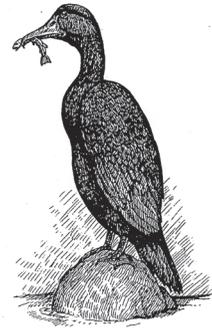
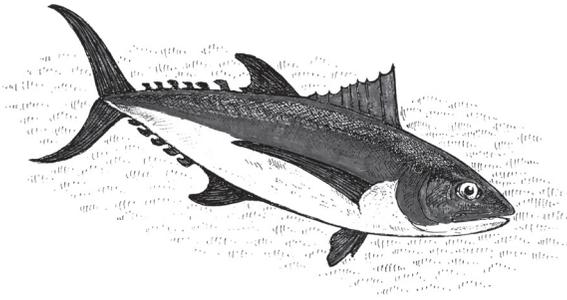


Power Geopolitics in the Pacific Age

*East Asia, the United Nations,
the United States and Micronesia
at the Edge of the 21st Century,
1991–2001*



by

C.D. BAY-HANSEN



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*Dedicated to the friends, the family, and the memory of
Edward Joseph Moriarty (1924-2005)*

*Ed, you fought at Peleliu, forgave the Japanese shortly
after the Pacific War, and taught me the joys of sobriety
and tolerance 50 years later. Rest in peace and Semper Fi!*

*Also dedicated to the memory of Willard C. Muller (1916-
2008), Olympic Park ranger, decorated naval officer, and
State Department diplomat, Will Muller was also a
humble Christian who found time for all of us; especially
the people of Chuuk.*

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Author's Update / Acknowledgments

DURING THE EARLY 1930s IN EUROPE, GERMAN THINKER KARL Haushofer was the leading exponent of geopolitics – “the study of the influence of geography upon world history and statecraft.” No-where has this been more true during the preceding century than in the vast Pacific Basin. The United States acceded to world power by defeating Spain in 1898, and Japan by sinking the Russian fleet at Tsushima in 1905. From then on it would lead to a deadly naval race for primacy in the Pacific Ocean.

1945 brought a drastic reshuffling of the Pacific deck. Gone was Imperial Japan to be preempted by the fledgling United Nations, dominated by the United States and even headquartered on Rockefeller land in New York City. The U.N. has used political pressure and diplomatic subterfuge to wield global power in lieu of the guns, butter and bullying geopolitics employed by the U.S. During the Cold War the Russian Empire resurfaced as a major Asia-Pacific power-player, but a truncated Russia has long been replaced by Mainland China (“Enter the Dragon”).

In this roiling geopolitical cauldron, how will the brand-new, miniscule Pacific Island states like Micronesia manage to stay alive—and thrive—during the century ahead? I hope my essays in Asia-Pacific historiography will help answer that question!

My offering, *POWER GEOPOLITICS IN THE PACIFIC AGE: East Asia, the United Nations, the United States and Micronesia at the Edge of the 21st Century, 1991-2001* is a timely historical review of the Pacific Rim and Pacific Islands. As Micronesia was a post-World War I League of Nations mandate under Japanese administration, and later an American United Nations mandate after the Pacific War, the U.N. has figured very prominently in Micronesian history.

A rising China, a resurgent Japan, and the “small tigers and little dragons” of East/South-East Asia add to the dynamic tension of Pacific geopolitics. My manuscript covers the Asian aspects of this tension in Chapter 1, with Chapter 2 examining U.N. Pacific-area involvement centering on UNCLOS III: The Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

Chapter 3, the major focus of *Power Geopolitics in the Pacific Age*, renders an analysis of Micronesia, her history, and her rocky roads to sovereignty during 1990s. The colonial legacies of Imperial Spain, Germany, Japan, and the United States are examined within the historical assessment of Micronesia. This includes analyses of the Micronesian Island mandates under the respective post World War administrations of the League of Nations and the U.N.

Finally, in my Conclusions, I describe in detail the tuna fisheries of the Central-West Pacific; from their inception during the Japanese years of *katsubushi* (dried bonito) production, to the present era of giant American canning conglomerates Van Camp and Star Kist. The Third U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III) is examined, as is the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency—with their preponderant influence on the commercial fisheries and seafood industry of Micronesia.

C.D.B-H.
Port Angeles, Wash.
July, 2008

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P R E F A C E

Millennium Madness

“I am one of those scientists who finds it hard to see how the human race is to bring itself much past the year 2000”

—Dr. George Wald, Nobel Prize - winning scientist (1967, physiology/medicine).

IN PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON, 1 JANUARY 2000 A.D. CAME ROARING in briefly like a lion (a sudden early morning rain-squall) – but remained as a lamb all New Year’s Day. The sun shone, the weather was mild, and the first day of the dreaded Y2K turned out to be just another pleasant Saturday on the North Olympic Peninsula. Indeed, the final week of 1999 had been so clement that I (wearing sunglasses, yet) had spent part of Christmas Day in my outdoor hot-tub, in salubrious luxury. So far that winter there had been neither snow nor ice. And when I had awakened that special morning, water flowed from the faucets and electricity from the outlets. All in all, except for the historically significant date, ¹ 1 January 2000 was merely another warm winter day on the beautiful Olympic Peninsula of Washington State.

