

Richard Tempest
The World After Covid:
Prospects, Dangers, Temptations

Lecture Four

Clash of Vaccines, Clash of Visions

New of the Week: Mexico's chief prosecutor, Alejandro Gertz Manero (on left), opens a criminal case against 31 people, including 25 scientific researchers, for alleged misuse of government funds. So far, two judges have declined to issue the arrest warrants his office is seeking. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, or AMLO, a charismatic, fiscally conservative leftwing populist (almost an oxymoron!), is seeking to reconfigure Mexico's dispensation of institutional power. This prosecution appears to be part of that plan. Covid, btw, has not been prioritized by AMLO or his administration



News of the Week: in the race to succeed prime minister Yoshihide Suga, the charismatic Taro Kono (on left) lost to the decidedly uncharismatic Fumio Kishida, and event that may be interpreted as emblematic of twenty-first-century party politics. And not just democratic ones, and not just in Japan



News of the Week (earlier today): Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann, and Giorgio Parisi win the Nobel Prize in Physics for their work on complex physical systems, including climate change



A Tempest tweet from 2016. I got three likes

Research conducted at John Lackland University, Middlesex shows that Brexit will lead to significant shifts in weather patterns across much of the UK, with the warming/cooling phases of the Gulf Stream-Northern Oscillation undergoing a "dramatic eversion."

News of the Week: In scenes recalling the 1970s, British motorists faced increasingly dire gas shortages. Brexit is to blame, claim prime minister Boris Johnson's critics



News of the Week: Pandora Papers 2021 tranche released

Political and business figures from around the world were revealed to have amassed huge fortunes in bank accounts and real estate. These actors include:

King Abdulla II of Jordan

The family of Ilham Aliyev, the hereditary president of Azerbaijan

Tony and Cherie Blair

Russian oil tycoon Viktor Fedotov, a major funder of Britain's Conservative party

Svetlana Krivonogikh, Russian president Putin's alleged former lover

Czech prime minister Andrej Babis

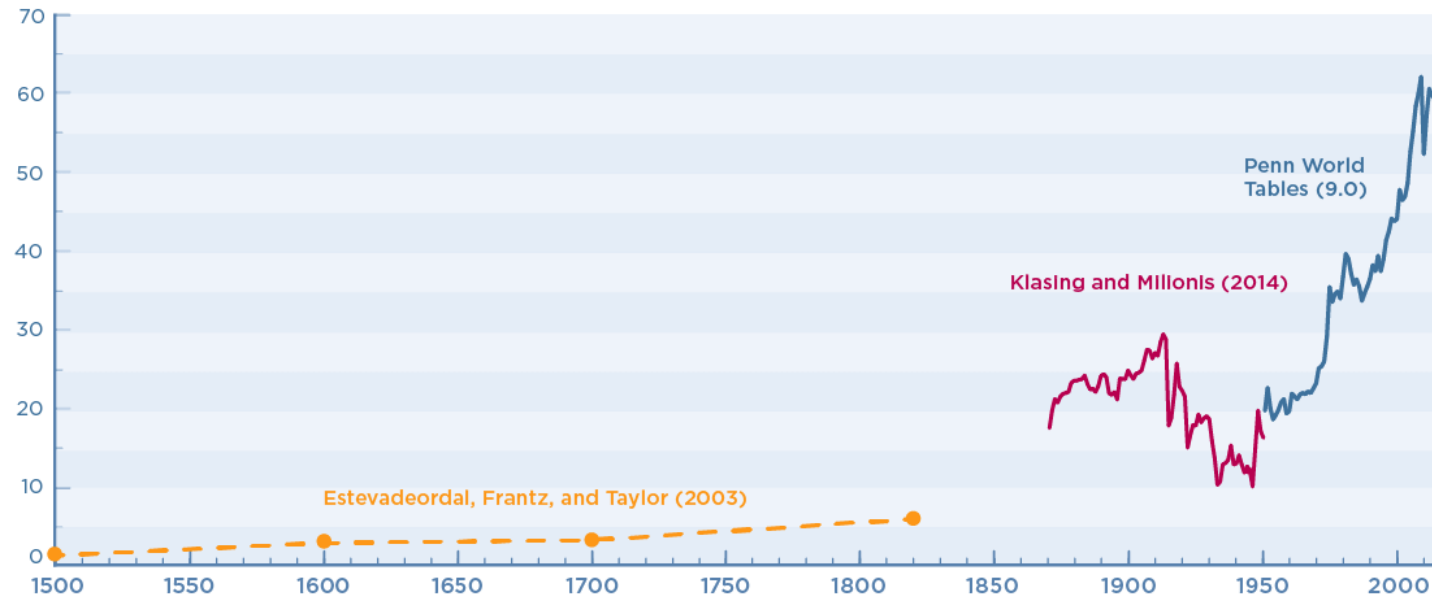
Svetlana Krivonogikh (on left) and her daughter Elizaveta



