

申鹏：现在不是最好的时机？

Shen Peng: When is the best time?

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Summary

There are always people who say that we should wait a little more, wait for a better time. In other words, they say we should leave the problem to be resolved by the next generation; have faith in the wisdom of the next generation. They also want us to ever continue to “hide one’s capabilities and bide one’s time” and keep a low profile...

Source: <https://www.kunlunce.com/e/wap/show.php?classid=176&id=146595&bclassid=1>

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Picture on Shen Peng's Blog – guancha.cn

Some people always talk about “now is not the best time”.

COVID-19 pandemic, the US imperialism, the trade war and then there is belligerent India.

So, will there ever be a "best time"?

Was 1927 a good time? Was 1937 a good time?
Was 1946 a good time? Was 1949 a good time?
Was 1950 a good time? Was 1962 a good time?

Can't really bargain with the wheels of history, can you?

History will never give such a perfect opportunity. The CPC was born at the time of national crisis; our nation and political power were built surrounded by “a pack of wolves” [a reference to the group of foreign imperialist powers – Tr.]; our fundamental cause arose from amidst the life and death struggles. Is there really ever a “perfect time”?

In 1950, all at the same time, our troops marched into Tibet, we dealt with the remnants of the defeated Kuomintang, we sent troops to suppress the bandits, and our PLA Volunteer Army entered the Korean War. We not only survived, we emerged victorious - it is we who created the best and new opportunities.

The truth is, **one decisive punch is enough to avoid a hundred punches.**

But wait, can you wait for a better time? Are you sure this is a rational way of thinking?

The times have changed. We are the world's second largest economy, we are the world's largest manufacturing power; you tell me what is the rationale in pursuing with “hide one's capabilities and bide one's time” policy; what is the rationale in holding on to the policy of “keeping a low profile”; what is the rationale in adhering to the policy of “patiently seek peace”?

Is it of any use to say that we are humble, we are gentle, we are refined and courteous... we are sincere towards Taiwan...? Will Biden upon being elected be good to us? Will the Democrats be more pro-China? Will the next generation DPP (Democratic Progressive Party) and the KMT (or GMD, China Nationalist Party) leaders will be more inclined towards reunification with the mainland?

Materialists should seek truth from facts and should not harbour unrealistic illusions about how things take shape, nor should they substitute reality with imagining things.

Imperialism will not leave us alone. The Hangman's noose will only get tighter and keep us from breathing.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Russia signed an agreement with the Western nations urging the NATO not to expand eastwards. But did the NATO stop moving eastwards? No. It couldn't wait to take NATO military base right in the face of Russia.

History is moving forward in a zigzag fashion. Sometimes I raise my head high, and sometimes the other is in a dominant position. This is a dynamic developmental process. The leader cannot always lead, and the one lagging behind will not always be behind. The belief that one need not make a move and still be victorious, and that the enemy will definitely fail, is not only idealistic but mechanical too.

It is like carving a boat with a sword. As if by drawing up a mark on the boat, your sword will lead you to cross the river? Can you just wait on the river bank and hope the treasure trove to come afloat towards you?

Those of us who are familiar with history should know, that a "strategy" however well-

designed, however long-lasting, if drawn up over and over again on sand is bound to fail; because it is too perfect and has too many objective constraints, which make it good enough only in imagination and on paper.

History, by nature, is accident prone. We must always be fully prepared and our usual training should be solid. We must take into account all factors. But a strategy need not be too perfect, and one need not always keep weighing its pros and cons. There is an old Chinese adage – *Shǒu shǔ liǎng duān*, lit. – both ends of the mouse, fig. – meaning there is no need to worry too much about indecision and uncertainty.

Don't fight unprepared battles, but one cannot fight 100% well-prepared battles as well. The world's progress is full of drama, uncertainty and unpredictability. It is good to walk the road already walked. We should let go of specifics. We should let everyone play their part.

In China's war of liberation, the Kuomintang (the KMT) suffered a tactical defeat. Its high-level command was in chaos, once the KMT held as many as one hundred and eighty meetings for a single battle. To fight or not to fight; to retreat or not to retreat; hesitation to go to right or left, to issue orders on phone; various "petty tricks" ...

Does the world run based on “One-size-fits-all-solution” for everything?

Is it the worst time now? No, it is not. Actually, right now is the time. In the last 200 hundred years, it is the first time China’s national strength has reached this position. It is for the first time in the past forty years the United States’ credibility and universal values the US advocates have fallen to all time low.

It is for the first time America has been so severely torn apart internally by a combination of the pandemic and nationwide riots; it is for the first time the power of the North American slave owners, the influence of the bandits in the Asia Pacific region is so weak.