But for me, and millions of other North Americans, the gloom and doom of the impending Millennium Bug had hung like a pall over all of 1999. In January of that year I had read Shaunti Christine Feldhahn’s unsettling *Y2K: The Millennium Bug*, and Grant R. Jeffrey’s disturbing *The Millennium Meltdown*. Later, during August 1999, I had struggled through the truly terrifying *Facing Millennial Midnight* by Hal Lindsey and Cliff Ford. Although all the above are well-intentioned evangelical Christians, they had nonetheless helped fuel Y2K high anxiety and apocalyptic “millennium madness”. Sometime in June 1999 I ceased listening to Christian

talk-radio altogether. It appeared that every wild-eyed and loose-lipped, air-headed air-wave televangelist was forever teaching Armageddon. As an evangelical believer myself, I was both shocked and ashamed at such social and spiritual irresponsibility.

The imminent coming of the Y2K collapse was also relentlessly preached by certain economists, some scientists, and all “Guns R Us” survivalists (both from the private and public sectors). To make matters yet worse, the very elements of earth, sea, and sky seemed to conspire with the Y2K doomsday/nay-sayers. On 22 December 1999 there occurred a “confluence of celestial events” during the final full moon of the 20th Century. ² As a full moon, some say, affects human behaviour, the last full moon of the millennium loomed especially bright – in fact as well as in phantasy. For the final, full winter solstice moon of 1999 was the biggest and brightest (7 % brighter than in summer) since 1866; the last year the then-solstice moon (20-21 December 1866) reached perigee and was full all within a 24-hour time-span. ³

There had also loomed, along with the millennium moon, the pressing threat of geologist/alarmist James Berkland’s “Super Syzygy” days of 22-29 December 1999. During that week, according to the information disseminated by one Richard Dobbs of Sequim, Washington, the sun *might* have triggered the “window of maximum stress”, a Super Syzygy time, which *could* have culminated in a “Megathrust Subduction Earthquake” of up to 9.5 intensity on the Richter scale. ⁴ Richard Dobbs explained in two autumn newsletters published locally:

“ ‘The Land Grows Westward!’ is the title of one of the ‘Boards’ on Cascadia, which shows ½ of the states [sic] of Washington and ½ of the state of Oregon has [sic] come out of the sea since the age of Dinosaurs (75 million years ago), ‘the Columbia Embayment’.

“...The movement of the earth’s plates under us piles up the scrapings off the ocean floor increasing the

height of the Olympic Mountains ... 2-4 inches per year. As this movement is compounded by the spreading of the Atlantic mid ocean ridge – pushing North America Westward [*sic*] – there is a distortion caused along this Western edge/a pressure build-up, that when released, is the Megathrust Subduction Earthquake of up to 9.5! A TSUNAMI [*sic*] is sent across the Pacific Ocean that causes damage to far off lands and heat and steam generated under this subduction zone makes the volcanoes awake with the typical ‘blow off the tops’ events” ... ⁵

But Super Syzygy week came and went without any of the dire predictions having been fulfilled. Thus the first day of A.D. 2000 passed without disaster. And the new millennium dawned first over Micronesia. During the wee hours of 31 December 1999 I watched, in delight, televised scenes of Gilbertese dancers – sturdy and handsome men, women, and children in Tungaru traditional costumes – herald the new century on “Millennium Island” (i.e., Caroline Island, normally uninhabited), ⁶ the landfall most adjacent to the International Date Line, in the Republic of Kiribati. ⁷

And speaking of television, I admit to having tuned to the Arts and Entertainment channel ordered ranking of the Top 100 V.I.P.s of the millennium, broadcast during the waning weeks of 1999. This had been an absolute waste of time on my part, as I already knew: That (1) A&E (and the little sister History Channel) is a PBS wannabe in drag; (2) that so many of the Top 100 “choices” as possible would be Americans; and (3) that movie director/ manipulator Steven Spielberg would somehow be included on A&E’s elite list. Sure enough, A&E’s superior minds *did* choose a preponderance of Americans for their Top 100 V.I.P.s of the millennium (although our Great Republic has existed for a mere 223 years). And, sure enough, with the 1998 film “Saving Private Ryan” (starring omnipresent androgyne Tom Hanks) still fresh in mind, the A&E upper

echelons designated cinematic weasel Steven Spielberg 91st most important and influential person of the second *millennium*!

(Moving pictures have been around for somewhat less than a century, and it's debatable whether Spielberg is even the best director of the last *half* century! But His Stevenhood keeps on foolin' 'em. And folks have obviously forgotten that along with directing "Saving Private Ryan" in 1998, Steven Spielberg made the truly atrocious "Small Soldiers" – starring Kirsten Dunst and clever animatronics – that very same year. Go figure?)

As for the *Time-Life* monster's choice of Albert Einstein (1879-1955) for their Man of the Century—all well and good. I'm glad Time, Inc.'s inquiring minds selected Albert Einstein over runners-up Mohandas Gandhi (1869-1948) and Franklin Roosevelt (1882-1945). Einstein, for all his personal flaws, was the genuine article. I strongly feel, however, that both Gandhi and Roosevelt were intrinsically fraudulent each in his own way. But how about Winston Churchill (1874-1965) as the Man of the Century? Churchill arguably straddled the 20th Century "like a colossus", and he affected people and events more than Einstein ever did. Well, conservative talking-head Michael Medved and G.O.P. presidential aspirant George W. Bush have agreed with me!

