

Diablo Valley College – POLSC 250 – International Relations (8609)  
Summer Research Paper – Fall 2021

The Coming War on China?

**Question:** In a recent film by John Pilger, it is reported that the United States and China may well be on the road to war – and with a noose of US bases now encircling the world’s newest superpower, nuclear war is not only imaginable, but as the film suggests a “nightmarish prospect.” The recent coronavirus epidemic has not helped matters between the two countries. There are other theories which propose that war with a trading partner as large as China would be absurd, hurting both countries needlessly. Examine as much available evidence as necessary to answer the following question: Which of the 9 theories discussed this summer offers the best explanation for the possibility of a US war with China?

Sample Outline

(But feel free to design your outline any way you wish)

**I. Introduction / Thesis Statement** – a brief statement outlining your position or something relevant about this issue (make sure to specify which of the 9 theories you are advancing).

**II. Body** – the bulk of the paper is here, in data taken from the readings and other evidence you have found in support of your position.

1. A brief history of US / China foreign relations.
2. An explanation of the theory you are advancing (realism, liberalism, etc.)
3. Trump and Biden’s foreign policy toward China specifically and the Asian world generally.

**III. Conclusion** – based on the evidence you have gathered your opinion on whether a war between the US and China is inevitable, necessary, or even “winnable.”

Extras:

1. Again, make sure to include a citation *every time you use a statement or an idea from the readings that I have provided, or that you found in your own independent research.* THIS PAPER MUST BE DONE IN APA STYLE FORMAT.

2. “A” papers will be:
  - a. *fully* documented and cited;
  - b. a *minimum* of 15 pages (including title, abstract, and reference page, meaning **12 full pages of text analysis**);
  - c. research *beyond* authors provided;
  - d. turned in *on time* (**November 17, 2021**)