Measured by the movement of capital and goods, globalization attained its pre-World-War-I levels only after the recession of 1990-91

Trade has skyrocketed in the past century

World trade as percent of world GDP (1500–2014)



Note: This chart displays data from three sources. Data from 1500 to 1820 is the average of the upper and lower bound and only includes the years 1500, 1600, 1700, and 1820. Data not available from 1821-1869.

Sources: See chart, "Globalization over 5 centuries," at <https://ourworldindata.org/trade-and-globalization> for full citations.

On September 9, 2021 the leaders of the BRICS countries held a virtual summit meeting






























Two quotes from President Xi's comments at the summit. They are in easily decipherable diplomatic code

“Our five countries have supported multilateralism and taken part in global governance in the spirit of equity, justice, and mutual assistance. And we have become an important force on the international stage to be reckoned with.”

The members of BRICS have always “respected each other’s social systems and paths of development.”

Also at the summit, President Xi pledged to donate 100M vaccine doses to developing countries by the end of the year. So, let's look at this development more closely...

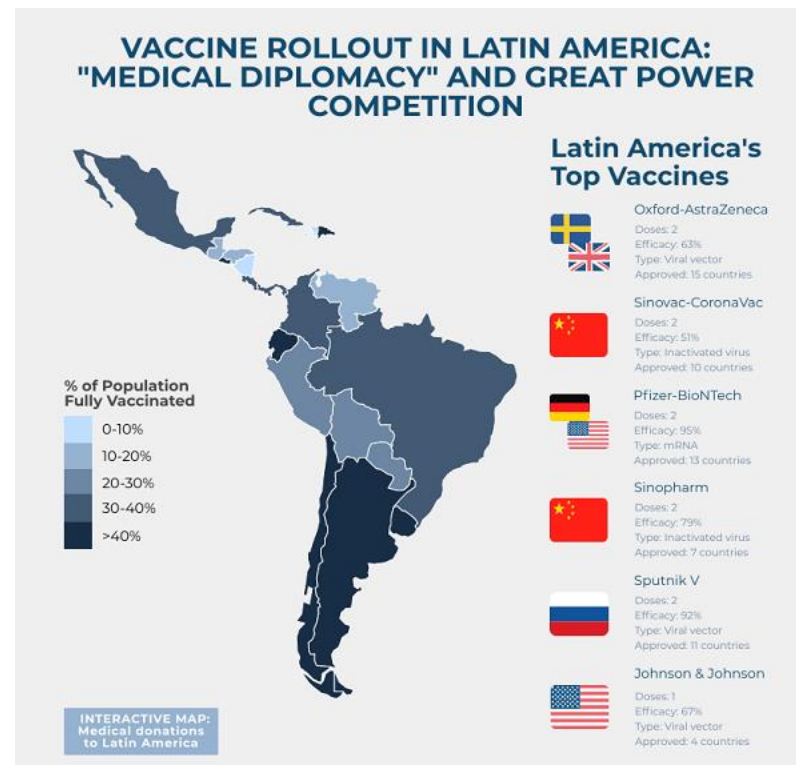
How some of the Covid-19 vaccines compare