And so, after having written the preceding thoughts all New Year's Day 2000, I hereby close these preface notes by giving delicious vent to my aching spleen. Here are my own centennial pet-peeves and millennial irritants:

Most over-rated and boring land animal: The giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*). It does nothing of note, and can barely reproduce itself.

Most over-rated and predictable movie ever made: "Casablanca" (1942). Why are Ted Turner and the American people so obsessed with this film? Humphrey Bogart is (as usual) forever mugging, shrugging, and posturing. And all Ingrid Bergman does (as usual) is

make sheep's eyes at her leading man; in this film at "Bogie".

Most over-rated and boring comic strip series: "Peanuts", created by Charles M. Schulz (1922-2000). Snoopy, Woodstock, Charlie Brown, Linus, Lucy, and Schroeder rode especially high during the Sick Sixties and Silly Seventies, but are soon to be retired. (Good grief! How about bringing back to life the Katzenjammer Kids who were really funny?)

The decade's worst television programme: USA's *Walker, Texas Ranger* starring Chuck Norris. Inevitability of outcome, mindless brutality, reverse race-baiting, and kevlar-clad political correctness are all featured in heavy, lumpen measure. KTZZ's *New York Undercover* is a close second (especially in race-baiting), but it doesn't highlight arch bully Chuck Norris kicking the bad (invariably White) guys around; *Walker, Texas Ranger* does. Both shows (along with *N.Y.P.D.*), in just a few years, have undermined all the good police/public relations which *Dragnet* (and others) had painstakingly built up for decades. Too bad.

Most obnoxious new entertainer of the Gay Nineties: Will Smith. The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air thinks he can sing ("Willennium" etc.) as well as act ("Independence Day" et al.), but don't try listening to "Big Willie" being interviewed on pc TV by one of those fawning White talk-show hostesses – unless you have a very strong stomach. Will Smith is definitely in bad need of being taught some humility lessons, which he (unhappily) won't be getting any time soon. A late 1999 rumour had Big Willie – among some other "celebrities", including chief Clinton-contributor Steven Spielberg – spending New Year's Eve with

“Slick Willy” at the Hillary White House. (A case of appropriate American justice?)

If the rumour turned out to be true, I can't think of a more fitting male-bonding buddy match-up than Big Willie and the Slickster, yukking it up at the epicentral seat of U.S. power, to end the American Century for good.

January/February 2000

NB: Charles M. Schulz (1922-2000) died Saturday, 12 February, at San Francisco, Calif., on the eve of his comic strip series finale.

Notes

- ¹ NB: In actuality, the first day of the last year of the 20th century!
- ² Paul ("I am Weasel") Gottlieb, "Rare lunar phenomenon lights the night Wednesday", *Peninsula Daily News*, 22 December 1999, p. A-1.
- ³ *Ibid.*, and "Moon: Watch from hot-tub", p. A-2.
- ⁴ Letters to the Editor, 22 September and 22 October, 1999.
- ⁵ Op.cit., Richard Dobbs, *ibidem*. Author's note: My thanks to George W. Scott of Sequim, Wash., for the above newsletters.
- ⁶ Phil Wilder, "The Millennium Comes to Millennium Island", *Pacific Magazine*, January/February 2000, Vol. 25, No. 1, Iss. 138, p. 46.
- ⁷ Hunter T. George, "State poised for Y2K switch", *Peninsula Daily News*, 24 December 1999, p. A-7.

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CHAPTER 1

Asia-Pacific Rim Rising

Overview Update: “The Pacific Age”

Part I : Japan—“The Best and the Brightest”

Part II : China—“Enter the Dragon”

Part III: Small Tigers and Little Dragons

“We are in a transition to a new era ... There will still be faster growth, but it will be more stable with the peaks lopped off and the valleys filled in ... It’s a very good atmosphere as far as the eye can see.”

— Economist Lawrence B. Krause,
U. Cal. San Diego, 1997 ⁸

Overview Update: “The Pacific Age”

“The Pacific Age .” faster than a speeding train ...”

— Orchestral Manoeuvres
in the Dark, 1986 ⁹

Much has happened in East and South-East Asia since the writer last tackled the Asia-Pacific economies and fisheries in 1991-1992. The reader would have to turn back to my *FutureFish 2000* (an earlier work) to find information on the Western Pacific Rim. The early 1990s were a time of unbounded optimism concerning the entire Asia-Pacific region. An example of this boosterism was reflected in *The Pacific Century* by Frank Gibney. ¹⁰ In it, he wrote: “We will live more and more in a world looking westward, and we stand poised on the verge of what will truly be a ‘Pacific Century’”. ¹¹ A lieutenant during World War II in U.S. Navy Intelligence, Frank Gibney also served in post-war occupied Japan and returned

