

## **Selected quotes: THE NEXT GREAT CLASH by Michael L. Levin**

*The central thesis of The Next Great Clash is the impending conflict between the U.S. and China and the pivotal role that Russia plays in the conflict.*

“A rising and resentful China in partnership with a resurgent Russia... may well signal the fourth great transformation of the Cold War and become the key to victory in *The Next Great Clash*” (p. 131).

*Numerous theoretical perspectives propose a scenario where the United States is at war with China, while current contextual factors could exacerbate the inevitability of the conflict:*

“All of these dynamics are taking place within a system made even more complex by the proliferation of states, coupled with greater political fragmentation and increased competition for scarce resources due to an impending global oil production peak that will trigger resource wars” (p. 25).

*The recent shift in America’s approach to foreign policy will impact this global conflict:*

“The Bush administration’s unilateralism and its disdain for the United Nations have alienated and offended many of America’s European allies. As a result, two pillars of post-WWII American foreign policy have been weakened: the primacy of the Atlantic Alliance, and the leading role of the United Nations as a global forum for conflict resolution” (p. 27).

*Taiwan will play a central role in the coming conflict between China and the United States with ever-increasing Chinese aggression toward Taiwan. Further, China has been aggravated by American action in support of Taiwan, as evidenced by the following quotes:*

“Chinese aggression toward Taiwan becomes even more likely because China... tends to respond aggressively to territorial issues, especially when the U.S. is involved” (p. 49).

“America’s actions have consistently been at loggerheads with China over Taiwan. It is no wonder that many Chinese believe America has been obstructing its reunification effort” (p. 59).

*China and Russia’s relationship has strengthened over time. Further, the focus on the China-Russia alliance will only be heightened by the 2008 Summer Olympics held in Beijing. China and Russia have also stashed key resources giving them an edge in the coming conflict.*

“While the United States prefers to go it alone and has destroyed much of its Cold War alliance structure, China and Russia have been nurturing a regional bloc formed in 1996... that encompasses almost half of the world’s population” (p. 109).

“With billions of eyes focused on Beijing, the situation will be ripe for exploitation by human rights activists... China will be completely mobilized for victory, its crack troops deployed, its senior cadre on high alert, its security agents out in force. And all the world will be watching” (p. 107).

“China’s strategic partnership with Russia provides a protective outer ring shielding its western and northern periphery. China also has its horde of U.S. dollar reserves and Treasury bonds, Russia and Iran their oil and gas weapons” (p. 120).

*Europe can potentially serve to stave off the impending clash between U.S. and China, but their relationship with the United States and role in the coming conflict is uncertain at this time, particularly when nuclear proliferation is considered.*

“It may be countered that a Sino-Russian alliance will be offset, or balanced, by the Atlantic Alliance – now expanded to include the 27-member European Union (EU). But it is no longer certain that America can rely on its former European Allies” (p. 122).

“The eventual deployment of a U.S. nuclear missile defense shield threatens to leave Europe unprotected and vulnerable, the British and French nuclear arsenal devalued” (p. 123).

*The foreign policy of the United States and its efforts to control other parts of the world has lead to unforeseen problems in the war on terror.*

To prevent this [the Soviet Union seizing control of the Persian Gulf in 1980] , and to rollback Soviet forces, the United States, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and China formed an unlikely covert alliance to support the rebel Afghan mujahideen. The United States and China funneled weapons and supplies to the Afghan resistance via Pakistan while the Saudis provided funding and jihadists; from these seeds, the Taliban and al-Qaeda were born (p. 93).

During the 1980s, Washington focused on building the mujahideen in Afghanistan (who later from the core of al-Qaeda) (p. 125).