Company	Doses	Storage
RNA		
 Pfizer (BioNTech)		 -80 to -60°C (6 months) and 2 to 8°C (for up to 5 days)
 Moderna		 -25 to -15°C (6 months) and 2 to 8°C (for 30 days)
Viral vector		
 Oxford-AstraZeneca		 2 to 8°C (6 months)
 Sputnik V (Gamaleya)		 -18.5°C (liquid form) 2 to 8°C (dry form)
 Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)		 2 to 8°C (3 months)
Inactivated virus		
 CoronaVac (Sinovac)		 2 to 8°C
 Sinopharm		 2 to 8°C
 Covaxin (Bharat Biotech)		 2 to 8°C
Protein-based		
 Novavax		 2 to 8°C

Source: Wellcome Trust, BBC research






Date as of October 1, 2021. Note that the United States sent its first donation of vaccine in June 2021, compared with Russia (February 2021) and China (March 2021).



...according to the latest reports...

Vaccine Doses Contracted from Companies in the U.S., China, and Russia as a Percentage of a Country's Total Contracted Doses*

	 USA	 CHN	 RUS
Colombia 46 million doses contracted	63%	16%	0%
Peru 73 million doses contracted	44%	9%	27%
Brazil 548 million doses contracted	43%	18%	0%
Argentina 114 million doses contracted	35%	26%	17%
Mexico 205 million doses contracted	17%	33%	12%

*Does not include doses ordered through the COVAX mechanism

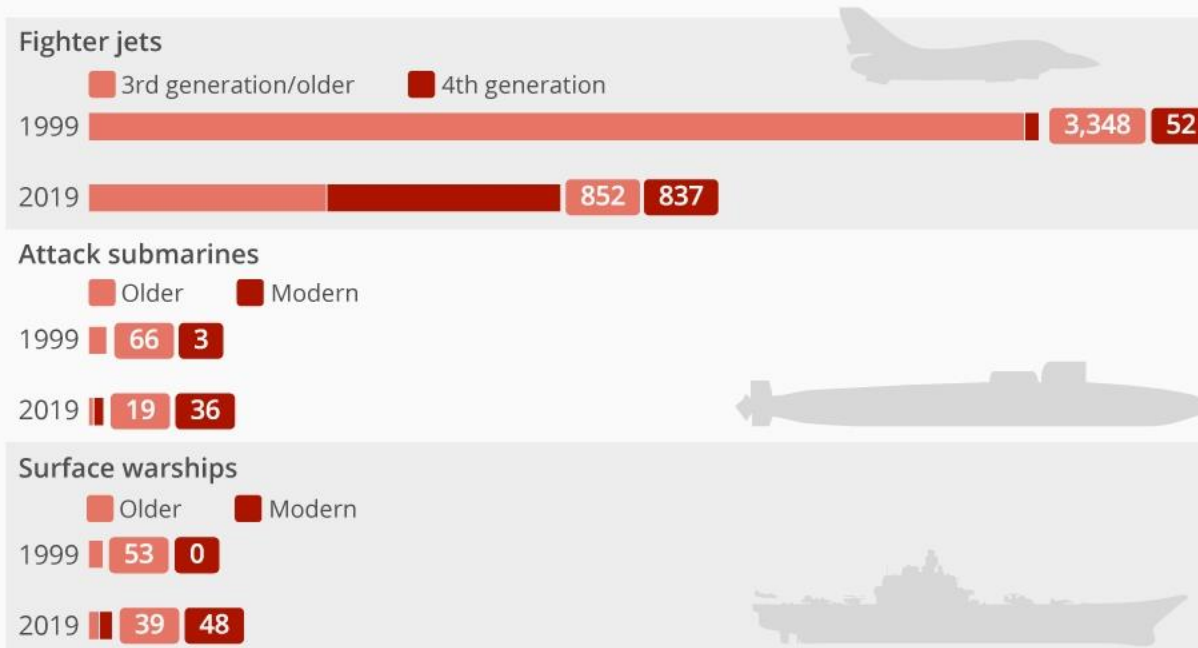
Globalizing China's standing and influence is one aspect of President Xi's endeavor of making his country the world's leading power. His decision to eventually leave office, or not to leave it, may hinge on the progress of what he sees as his historic mission



