

Can China defend itself if the United States were to invade? [this question was asked at quora.com 2023 ]

Walter Williams' response:

In 1937 Japan invaded China. and even though China at the time was in the middle of a horrid civil war, with the Nationalists and the Communists fighting each other with greater military might than they directed toward the Japanese invaders, the Japanese invasion was a failure. The Japanese military was not able to invade much further than China's coastal cities, where they engaged in unbelievable cruelty.

But even with these brutal attempts to subdue the Chinese people, the Japanese were not successful. They realized, too late, that they had immersed themselves in a quagmire, and they were never going to be able to subdue such a large and vast nation. In short, that is why in 1941 (less than five years after they began their hopeless attempt to conquer China) the Japanese military turned their attention to Southeast Asia, including the US colony of the Philippines.

Today, when China is NOT in a civil war, but is the world's largest manufacturer and almost the world's largest economy, it would be totally insane for ANY other country to invade China.

Why are Americans asking all these questions about invading China? Didn't we learn our lesson after repeated failed invasions in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan? And those nations are miniscule compared to China.

We Americans need to stop this constant warmongering talk, and try to get along with other nations as they really are. Even Putin, who has been so oppressive to the former members of the Russian /Soviet Empire, has never tried to invade anywhere far beyond Russia's neighbors. China has never sent its army to fight in any other nation, and has only activated when it felt its borders were endangered (for example, when the US army invaded North Korea and was coming very close to the border of China, during the US-Korean War).

It is the United States, not Russia or China, that has spread its military over much of the world. It is the United States which has massed many thousands of our troops in an arc of immediate threat to China, from South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan, to the Philippines and Thailand.

China has not massed Chinese troops in Mexico, the Caribbean, or Canada. And yet, despite the US provocations to China, China has not replied in kind. China is wise not to do so.

Military invasions of other countries are extremely difficult. The USA should have already learned that lesson long ago. This kind of jingoistic talk is counterproductive to our own, and the world's, long range interests. We need to clean up our own house, and focus on bettering the conditions of the mass of Americans, before we talk about invading ANYWHERE.