

"Hypothetical West" and "Rise of China": On Pop-nationalism in China Today--Centering on *Currency War*'s Spread and Acceptance in China¹

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Abstract:

The book *Currency Wars* authored by Song Hongbing, has been of China's best sellers related to contemporary politics and economics. The book invents a relationship between the "Rothschild family," and American politics to allege that the world economy is controlled by the Rothschilds. This exaggeration of the influence of Americans and Europeans, consortia, and even individuals on the world has as its main intention the creation of a belief in "Western hostile forces" working against China, thus inflaming "pop-nationalism". This paper argues that, *Currency Wars* caters to fears of Western influence common in Chinese history and which reflects a traditional group psychology; second, the spread and acceptance of this book reflects a pop-nationalism based around fears of globalization similar to those which inspired the "Boxer Rebellion" over a century ago. To overcome refuge in these sorts of ideas, China must find positive ways to communicate with the world and assume its international responsibilities as it continues to reform and open up.

Key Words: Hypothetical, Pop-nationalism, Currency War, China

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CHINA'S "HYPOTHETICAL WEST," POP-NATIONALISM AND THE SUCCESS OF SONG HONGBING'S *CURRENCY WARS*

In 2007, the book *Currency Wars* (货币战争) was published in China, the first of a five volume series by the author Song Hongbing (宋鸿兵). *Currency Wars* is a combination of "hypothetical Western" views, which comprehensively describes and all-encompassing process about how Western financial groups represented by the Rothschild family made waves, shaped history and antagonized China in the modern and contemporary history of the world. Four more volumes have been published since. More than ten different versions have appeared, the book has gone through hundreds of printings and more than three million copies are in circulation. The book and its spin offs have been a Chinese publishing phenomenon, "the *Currency Wars* phenomenon."

It is no secret that the book *Currency Wars* is a peddling of the "conspiracy theory". The author Song Hongbing exaggerated or even cooked up political ambitions and influence of the Western financial groups, especially their bad political motivations to China, and he also coined the Rothschild family's capacity in international politics and finance. It can be said the first two volumes of *Currency Wars* are Chinese versions of the book *The Rothschild Dynasty* by British conspiracy theorist John Coleman, with difference lying in that the "hypothetical Western" in the book *Currency Wars* is described as a conspiracy against the "rise of China".

This paper has no intention to justify the Rothschild family or point out misstatements made in the book *Currency Wars* word by word; instead, this paper is within the limited space to discuss three key issues: firstly, why the book *Currency Wars* has been widely accepted and popular in Chinese society over the past decade? Second, what psychological characteristics the Chinese have in Western conspiracy theories are shown in the book *Currency Wars* from the theory of cognitive psychology? Third, what harms will be the book *Currency Wars* preached Western conspiracy theories cause? All these studies above point to a crucial question: how should China communicate with the world?

1. THE CAUSES THAT THE BOOK *CURRENCY WARS* IS WIDELY ACCEPTED AND POPULAR

It can be stated that the book *Currency Wars* is a unique case in the Chinese book market in nearly a decade.

The unique is reflected in three aspects. The first is the multi-volume book *Currency Wars* is frequently reprinted with big sales despite of its high unit price, which is really rare in comparison with separate popular books with a low price; the second is that almost any bestseller is time-limited, impossible to be written continuously, sold best and reprinted frequently in nearly 10 years like the book *Currency Wars*; the third is that the book *Currency Wars* covers European history, modern Chinese history, macroeconomics, monetary banking

and other areas, which is clearly more difficult and profound than popular novels, but it can compete with popular fictions in sales and mass acceptance.

Therefore, the premise to discuss the conspiracy theory, “hypothetical Western”, the “rise of China” and other issues around the book *Currency Wars* is to find the reasons why the book is widely accepted by the Chinese and sold best. I think we should start exploring the issue from three factors: the first one is the Chinese publishing situation as a whole over the past decade as well as planning, publishing, distribution and skills for promotion of the book *Currency Wars*; the second is the writing style of the book *Currency Wars*; the third is the change in social ideology in China over more than 20 years, especially the prevalence of pop-nationalism which is constructed on the base of extremalization, emotional mood, low judgment and even violence of the “majority”, such groupment of a mob similar to what Gustave Le Bon said exactly shows the populist characters, so it is named “pop-nationalism”(Han Han, 2011).