China's People's Liberation Army, which is already the world's largest military force with 2.3M troops, has set itself the goal of becoming fully modernized by 2035 and reaching parity with the US military by 2050

Then & Now China's Military Modernization

Share of modern and older equipment in the Chinese military



@StatistaCharts

Source: International Institute for Strategic Studies via University of Sydney

statista

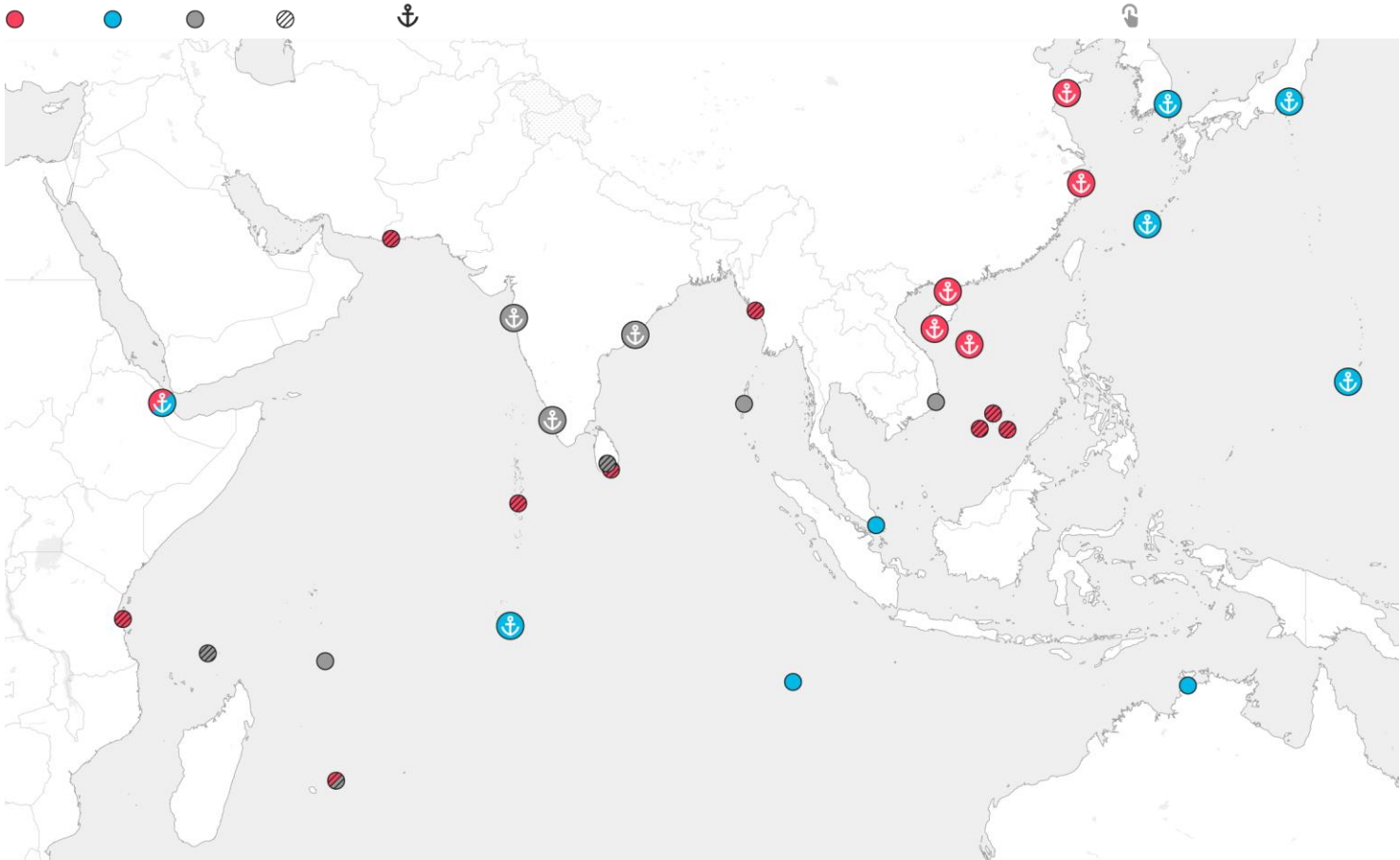
A brief excursus into the poetics of national leadership across regimes and time periods: De Gaulle and Khomeini effected an aura of detachment from the systems they put in place, Thatcher and Chavez respectively favored the right and left wing of their governments, Trump was his own in-house rebel...