later as *Time* magazine bureau chief (1949-1950). Gibney eventually founded the Pacific Basin Institute in 1979 at Santa Barbara, California, and at some point was awarded an honorary doctorate of literature from Kyung Hee University at Seoul, South Korea.¹² So Frank Gibney appeared to be an “old Asia hand” worth heeding, and the extra-large text and lavish photographs within *The Pacific Century* reflected his enthusiasm for—and belief in—Asia-Pacific Rim Rising. This writer, despite his own short experience and limited knowledge of the Asia-Pacific area, shared Gibney’s confidence in 1992 and does now half a decade later. But Frank Gibney was merely one example of Asia-Pacific boosterism. Just about all prognostications for the region were glowing. In *The Pacific Rim Almanac* (1991), a 500-plus-page encyclopaedia of Rim knowledge and facts, economic prophesies were buoyant:

“In the 1990s the Pacific Rim will exceed the rest of the world in economic growth – as it has for the past several years. Over the next two years [1992, 1993], analysts at the Bank of America predict that the Rim will average 4.8 % annual growth, compared with 2.7% growth for Western Europe and 2 % for North America. The overall growth figure for the Rim is skewed since Japan accounts for the lion’s share of the Rim’s economic activity. Japan is expected to grow at a ‘modest’ 4% per year rate over the next few years. The majority of other Rim markets will grow at a far greater pace than 4.8 %.”¹³

The Pacific Rim Almanac described both Japan and China as politico-economic sub-regions of their own: Japan, as an extremely homogeneous and democratic society accounting for 70% of Rim economic activity; heterogeneous China, as a huge potential consumer market with political turmoil (1989) under Communist dictatorship. Both nations, according to *The Pacific Almanac*, would have

profound political and economic effects on the whole Asia-Pacific area. ¹⁴ The next major subregion was the aggregate of “newly industrialised countries” (NICs) of East/South-East Asia, the so-called “Four Tigers” of Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea (R.O.K.), and Taiwan (R.O.C.). The “lesser developed countries” (LDCs) of South-East Asia were Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand. The common wisdom in 1991-1992 was that the latter LDCs would undergo the more rapid growth throughout the decade. ¹⁵ This writer refers to these South-East Asian LCDs as the “Four Little Dragons”, due to the predominant political and economic influence of Overseas Chinese. But in 1997 much has changed in both East and South-East Asia. Hong Kong disappeared as a political entity on 1 July, to be absorbed by Mainland China; and Vietnam (with a long coastline on the South China Sea for marine activities) has emerged as a real participant in the greater South-East Asian economy. There are now three small Tigers (instead of four) and five little Dragons (instead of four) ... still totaling eight always-improving players on the new Asia Pacific field.

The Asia Pacific Economic Community (APEC) trade group was formed in 1989, with members Australia, Brunei, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, [South] Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United States. ¹⁶ Seattle, Washington, was the host city of the mid-late November 1993 APEC conference in which U.S. President Clinton had a one-on-one series of meetings with Asia-Pacific leaders. ¹⁷ This writer, as an adopted Washingtonian, watched and read with great interest the developments of “The Pacific Forum” during November 1993. That year was also the Clintonista first-year frenzy of NAFTA (North America Free Trade Association; i.e., Canada, U.S.A., Mexico) and general global free trade fever. Although those days at the Seattle conference were filled with Clintonian double-speak and political posturing, the APEC forum reminded (once again) Pacific Northwesterners — British Columbians too — that they are part of the Eastern Pacific Rim; itself the integral half of

the vastly important Asia-Pacific Rim. While the omnipresent Bill Clinton schmoozed and smoothed the ruffled feathers of America's disgruntled Asian trading partners, a fully awake Secretary of State Warren Christopher was evidently enjoying his role as apex U.S. negotiator. The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* cited Warren Christopher as having said for posterity:

“As factories bloom across China, political power will come increasingly from the end of an assembly line... [APEC would help realise the vision of] a new Pacific community based on shared strength, shared prosperity and a shared commitment to democratic values... Trade and investment within the region are weaving a new web of human and commercial relationships.”¹⁸

Seattle P-I correspondent Joel Connelly also quoted an observant University of Washington student, one Curt Clark, as having commented, “He [Christopher] wasn't real specific about anything.”¹⁹

But — no matter. It was a time of personal and political triumph for Bill Clinton. For on that very day, 18 November 1993, the U.S. House of Congress voted Aye on the controversial NAFTA free trade pact with neighbours Canada and Mexico — a crucial victory for the Clinton administration.²⁰ The American President couldn't afford to look like a loser in the sceptical eyes of Asia-Pacific heads of state. But the ever-politically-alert Bill Clinton remembered not to forget the local [voting] constituents while addressing the APEC-summit organisers: “As we make these efforts, United States business must do more to reach out across the Pacific. I know Seattle's business community understands that potential that lies in the Asia-Pacific region, but millions of our businesses do not.”²¹ In other words, *You* Seattleites are *sophisticated* ... unlike some of those other folks... Quick to take the proffered bait was an enthused Bob Gogerty, Seattle corporate and public affairs consultant: “I

remember Dan Evans, when he was governor, saying forever, ‘The Pacific century is about to begin.’ It has.”²²