After 1949, publishing industry in China had long been known as “publishing undertaking”, which was one of the regime construction undertakings under the management of the Chinese Communist government. The books it published should first be in line with the needs of the country and the sales were carried out by the national book issuing trust “Xinhua Bookstore”. The publication system lasted until 2003 by and large.

In 2003, the publishing industry in China began to move towards market-oriented reform. On September 1 of the same year, the Press and Publication Administration of the People's Republic of China promulgated *Administration of the Publications Market Provisions*, which replaced the *Interim Administration of the Publications Market Provisions* enacted in 1999. The new provisions, whose introduction means the “publishing undertaking” satisfying the political needs should lean to “publishing industry” that satisfies the market needs, state that private cultural companies can cooperate with the State-owned publishing houses to release publications that meet the market needs.

There were certain risks lying in cooperation between private companies and State-run publishing counterparts as it was not supported by law until 2003. But after 2003, a large number of private companies started cooperation with the publishing houses in planning books that meet market needs, so romance fictions describing love and affection (or even pornography), martial arts novels blazoning forth individualism (or even violence) and other books on how to get rich quickly appeared in large numbers in the Chinese publishing market, which were almost not allowed until 2003. Traditional critics worried about such disordered changes in the publishing industry in China, saying the publishing industry in China were almost filled with “pillows, fists and pockets”, which would bring great harm to the spiritual world of juveniles in China. (Gongyan, 2004).

This is the background against which the book *Currency Wars* was published. The planner of this book Zhang Qingtang, a well-known book planner in China, was introduced to Song Hongbing by a friend in 2007. Then Zhang Qingtang's company cooperated with CITIC Press

planned and published the first volume of the book *Currency Wars*. Because the book was published by CITIC Press -- a publishing house with background of a central government-owned group, which is one of super-large financial and business groups under the direct leadership of the Central Government of China, so the book received much attention to a certain extent from senior officials in business circles and financial sectors in China.

With detailed planning by Zhang Qingtang, the book won extensive acceptance from financial officials within the institutions while receiving criticism from professional economists such as Xu Xiaonian and Lang Xianping who argued that the book had many flaws. Recognitions from a group of senior Chinese financial officials and official media have constituted external causes for widespread acceptance of the book *Currency Wars*, while the unique writing style of the book is the internal cause why it is widely accepted with large sales in China. In my view, there are four internal causes that make the book widely accepted in China. First, the description of details in the book is very minute, giving a vivid sense and convincing people; second, basic history structures and major events such as Franco-Prussian War, the Opium Wars, two world wars, and Lincoln assassination presented in the book are real, and the book constructs various associated relationships between such major events above that affected the course of human history with a series of "secrets", thus making people believe naturally. Third, in the book *Currency Wars* (excluding the third volume), almost all of the citations are in English. Under the impact of Western centrism, Chinese readers have great trust in information in English. As in their eyes foreigners know more about the West than Chinese people. Fourth, the Rothschild family involved in the first two volumes of the book *Currency Wars* was the owner of the Château Lafite, and the Lafite wine is widely known in China as consumer goods of the wealthy due to its high price, like Mercedes-Benz vehicles and Hermes bags, so many Chinese also tend to believe the Rothschild family is the monopolist of the world wealth and politics.

Of course, there is also an important element we can't ignore, which is the pop-nationalism widespread in Chinese society trend in the past more than 20 years. It is an inertia continuation of the view "the imperialism will never abandon its intention to destroy us" put forward in the Cold War times. In the view of many Chinese, the development of China today challenges the world hegemony of Europe and America, so they would make every endeavor to destabilize Chinese growth, as a result, in their eyes present obstacles encountered in the process of development in China are associated with hostile forces of Europe and the United States. This view of Western conspiracy theories has been preached by Chinese pop-nationalists.

In 1999, the United States Army bombed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade and three Chinese reporters were killed. At that time, some left writers and publishers for the first time jointly published a political bestseller *China Can Say No*, denouncing the hegemony of the United States. This book is very popular in China because it caters to the conspiracy theory that Chinese people like best -- it attributes all the barriers encountered by China in the international community to the persecution by the United States, believing China must resist the United States

to have a way out. Therefore, its publication was seen as a peak of pop-nationalism after the Cold War.