...whereas Xi, Putin, and Biden present themselves as wise and balanced centrists



Chinese (red circle), US (blue circle), and Indian (gray circle) military basis in the Pacific-Indian Ocean basin



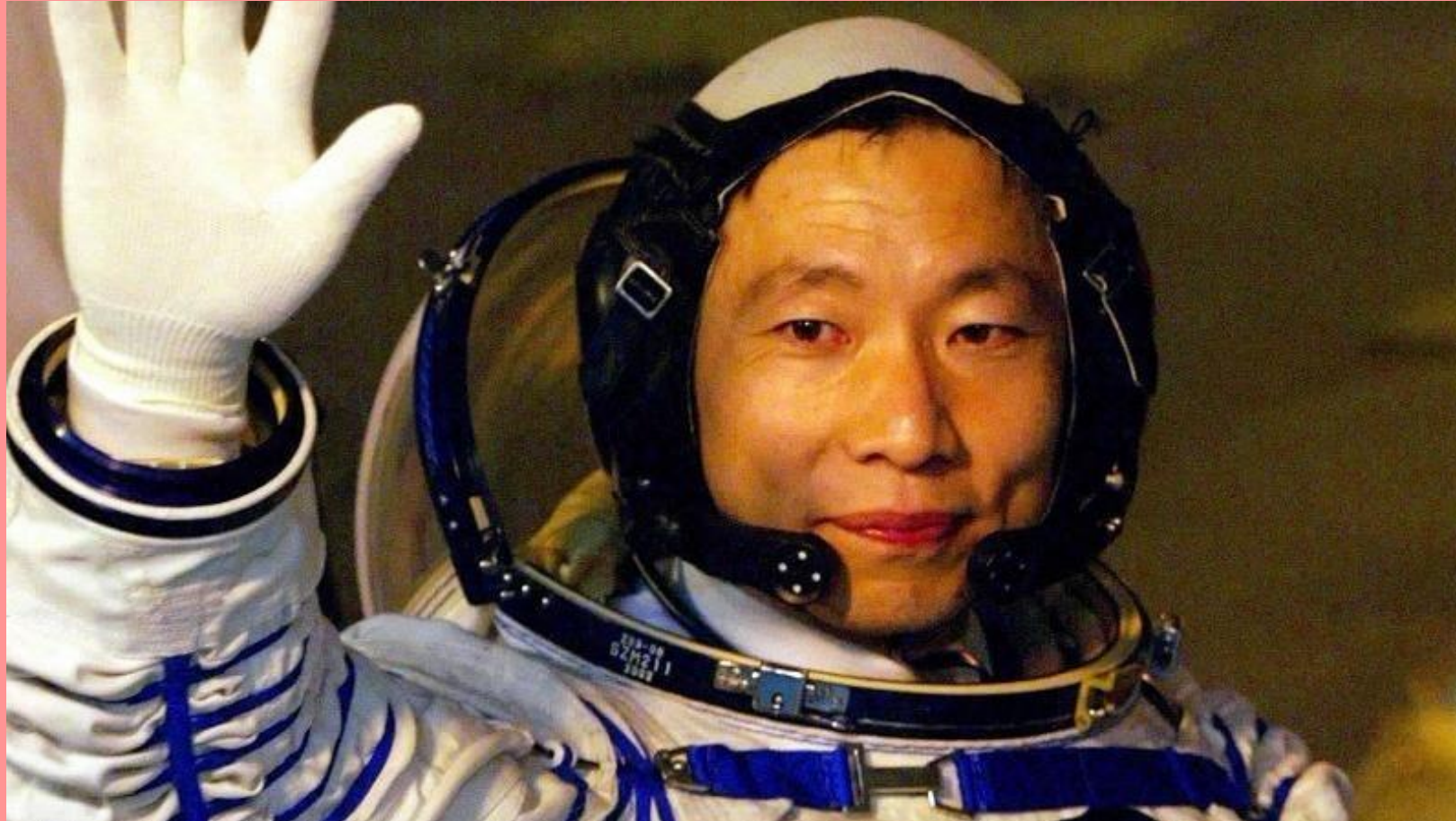
Confucius Institutes. As of February 22, 2021 they numbered over 100 in the United States, more than in any other country