But this writer remembers wondering, those four years ago, if any of the APEC conference jive *cum* promises would (or could if ever) benefit the Northwest Coast commercial fishing industry? Or was the entire “Pacific Forum” purely a hyped show at Seattle for the sole attention (and advantage) of Boeing and Microsoft? Time would tell. It is now late October 1997. Asian stock markets are presently in a turmoil, adversely affecting those of Australia, New Zealand, United States and Canada. Whatever the short-range outcome, the long-range outlook for the Asia-Pacific Rim is truly awesome, with the trends of the early 1990s being well-nigh irreversible. I still concur with retired U.S. Pacific Fleet commander, Admiral James A. Lyons Jr., who projected that:

“The compass needle of history has swung away from the Mediterranean and Atlantic civilizations and is pointing toward Asia. By 1990, 62% of the world’s population will live around the Pacific Rim. The Pacific region already accounts for 60% of the world’s GNP (gross national product, the value of all goods and services). Our trade with Asia is nearly 40% greater than with Europe. The next 100 years will be the century of the Pacific.”²³

There have been attempts within the Asia-Pacific community to establish localised trading alliances, with varying results. In early 1993 Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand formed the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).²⁴ AFTA was set up by the six member nations to lower trade barriers among themselves; but, despite a proposed 15-year period to fully implement the agreement, there has been both internal and external discord. Many Asian countries seem to prefer membership under the powerful, global free-trade umbrella of the 15-nation APEC.²⁵

But, as futurist John Naisbitt has written, Asians are interested in keeping their borders—and options—open. Indeed, some envision the eventuality of a Pacific Area Free Trade Agreement, coupling APEC to NAFTA, thereby spawning the inevitable PAFTA (Pacific Area Free Trade Area).²⁶

Futurist John Naisbitt of Telluride, Colorado,²⁷ is fascinated with Asia, especially the Chinese (Mainland and Overseas), and his keen interest shows in his superior 1996 work, *Megatrends Asia: Eight Asian Megatrends That Are Reshaping Our World*.²⁸ In it, Naisbitt has updated the impressive growth market numbers for ASEAN since his *Global Paradox* (1994). In 1996, the six nations comprising ASEAN encompassed a combined population of 359 million people and an import market valued at \$226 billion U.S.²⁹ And since ASEAN admitted Vietnam in 1995, the population has expanded to nearly 450 million (almost half a *billion* people). According to Naisbitt, Cambodia (Kampuchea) has applied for observer status and both Burma (Myanmar) and Laos are candidates for future membership. Malaysia invested more than \$600 million in next-door Indonesia during 1994; over ten times the amount invested during 1993. And, in Naisbitt's words, "Thai companies led by communications giant Shinawatra, agri-industrial conglomerate Charoen Pokphand and the government petroleum authority are starting various projects in the Indochina states of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam."³⁰ Whew! When this writer was briefly in Thailand during 1971, local entrepreneurs were literally begging visiting Americans, Australians, and Japanese for business investments. Conditions have assuredly changed in the new Asia.

An example of the new Asia success story has been Taiwan, the Republic of China (R.O.C.). Today Taiwan is the world's 13th-largest trading nation, a financial and manufacturing colossus (in-between the sizes of Vancouver Island, B.C. and Switzerland). Less than half a century ago, Taiwan (Formosa) was an Asian agricultural "backwater" land, but by the 1960s the GNP rate averaged more than 9 %; 10.2% in the 1970s, and 8.2% in the 1980s. The

R.O.C.'s GNP is set to increase on an average of 9 to 10 % from 1995 to 2005 A.D. ³¹ Most of Taiwan's stunning prosperity has been engendered by export, mostly labour-intensive manufactured produce like clothing and footwear. In addition to exporting textiles and gym-shoes, Taiwan is now a leading innovator of high technology. In 1994, Taiwan's exports totaled \$91 billion, with imports amounting to \$84 billion—a fair trade. Taiwan's good accounting and smart economics have resulted in the tiny island-nation possessing the globe's largest foreign-exchange reserves. The R.O.C.'s next goal, according to futurist Naisbitt, is ... “to become a regional center for international corporations ... [and that is] realistic, considering that it lies between northern and southern Asia [i.e., East and South-East Asia], is near [Mainland] China, and has a skilled labor force, immense capital and a long tradition of supporting the manufacturing needs of multinationals ...” ³²

Taiwan is also on the cutting edge in Asian cyberspace, and has set aside \$114 million to be spent on computers for national schools by 1998. ³³ Furthermore, Taiwan's Acer is all Asia's principal computer company, and is determined to create localised versions of itself in all neighbouring countries. ³⁴ Getting onto the Internet has become the latest Asian craze. The Internet is, of course, the crucially important entranceramp onto the Infobahn, and a rising generation of home-grown cybernauts is already familiar with electronics technology, is receptive to new ideas, and will we hope (especially for Mainland China and North Korea) act as agents of social, cultural, and political change throughout Asia. ³⁵ Futurist Naisbitt has passed on a telling anecdote:

.... “An expatriate executive at Microsoft in Singapore was amazed at how much interest teenagers have in computers compared with their peers in the United States. He said, when he returns home, the common talk among teenage girls is about becoming beautiful,

going out on a big date and other stuff about having fun. In Asia, the girls are talking about Pentium, how many megabytes you need to run a certain software and Windows 95. They are ready for cyberspace.”³⁶

(In another work, I expressed the thought that the politically-incorrect personae of tomorrow might well be fish-eating Asian females rather than meat-eating European males! Perceived superiority in one group breeds resentment in another.)