In the four years after the publication of the book *China Can Say No*, bold changes happened to China's publishing industry as a number of booksellers found the potential market of pop-nationalism and large amounts of books about Western conspiracy theories were published. This is another important reason for publication of the book *Currency Wars*. For example, Song Hongbing regarded *Kyoto Protocol* and "low-carbon standards" specified thereby as persecution by Europe and the United States to China, saying:

Carbon dioxide emissions have even been "shaped" into the most urgent public agenda overriding anything in the world, in fact, the carbon dioxide emissions have even been raised to a strategic height involving survival of the earth, and they (Europe and the United States) have firmly held the moral high ground in the world. Anyone who opposes to carbon dioxide emissions will be labeled anti-human and even anti-earth The price of this hat is absolutely too heavy for China to afford. (*Currency Wars* Vol. 2, p. 340)

But in fact, it is contrary to China's official position. In December 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping was invited to attend "Convention on Climate Change in Paris", which was the both the 21st Conference of the Parties of *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* and the 11th Conference of the Parties of *Kyoto Protocol*. Xi said in the convention that China is willing to contribute its share to reducing the carbon dioxide emissions and will have its emissions peak around 2030 with efforts to achieve the goal as soon as possible; and at that time forest growing stock will be increased by 4.5 billion cubic meters over 2005 levels. In the eyes of Chinese officials, as a world power China should have acted in line with international standards, in order to guarantee its international position and prestige, which is the basic premise of the rise of China as a great power.

Despite great disagreement between Song Hongbing's view and the official voice, it still wins the praises of Chinese pop-nationalists, who believe all trouble encountered by China in reform and development comes from jealousy of and secret persecution by Western developed countries. Such anti-globalization conspiracy close to paranoia is widely accepted in China and some Chinese people who believe in Western conspiracy theories think what the book *Currency Wars* has described is the truth unsaid in the West, so the highest vigilance must be maintained, and there is even a reading pleasure of "one will benefit first if knowing first". So the prevalence of pop-nationalism in China over the decades is another important reason why the book *Currency Wars* have been in great demand in the past nearly ten years.

2. THE BOOK *CURRENCY WARS* AND WESTERN CONSPIRACY THEORIES

From the perspective of cognitive psychology, believe in conspiracy theory is a kind of persecution mania, the result of misjudgment as a result of the deviations made in understanding. According to psychology, conspiracy theory can be classified into five types, the first is “intentional bias” brought by stereotypes (for example, the person was let out of prison is always regarded as a gangster); the second is “social bias” that people make as the objective itself is too bizarre and unnatural (such as MH370 aircraft crash); the third is “proportional bias” made due to connections between the incident itself and some things (for example, Princess Diana was considered dead of murder) the fourth is “anxious bias” that people have due to their fear of death or disaster (for example, people don't believe experts refuting rumor about earthquake precursor); the fifth is “confirmatory bias” made based on one's own experience due to a lack of knowledge, for example, some people believe they can recover from cold with no need to take medicine and cancer can be cured without treatment, so they consider pharmacists as planners of malicious conspiracy (Vincent Nouyrigat,2016).

Conspiracy theory about “hypothetical Western” flourished in China may be one of a few conspiracy theories in the world in line with the five features above -- Western conspiracy theories. They cannot be ascribed to any type above because they have the characteristics of each. To break Western conspiracy theories, they must be analyzed and pondered objectively in detail, so we should start with the changes in the image of the Western world in Chinese society.

Prior to the opium war, the image of the Western in China was simple and other countries outside of China were considered as vassal states to China in the eyes of Chinese emperors. After the defeat in the Opium Wars, China started to treat Europe and the United States as rivals. Westerners (including Japanese) really committed many illegal crimes in China in the forms of colonists during late Qing dynasty from 1840 to 1911, so that Chinese people defined them as invaders, but at the same time we also should see that the Government of Late-Qing Dynasty always handled diplomatic affairs with very outdated ideas, unwilling to get into the world of globalization and accept the general rules of the world trade, even considering accepting these rules detrimental to the dignity of the State, for example, Premier's Affairs Yamen of Various Countries was established officially more than 20 years later after the Opium Wars outbreak. As a result, anti-Western nationalism got increasingly fierce and finally was used by the conservatives, thus fundamentally leading to the Boxer Uprising in 1900.