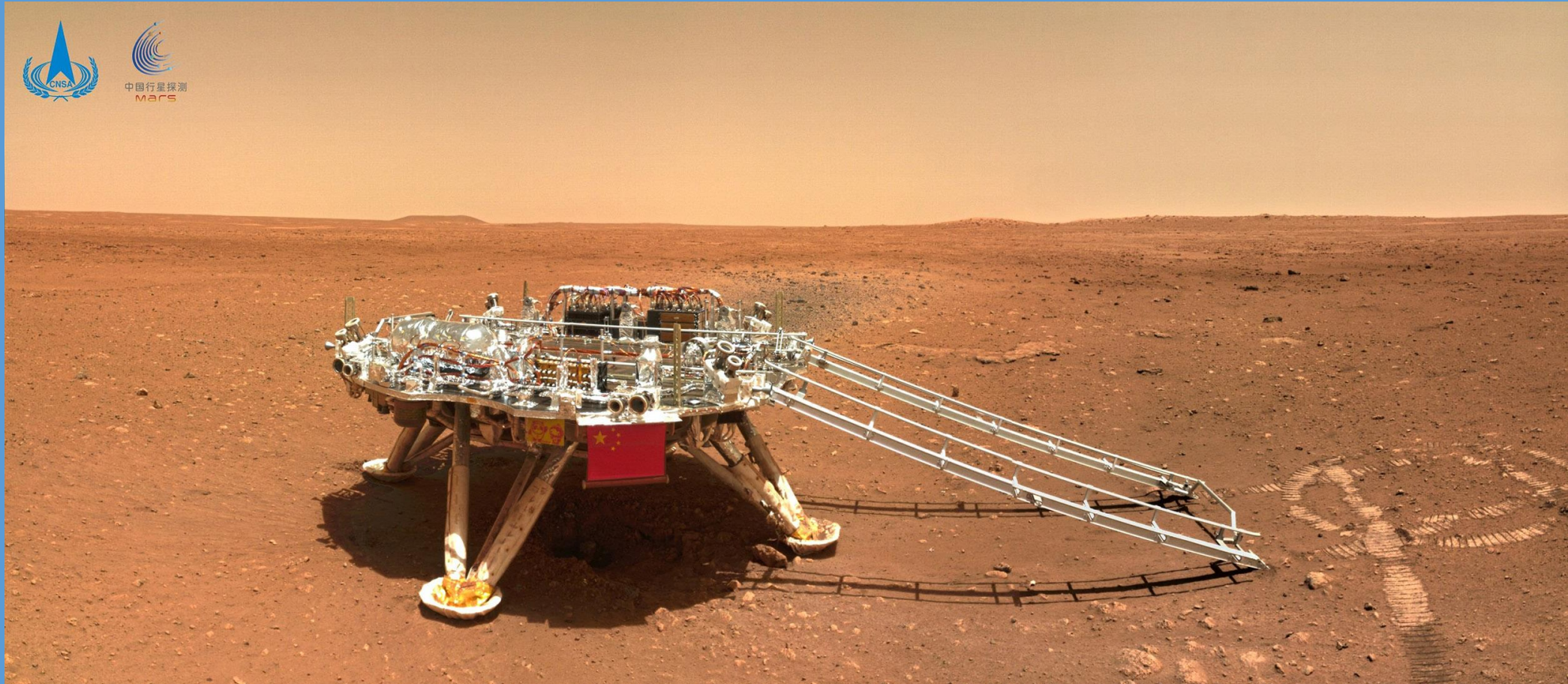
The Confucius Institute for Healthcare at the SUNY State College of Optometry in midtown Manhattan



