party members should keep firmly in mind that China's rapid development over the past 30-odd years has benefited from the reform and opening-up and that the country should unswervingly depend on this policy for its development.

Addressing a high-level workshop, Hu Jintao reviewed the fundamental reason behind the great achievements made by China over the past 30-odd years, stating explicitly that the reform and opening-up are an important connotation of socialism with Chinese characteristics and a strong force for China's development.

To carefully study the spirit of Hu's remarks, we should understand, stick to and push forward the reform and opening-up as part of our efforts to realize the objective of building a well-off society in an all-round way, accelerate our socialist modernization drive and hold on to and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics.

China has made spectacular achievements over the past 30-odd years since the reform and opening-up started in 1979, especially since

the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2002. It has become the world's second largest economy, overcome the negative effects of the global financial crisis, successfully combated the SARS epidemic in 2003 and the deadly Wenchuan earthquake in 2008. It has also hosted the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and the Shanghai 2010 World Expo, formed a legal system with Chinese characteristics, and forged a new pattern of economic, political, cultural, social and ecological modernization.

The reason why we have pushed the socialist cause with Chinese characteristics to a new development stage and successfully completed a series of major tasks and overcome a series of major difficulties in the face of rapidly changing international situations and the arduous and heavy task of reform and development is that we have consistently regarded the emancipation of our mind as a strong ideological weapon and consistently used the reform and opening-up as strong driving force.

Without the reform and opening-up, the China that we see today would not have been possible. Likewise, without the reform and opening-up, we would have no bright future. On one hand, we should never relax our efforts even for a moment in the next five years to lay a decisive foundation for

realizing a well-off society in an all-round way by 2020 and facilitating our efforts to basically realize the objective of socialist modernization by the middle of this century. On the other hand, we still face some outstanding problems in the process of our development, such as imbalances, non-coordination and non-sustainability, and cannot dodge or bypass some institutional obstacles that impede our scientific development.

In this context, we should attach greater importance to our experiences, explore the reform and opening-up and value our hard-won achievements.

We should unswervingly push forward the reform and opening-up and try to reach a new stage of emancipating our mind and advancing the reform and opening-up to achieve new breakthroughs in uniting forces and overcoming difficulties. By doing so, we can unite all the forces that can be united and mobilize all the positive factors that can be mobilized to overcome the difficulties and risks on the way ahead.

The reform and opening-up will always be a strong driving force to push for the development of the cause of the Party and the people. To fully understand and firmly grasp this force, we should adapt ourselves to the new changes at home and abroad, keep in mind people's new

anticipations and work harder to unremittently implement the spirit of the reform and opening-up in every aspect of our governance and national development.

We should also continue advancing the reforms and innovations of our economic, political, cultural and social institutions, expedite reform measures in some important and key fields and resolutely break any ideological concepts and institutional defects that hamper scientific development in a bid to promote coordinated development between relations of production and productivity, and between economic basis and superstructure.

We have to make endless improvements in the development road and development mode suitable for China's national conditions and broaden the socialist road with Chinese characteristics.

The reform and opening-up are China's most distinct feature in the new era. The reform and opening-up have added a strong vitality to China's development and caused historical changes to socialist China.

Looking into the future, we should more consciously and resolutely push forward the reform and opening-up and continuously take steps toward institutional construction and innovations to lay a more solid foundation for China's development and national rejuvenation.