James Dale Davidson, of the Baltimore-based Strategic Investment Ltd. Partnership, has written that enormous amounts of clerical work are at present being farmed out to places as disparate as Ireland (Éire) or the Philippines—where labour costs are cheaper, and the work force is both more motivated and more literate.³⁷ (And I would wager that the vast majority of these quick-witted, nimble fingered workers are women.)

There is a downside to digitisation, and two South-East Asian nations have been variously commended and castigated in the Western press for over-zealous government [mis]use of electronic information. A 1991 Time magazine article described the Thai government as amassing personal statistics on private Thai citizens; by 2006 A.D. such vital electronic data will have been stored on 65 million Thais in a single computer network. The Thai system is being seriously considered for use by Indonesia and the Philippines.³⁸ (Imagine, gentle reader, such a system under the control of a military dictatorship or a unitary world government!) And the city-state of Singapore might soon become the globe’s very first cashless society ... whether or not the voting populace wants plastic rather than paper. According to Insight magazine:

... “No cash transactions are permitted in major department stores, supermarkets, gas stations, hospitals and government offices. The scheme, under which shoppers use their plastic automated teller machine [ATM]

cards to pay for goods and services, began weeks ago To promote the new system, the government closed all cash payment offices, leaving citizens little choice but to join Singapore's ceaseless drive toward a high-tech – but cashless – society.”³⁹

Religion on the Rim sharply divides the Asian mainland (save Russia) from the Pacific Islands and Eastern Pacific littoral. The Asian mainland is overwhelmingly Buddhist, Taoist, and Confucianist, with substantial numbers of Christians in China and South Korea. In the R.O.K. a full 40% of the people are Christians; 700 thousand of them members of the Reverend David Yonggi Cho's church in Seoul.⁴⁰ The Reverend has claimed his church as the “largest Christian congregation in the world.”⁴¹ David Barret, editor of the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, has estimated that 8 % of Asia's population is Christian. In China, some 25,000 individuals join a Protestant denomination every single day; three new churches open *every other day*.⁴² Island South-East Asia is home to the world's largest Islamic country, Indonesia, with the Hindu island of Bali as an anomaly. Neighbouring Brunei and Malaysia are also Islamic nations, with Muslim enclaves in the southern Philippine areas of Mindanao and Sulu. The remaining 85 % of the Filipino population is Christian, in Asia's only predominantly Roman Catholic country.⁴³

It is not the Protestant work ethic, therefore, which drives the red-hot Asian engine; it is, rather, what Canadian writer Eric Downton in 1986 dubbed “The Confucian Connection.”⁴⁴ It was Eric Downton's subthesis, in his excellent *Pacific Challenge*, that [Asian] societies with Confucian roots were proving better able to cope with industrial changes and technological challenges on the eve of Century 21, than those [Western] cultures with a Judaeo-Christian heritage.⁴⁵ Many Western observers, like Eric Downton, have perceived the *Confucian* work ethic—spread throughout the Western Pacific Rim by tens of millions of energetic and acquisitive

Overseas Chinese—to have been the prime mover and motivating factor in East and South-East Asia’s present material prosperity and financial power. The up-side of Confucianism is a “respect for learning, compulsion to excel, and happy cooperation between amenable subordinates and responsible superiors.”⁴⁶ There is a dark side to Confucianism; namely official theft and despotic corruption, but it is the up-side Confucian work ethic that has created the atmosphere and conditions for ushering in the Pacific Age.⁴⁷

Confucianism, of course, is derived from the fifth century B.C. thoughts and precepts of self-educated teacher, Master Kung, known to the West as Confucius (K’ung Ch’iu, Kung Fu-tze, or Kong Fuzi). Master Kung (ca.551-478 B.C.) lived, moved, and had his being in the North China state of Lu. The authorship of *Analects* is attributed to Master Kung, a little book which has had a far greater (and more lasting) impact on the Chinese cultural sphere than that of Chairman Mao.⁴⁸ Master Kung’s *Analects* emphasised propriety in personal and social behaviour; filial piety and the correct observance of ancestor “worship”; and bilateral responsibility between master and servant, ruler and subject. By the second century B.C., Confucianism had become enshrined as the state “religion” of China, and the teachings of Master Kung became the bed-rock foundation of the Chinese cultural sphere—China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, and Vietnam. (And for Overseas Chinese living in the Indian cultural sphere—countries of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.) As we have seen, the Confucian model is credited for the resounding success story of Japan and the Four Tigers (Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan).⁴⁹ Once Mainland China—plus North Korea and already evolving Vietnam—becomes a free and democratic society, the Confucian model will retransform its ancestral home. That change is already under way.