Yang Liwei, China's first taikonaut, or astronaut, went into space on October 15, 2003. He is not particularly famous, probably because during the presidency of Hu Jintao China was yet to begin its worldwide hearts, minds, and wallets PR campaign



China's Zhurong rover. It landed on Mars on May 15 of this year



Liu Xiabo (1955-2017), winner of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize



An official photo of a political education camp in Xinjiang province



According to *The Economist* (October 2 issue), Xi's effort to bring domestic capitalism to heel, which is being carried under his signature "common prosperity" program, "has so far destroyed perhaps \$2T of wealth"

Blocked the IPO of Ant group, an affiliate of Alibaba

Didi, China's analogue to Uber with 500M users, is under pressure from the authorities (fines, removal of Didi apps from online stores)

Cryptocurrency trading banned

Property developer Evergrande with \$300B in liabilities is being steered toward default

For-profit tutoring suppressed

Gaming apps brought under state control to prevent children from becoming addicted

A surprisingly effective publication

GLOBAL TIMES
DISCOVER CHINA, DISCOVER THE WORLD

Discuss China
Discuss the World
www.globoinfo.com

► Nation
Children of a nation
6

► InDepth
Panda poverty alleviation
12-13

► Life
Staying power
18

► Business
G20 seeks unity on free trade
B1

VOLUME 9, NO. 1241 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2015 PRICE 2.00 RMB

Premier calls on US to be rational about tariffs, trade

By Hong Sheng

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Tuesday called on the US to do mutual rather than unilateral to maintain or increase tariffs and avoid to open the Chinese market wider to deal with the trade imbalance.

There will be no interest to a trade war should one happen between China and the US, Premier Li said in a press conference after the conclusion of the annual legislative session.

A trade war would go against the principles of trade liberalization, open markets and dialogue, according to Li.

Last year, China's US trade reached about \$510 billion.

President Xi Jinping waves as delegates of the 12th National People's Congress during the closing meeting of the annual session in Beijing, Tuesday, March 21, 2015.

► President vows to safeguard territorial integrity in NPC closing speech

Separatists doomed to fail: Xi

By Li Naobao

Chinese President Xi Jinping vowed to safeguard China's territorial integrity and had a strong warning to those who would attempt to split the country during his speech at the closing of the year's National People's Congress (NPC) on Tuesday.

His remarks, which analyzed the country's

territorial integrity, were a strong signal to separatists. "Separatists are doomed to fail," he said.

Xi also warned in talks to split China are doomed to fail and are certain to meet with the people's condemnation and would be punished by history. At the closing meeting of the First

Session of the 12th NPC, he said the Chinese people have made great achievements in the past five years. "The Chinese people have a common belief that it is never allowed for a separatist organization to separate any part of our great country,"

Xi said.

The remarks marked a return to Xi's focus on national integrity and territorial integrity. A number of those who had the United States that they had allowed and continued to be called being concerning its

territorial integrity and sovereignty.

It could not be clearer that the remarks send a

INSIDE

► **Top News:** US...
► **Two Sessions:** China...
► **World:**...
► **World:**...
► **Asian Review:**...
► **Parade:**...
► **Business:**...

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian can be Trumpian in his trolling, though he is...



...no Maria Zakharova



Though occasionally Zakharova goes too far, or low, as happened in a Facebook post dated September 7, 2020, in which she compared President Aleksandar Vucic of Serbia to the Catherine Tramell character in the movie *Basic Instinct*. Putin had to issue an official apology