It can be said the Boxer Uprising is an important starting point of Western conspiracy theories in China. Although Chinese people had an aversion to the West before the Boxer Uprising, they held no mind of conspiracy, which should be attributed to the Westernization Movement launched by reformist officials such as Zeng Guofan and Li Hongzhang, known as the practice of “Learning from Foreigners to Competing Foreigners” with large numbers of Western intellectuals, officials and businessmen hired as advisors for the government and enterprises as well as teachers in China, but it was soon cut off by conservative officials such as Xu Chengyu

and Zai Xun, who first frustrated the “Hundred Days’ Reform” led by Emperor Guangxu and attended by new officials, and then supported the Boxer Uprising under the slogan of “supporting the Qing Dynasty and wiping out the foreigners”. At the beginning of its rise, in order to have Chinese people fear and disgust foreigners, conservative officials with Boxer Uprising participants spread rumors around, saying “foreigners have habits of eating babies”, “foreigners will spread poison in Tientsin”, etc., as a consequence, many uneducated farmers (including craftsmen at the social bottom) rose up at a time, which was a nationalist movement launched relying on populism (Joseph W. Esherick, 1988, p.6). So we can consider the Boxer Uprising was the start to demonize the West, and also the origin of Western conspiracy theories in the strict sense.¹

There are two root causes for it, the first is China’s long-term self-sufficient farming culture, which determines that the Chinese people have strong empiricist traditions and defensive mind for other nations for a long time, with the thoughts of “those who are not our kin are sure to be of a different heart”, and “one should always guard against the harm others might do to him” spread across the nation; the second is the special history in the late Qing dynasty, when China was different from any other eastern nation in the world, for it was not colonized by one country, but nearly 10 Western developed countries (including Japan) as a “semi-colonial country”. Such special history gave birth to Chinese people’s fear of the world, in particular, the outbreak of “the War of Invading China by the Eight-Power Allied Forces” peaked Chinese people’s fear of the Western developed countries.

There are two major reasons why Western conspiracy theories could come into being. In the eyes of believers of the Western conspiracy theories, the one hand, China must rise quickly to catch up with the West, so as not to be invaded again; on the other hand, Chinese people are worried that the West would stop fast development of China to revenge and block the rise of the nation China with every effort, based on which in combination with exclusiveness and egocentrism in Chinese traditional culture the conspiracy theory based “hypothetical Western” has enjoyed rapid development in China by virtue of pop-nationalism.

It is easy to see that Western conspiracy theories covers individual characteristics of the five conspiracy theories. In recent years, with China’s rapid economic development, this conspiracy theory has been increasingly fierce, it carries preconceived idea of Chinese people brought by the wars of aggression launched by the West to China, and also covers unique issues encountered by China’s Socialism system in transformation and rise in recent years, especially when Western countries (especially the United States) have the history of overthrowing regimes in other countries through coup and cultural output. In addition, the Chinese traditional

¹ In fact, there was a bud of the “Western conspiracy theories” as early as before the Opium Wars in China, for example, a minister responsible for central supervision Huang Juezi in the period of Daoguang believed the British act of selling opium to China was to make the whole nation addicted to drugs and then weaken China’s combat effectiveness in his memorial to the Emperor. But the “Western conspiracy theories” was not combined with pop-nationalism in its bud germinating stage, so had very limited influence.

culture, especially empiricism catering to and agreeing with the conspiracy theory has caused Western conspiracy theories intensified and spread in China.

In conclusion, the book *Currency Wars* exactly caters to the contemporary Chinese psychology: thinking China urgently needs to rise on the one hand, and also thinking the West is hostile to China, and Europe and the United States always deliberately seek to persecute China. So during the “rise of China”, all the problems possibly or even without doubt come down to the West countries, considered as the result of trouble caused by them.

3. HARMS OF THE BOOK *CURRENCY WARS* PREACHED WESTERN CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Solemnly pointing out wrong statements about the book *Currency Wars* and Western conspiracy theories in this paper does not mean to deny existence of conspiracies in the world. As we all know, international politics and the world economy have always been complex, and various conspiracies known as invisible wars continue without end, especially between great powers. When a world war is unlikely to happen, economic, information or cultural warfare or penetration of public opinion is the best choice, so there is conspiracy, of course.