Regarding Eastern religions about the Rim; it has been a case of what has gone around has come around. Zen (Ch’an) Buddhism and Taoism were eagerly received in North America by faithless

Gentiles and secular Jews during the tumultuous 1960s, mostly on the West (“Left”) Coast. Since then, the state of California (mainly) has served as the epicentre of the planet’s New Age movement, making-over Eastern religions such as Zen Buddhism and Taoism and re-exporting them back in recycled form to East and South-East Asia. In some cases the occultic New Age beliefs have been re-processed, re-packaged, and sent back (yet again) to the West Coast. *The Pacific Rim Almanac* told the tale of Thai-Chinese master Mantak Chia, who in the late 1980s, promoted Taoist longevity secrets, personal alchemy practices, and esoteric sexual techniques in the West.⁵⁰

And none other than Scottish-born guru-channeler Benjamin Creme visited Japan during the early 1990s. At one New Age convocation in Tokyo—complete with chanting Buddhist monks and dramatic Nō players dancing—Creme informed his enraptured audience that his messiah, the Lord Maitreya (living in London’s East End), had caused the recent jolt to the (Nikkei) Stock Exchange. This would be a prelude to a world-wide stock market collapse, explained Creme, as the globe is moving away from a monetary system. Benjamin Creme even had the temerity to play a tape of the channeled Lord Maitreya (known in Japan as Miroku Bosatsu), who spoke with a decidedly British accent!⁵¹

Also during the early 1990s the well-known Japanese actor, Tetsuro Tamba, personally organised the “Afterlife Research Association”. As self-appointed PR man for the spirit world, Tamba-san would help sell ouija-boards, occultic literature, and conduct “tours of the afterlife” (complete with a guarantee of no physical harm).⁵² In today’s Japan (the most completely “Californicated” Asian country, with the Philippines being the most “Hawaiianized”), reflecting ever-increasing interest in New Age “spiritualism”, are bookstores with whole New Age sections. Like their counterparts in California and the West, these Japanese bookshops feature works heavily “into” reincarnation and channeling.⁵³ The Cosmo Space New Age Center in Harajuku, Tokyo,

sells up to \$2 million U.S. worth of New Age titles per annum. The Cosmo Space New Age Center's best-selling gimmicks include "power stones that are said to help people meditate or regain their stability".⁵⁴ (Is the Rising Sun already setting?)

In California itself on the New Age Pacific Rim, hard-driving but laid-back executives, during the early 1990s, discovered a new "home-grown productivity-tool for the office: A *didjeridu* (dijeridoo). Yes indeed; the 40,000 year-old Australian Aboriginal woodwind instrument would empower Left Coast [customer] businessmen. Thus conjectured one Fred Gray Tietjen, a San Francisco entrepreneur who had developed (and was marketing) a California high-tech version of the ancient musical instrument.⁵⁵ Rationalised Tietjen (who also ran a Bay Area "shamanic counseling" practise): "By triggering the sound of the didjeridu, they [the goofy executives] can learn to alter their state of consciousness and become extremely empowered"⁵⁶ (It cost \$85 U.S. to find out how to get a good drone going in about ten minutes.)

It is Hawaii, though, in my own experience, that reigns as the Pacific Rim's New Age paradise. At least one author, Englishman Simon Winchester, seems to agree, even if arriving at a very different conclusion. Winchester's *opus parvum* on the Rim, *Pacific Rising*, was published in 1991 and grandly subtitled: *The Emergence of a New World Culture*.⁵⁷ There has been a long-time trend, for the last half-century in writings on the Rim, to hail the Coming of the Pacific [New] Age; to worship the (old neo-Pagan) "Pacific Way". Author Winchester appears to be one of those *haole* (White) worshipers who await the Coming. Despising Atlantic (i.e., European) civilisation and eschewing Western (i.e., Judaeo-Christian) creeds, these writers on the Pacific Rim have ranged from late (and great) James A. Michener during the 1950s to John Naisbitt and Simon Winchester in the 1990s. I am not about to make too much of the above cultural "correctness" as a Pacific man myself; however, when encountered, the new pc (Pacific Correctness) would try the patience of a Job. Simon Winchester's knowing wink and

patronising smirk were virtually palpable when he leeringly dealt with two *wahine* (female) New Agers on Kaua'i:

... “[O]ne of the people I was hoping to see was a woman from Pittsburgh who had settled in the old Kauaian sugar town of Hanapépé because she believed in the presence of ‘a vortex’ nearby. On arrival she had changed her name from Ann Merritt to Roberleigh Hale because, she explained, ‘numerologically speaking, Ann Merritt sucks’, and she was a woman deeply impressed by the strange ‘magick’ of numbers. She was also very anxious about health—hers and that of those around her. So she bought herself a tiny hotel and now offers to her visitors a sombre regime of massages, strenuous bouts of colonic irrigation, meals purged of all free oils and dairy products, also phrenology, iris diagnosis, aromatherapy—and palm readings.”⁵⁸