The U.S. far-right appears to be as weak as the Japanese “Showa”¹, and as if looking for an opportunity to pitch for a “decisive battle”. But the fact of the matter is, the US far-right is merely waging a “performance battle” while their immediate goal is to win (the US) general election. So they are indulging in false bravado and are bluffing.

After realizing that (China’s) Dong Feng maritime mission means business, they (the US and Japan) have fallen silent. Therefore, we say America’s is a “Fake Showa”. Trump may look

¹ Showa, a Japanese reference corresponding to the reign (1925-1989) of Emperor Hirohito Yuren - Translator’s note.

crazy but he is definitely not a gambler, while Bannon, Pompeo and others are.

Are we going to change our tactics? **Just like the “Three Great Battles”² did not just fall from the sky**, and nor will the “Five forces”³ of the North-American slave owner bandits just vanish into thin air. **There is nothing called perfect timing. The perfect timing is created.**

Reunification of the Chinese motherland, the breaking of the high-end manufacturing industry, the first island chain break through⁴, and a total elimination of the imperialist hegemony... is all what we want.

Someone has said we cannot afford to lose patience; we cannot afford to lose the strategic self-confidence; and we need not become anxious. Oh please... I am never in a hurry. I’ve never talked about losing patience, but

² A reference to the three “decisive” battles the PLA fought against the Nationalists during September 12, 1948 and January 31, 1949 in western Liaoning province called Liaoshen Battle, the Huai Hai Battle and Ping-Jin Battle in Beijing, Tianjin and Zhangjiakou region, respectively - Translator’s note.

³ “Five main forces” refers to five main characteristic features of the rise of the North American white colonial rulers and are known as the salient features of the so-called New Economy. The term was popularized by Canadian author Douglas Coupland, but is how it is known in the contemporary Chinese discourse describing the rise of the North America – Translator’s note.

⁴ The “first island chain” refers to the first chain of major archipelagos out from the East Asian continental mainland coast. The “first island chain” has its purpose in Chinese military doctrine. The PRC government views the “first island chain” as the area it must secure and debase from the American bases, aircrafts, and aircraft-carrier groups – Translator’s note.

patience must also respect the laws of history and objective facts. One just cannot rely on doing nothing but fantasising that America will keep declining and we will keep rising, that we sit ideal doing nothing and America on its own will implode one day...

Nothing could be more ridiculous than such thinking, because as the Chinese saying goes “if the broom is not there, then the dust will not go away on its own.” Similarly, “the reactionaries are not going to collapse on their own if one doesn’t attack and defeat them.”

There has never been a victory that emerges on its own, that comes knocking at the door. The victory of the New Democratic Revolution did not wait for the right moment... The victory of New China did not wait for the right moment... The victory of the economic reconstruction did not wait... China’s victory over coronavirus also did not wait for the right moment. Victories depend on our “actions”.⁵ In this new era, we must act according to our best capabilities...

We should not have unrealistic hopes for the enemy. Decades ago there were serious riots in America, the country also went through a

⁵ “actions” is the translation for the Chinese phrase “作为” used here; “作为” in Chinese is a part of the 36-character slogan by Deng Xiaoping, which is more commonly referred to in the contemporary discourse by using only 8 characters, i.e., “韬光养晦,有所作为”*Tāoguāngyǎnghuì, yǒu suǒ zuòwéi* – Translator’s note.

severe economic crisis, but we did not see America implode. And few decades down the line, the slave owner bandits⁶ will also be there, and America – the capitalist beacon – might be full of countless traitors, and it (the America) will continue to exploit the world thanks to its military, financial and hi-tech hegemony...

The Soviet Union was the “the communist party in waiting”. In the end, it did not wait for the capitalist fortress to explode, and on the contrary, it itself exploded.

Some people think, “得道多助, 失道寡助” or *Dédào duōzhù, shī dào guǎ zhù*⁷, meaning, if one upholds justice and remains benevolent, one will get the support and help from more and more people. As long we preserve kindness, tolerance, openness, more countries will stand on our side, and we will have more countries as our friends.

True, there is logic in the above argument. **However, as long as the Master Huang⁸ survives, who in the entire Goose Town really wants to cooperate with you? No one will come forward and sign an agreement with you? Everyone chooses to side with the winner.**

⁶ A derogatory reference to the white North American rulers – Translator’s note

⁷ Ancient Chinese saying, attributed to the sage philosopher Mencius – Translator’s note

⁸ Ancient Chinese folktale – translator’s note

I am not good at fighting, nor do I advocate “war”. But the fact is we are already in a state of “war”. The enemy initiated the “war” a long time ago. We need to be more efficient, more proactive in seeking to gain more advantage

instead of just waiting for the enemy to fall apart on its own.

Series Editor: Hemant Adlakha

The views expressed here are those of the original author and not necessarily of the translator or of the Institute of Chinese Studies

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