But that does not mean that must impute to conspiracies for every difficulty, especially the problems encountered during the “rise of China”, and more importantly should not place all the blame on the secret persecution by Western countries. Marxism philosophy regarded by authorities in China as canon also stresses a basic logical fact: internal factors play a major and fundamental role in changes and development of everything, rather than external factors. So, prevalence of Western conspiracy theories has a great harm to the future development of China and the security of the international community.

It is self-evident that there are various inevitable problems in the development and the “rise of China”, and many of them are carried by the Chinese history and society itself. As the development and the “rise of China” is ultimately a course for China to get integrated into the globalization and try to play a leading role, the contradiction between locality and globalization will be surely shown in this course.

Among five volumes of the book *Currency Wars*, the first two exaggerate the ability of the Rothschild family to control the world, arguing that it has the ambition to control the world, so it would not allow the “rise of China”. But in fact, the Rothschild family has no such power or influence, let alone its ambition to control the world and destruct China. In the third volume, the author talked about “currency wars” in modern China. In this volume, the author also exaggerated the influence of Western financial groups on China’s economy and politics, for example, he said Western financial groups controlled Western religious groups and these groups in China controlled Sun Yat-sen, Tang Caichang and other revolutionists, which seriously violates the basic historical facts.

In addition, Song Hongbing entirely blamed foreign persecution for bankruptcy of a late Qing dynasty merchant Hu Xueyan. Of course, defeat in competition with foreign businessmen was one reason for Hu's bankruptcy, but the academic circle had a certain conclusion that the Financial Crisis of 1883 in Shanghai leading to bankruptcy of Hu Xueyan not simply because foreign banks purposely stabbed in the back.² And according to that Song Hongbing argued that foreign banks brought nothing but harm to China, but in fact, some leading scholars of China also have reached a consensus that although foreign banks had infringed financial sovereignty of China before 1949, most of them came from developed economies in the West and carried out business and management in line with their State financial regulations and industry practices, so they reflected assimilation of different financial systems and financial cultures, providing certain reference meanings for foundation and operation of modern banks in China (Jiang Jianqing & Jiang Lichang, 2016, p. 1).

The fourth volume of the book *Currency Wars* focuses more on description of the current economic conditions, and the fifth volume is a collection of the author's essays composed of miscellaneous contents. But, overall, it is dominated by Western conspiracy theories, accompanied with the monetary conspiracy theories, of course. In five volumes of the book *Currency Wars*, Song Hongbing concluded that the lack of monetary systems and monetary concepts was the root cause of China's economic, political and cultural backwardness, and the use of currency in the West (especially the wealthy families in the West) was a tool to suppress the "rise of China". In actual fact, either in Western or in China, either from monetary theory or from historical facts, the argument is not scientific.

Combination of conspiracy theory and the "hypothetical Western" view would form Western conspiracy theories of resisting all foreigners, thus misleading the public judgment on future development of China and world. As the world's most populous country that has been out of two-thousand-year feudalistic autocracy for just 100 years and during this time experienced more than 30 years of war and ten years of the "Cultural Revolution", China's development started from Deng Xiaoping administration, only a history of no more than 40 years. There certainly exist various internal problems in China that has made today's achievements within such a short time: no sound democratic tradition, low educated of the whole civil, large differences between urban and rural areas or between different regions, ignorance of environmental protection and so on. These are major problems that are unavoidable in China's development today and in the future. Some problems have already showed signs now and we simply cannot put blame on secret persecution by Western developed countries for these locality problems, otherwise it is difficult for China to be really confident or even have wrong

² After Hu's bankruptcy, a commentary titled *On Decline of Banking* was published in *North China Daily News* and saying there were "too many" (private banks), "flooding money lending", "too many bad loans" "deterioration of social ethos", which were "faults in banking accumulated in the past nearly 10 years, leading to today's large decline, isn't unlike a tree that would decay before worms set in it?" putting the blame for the Financial Crisis of 1883 in Shanghai and bankruptcy of Hu on redundant and abusive financial sectors with lack of modern management systems in Shanghai.

judgment by seeing normal trade, currency flow and culture exchange as colonial aggression when facing the Western countries.

Furthermore, the book *Currency Wars* preached Western conspiracy theories were a kind of anti-globalization trends for the whole world, which runs counter to the trend of globalization as an outdated view born in the age of the Cold War, bringing no good to benign development of the world economy, culture, politics and technology.