“And *wahine* number two ... “[a] fanciful woman, wife of a teacher at Waimea School, apparently her present task—undertaken with the kind of studied seriousness found among Hawaiian eccentrics—was to compile an illustrated sex manual for centaurs, a job made difficult [she said] by her inability to draw *good hooves*. Centaurs, she assured me ... tended to favour the missionary position, somewhat different from the standard equine approach liked by regular horses. She liked Kauai for the same reason as Dr. Hale, in that it was sited on a vortex of celestial power—she had been up at dawn, praying for the successful conclusion to the Harmonic Convergence of the Planets, due that particular day and visible (or whatever) from Kauai. ‘It is that sort of place’, she said in a whisper. ‘We’re into things like that on Kauai. Nowhere else in the States seems quite so tolerant.’ “⁵⁹

No indeed! Where else—save California perhaps—would countenance such metaphysical nonsense? From the shores of the U.S. Mainland whence once sailed trickles of resolute Christian missionaries, now fly in aeroplane loads of human social flotsam, cultural jetsam, religious froth, and spiritual scum, from the teeming, pestilential cities of the “great harsh continent of Eldollarado” (to quote Ian Fleming). It is escape to *California Ultima*, flight to *Hawai’i Nei*. But it is also the magic—not “magick”—of the Pacific Basin. It is beautiful, it is vast, and it is a place of starting over, of renewal. (If Siberia and Manchuria are considered parts of the Pacific Rim, so too then are Alaska, “the last frontier”, and Montana, “the last best place”.) The Pacific Age is imminent; of that there is no doubt. But rather than morphing into a Macronesia or greater California, the entire Asia-Pacific region may well become centre-stage for a religious revival; in addition to the cultural, social, and economic transformation in Century 21. Today, there are most likely millions more born-again Christians in imprisoned China than there are in all the free United States. Who knows? The islands and littoral of the Pacific Basin (this time around) might be re-Christianised, during the next millennium, by today’s inspired believers from the Chinese mainland instead of yesterday’s traditional missionaries from the American mainland! *Pakés* (Chinese) converting *haoles* instead of the other way around!

But for now, within the United States, there hangs the spectre of oxymoronic same-sex marriage over Hawaii. This pernicious legal carcinoma—if approved by the Aloha State—would quickly metastasise throughout the Left Coast, and from there into the American heartland. So at present, with California embodying the epitome/epicentre of terrestrial and celestial wrath, One World and New Age hopes and dreams reside in the Pacific Way. Palaeo-conservative commentator, Philip Jenkins of *Chronicles* magazine, has written in warning of the coming Pacific century:

.... “The model megalopolis of the new era is the

utopian city of Los Angeles, with its 'correct' orientation toward the Pacific, rather than to what was once the American heartland. To fulfill our destiny in the Pacific century, it is first necessary to abandon those financial and economic restraints which prevent the ultimate merger into the nationless world federation. And someday, the final frontier will be attained: 'Next year in Tokyo ...' is the ideal."⁶⁰

We shall see. This writer, despite the high-flying pretensions of APEC, perceives the Pacific Century as having the exact opposite effect. Confucian pragmatism, plus the common sense of the Protestant work-ethic, will combine to ensure natural financial and economic restraints. And the ancient patriotisms of the Western Pacific will work together with the newer nationalisms of the mid-Pacific and Eastern Rim, to stay the globalist hand from enforcing political union.

Notes

- ⁸ “Pacific Future Bright”, *Peninsula Daily News*, 8 June 1997, p.E-1.
- ⁹ O.M.D., *The Pacific Age*, Virgin Records, Ltd., 1986.
- ¹⁰ Frank Gibney, *The Pacific Century* (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1992), inside front cover.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, inside front cover.
- ¹² *Ibid.*, inside back cover.
- ¹³ Alexander Beshler, ed., *The Pacific Rim Almanac* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1991), p. 78.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 79. Cf. Alvin and Heidi Toffler, *War and Anti-War: Survival at the Dawn of the 21st Century* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1993), pp. 214-217.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 79. NB: The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The other two ASEAN members were Brunei and Singapore, but even then hardly LDCs.
- ¹⁶ Maryanne Bieler, “Barriers to International Trade”, *Studium Generale Program Notes*, 18 November 1993, Peninsula College, Port Angeles, Wash.
- ¹⁷ Joel Connelly, “Clinton Arrives Today”, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 18 November 1993, p. A-1, NB: The APEC conference was grandiosely referred to as “The Pacific Forum” by Seattle’s self-important chattering-class clerisy.
- ¹⁸ Joel Connelly, “Clinton: Machinists Will Greet Him”, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 18 November 1993, p. A-16.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. A-16.
- ²⁰ “Leaders, Clinton Meet for APEC”, *Peninsula Daily News*, 19 November 1993, p. A-1.
- ²¹ “APEC EXTRA – Quotebook”, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 20 November 1993, p. A-7.
- ²² *Ibid.*, p. A-7.
- ²³ *The Pacific Rim Almanac*, p. 287.
- ²⁴ John Naisbitt, *Global Paradox* (New York: Avon Books, 1994), pp. 308-309. ASEAN: Association of South-East Asian Nations.
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 309.
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 309. NB: For dangers inherent in APEC and the inevitable PAFTA, see Grant R. Jeffrey, *Final Warning: Economic Collapse and the Coming World Government* (Toronto: Frontier Research Publications, Inc., 1995), pp. 88-89.