There are two exaggerations in the book *Currency Wars*: one is hostility and persecution of the West to China, and the other one is the role of the currency in circulation. In Song Hongbing's view, wars, national strife, coups, financial crisis all are caused by the currency and the West can use the currency as an invisible weapon to persecute China and block its rise with an intention to maintain China in a poor, weak and backward state.

This is an outdated view born in the time of the Cold War. In the Cold War era, the world was artificially divided into two camps and they tried to do everything possible to prevent the development of each other with meaningless arms race, but driven by irreversible globalization, the situation fell apart in the 1980s and 1990s after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Velvet Revolutions in Eastern Europe. Today's world is no longer characterized by simple confrontation between China and West, but common development worldwide. China has enjoyed development in the last 40 years gradually from poverty to rise due to globalization, as China took the initiative to get away from the Cold War II by establishing diplomatic relations and economic, scientific and technological cooperation with the United States and actively got involved in globalization.

After nearly 40 years of reform and opening up, China has integrated with the world in the market, culture, politics and technology at a higher level. Based on economic interests, the Western countries represented by Europe and the United States probably do not want China to collapse. Today's China is more of a valuable collaborator rather than a colonized. Chinese people are currently in need of properly recognizing themselves, the West and the world, rather than stubbornly adhering to the limited domain of the "hypothetical Western", because it would be the disaster for both China and the world.

Therefore, the "hypothetical Western" in the book *Currency Wars* is actually nothing but to cater to pop-nationalism in China. It ruins establishment of China's free market and democratic politics, retards China's pace to the globalization and reduces China's prestige in the world by brainwashing Chinese people, the victim of which is not China alone, apparently the whole world including the West. The world economy, culture, politics and technology today are integrated in multi-polar interactions and thus benign development, but spreading of "hell is other people" conspiracy theory would drag the world back to the Cold War, ruining all today's achievements made in the China's economy, culture, science, politics and productive forces.

In conclusion, to grow into a responsible and accountable new power, China have to fully recognize the harmfulness of the book *Currency Wars* preached conspiracy theories for it

would block the road of the rise of China and endanger the safety of the world. It must be firmly rejected.

4. CONCLUSION: CHINA MUST FIND THE RIGHT WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE WORLD

Here I need to make a judgment: the planner of the book *Currency Wars* Zhang Qingtang and the author Song Hongbing are not true pop-nationalists, so they are less likely to be Western conspiracy theories believers.

This judgment based on two fundamental facts: Zhang Qingtang himself acknowledged that he was a Christian baptized in 2003 and his publishing company's spirit is "We and our books will serve the Lord"(Zhang Qingtang, 2013). Song Hongbing himself acknowledged that he had joined the American citizenship earlier due to his work requirements (Zhang Jiayi, 2009).

As a Christian, Zhang Qingtang openly said the Christian Church was a tool used by Western financial groups to subvert China in the book he planned; as an American citizen, Song Hongbing defended China against the injustice of "Currency Wars" launched by the United States, from this point of view, publication and success of the book *Currency Wars* seem full of paradoxes and mystery. But Song Hongbing and Zhang Qingtang become rich in the Chinese publishing industry by publication of this book. Early in 2011, Song Hongbing was ranked No. 12 in the list of richest Chinese writers with an annual income of CNY 3.8 million. In general, a planner's real yields are as much as several times the writer's royalties. There is no doubt that Western conspiracy theories are used as a means for both of them to make huge benefits. In China today, many of the "conspiracy theory" promoters themselves do not believe what they have preached, and even heavily criticize their own political choice and cultural position. What in their eyes is the large "pop-nationalism market" and they want to use the "conspiracy theory" as a tool to make money. This ironic practice is denounced by China's elite intellectuals as "making money under patriotism".

Here I'd like to make a conclusion of this study: China must find the right way to communicate with the world, and this right way, to a large extent, is to remain vigilant against Western conspiracy theories, completely deny the pop-nationalism, and know the world objectively and truly, rather than getting addicted to the "hypothetical Western".

First, China must remain enough vigilance against conspiracy theory. Both the Government of China and common people must recognize its harm.

The most prominent feature of conspiracy theorists is not to believe a certain political conspiracy, but to believe that all things in the world have been caused by a conspiracy (Maggie Koerth-Baker,2013). Conspiracy theory in China isn't only to demonize the "hypothetical Western" by pop-nationalists, but also exists in distrusted government held by anti-government protesters, namely the "Tacitus trap" commonly known to Chinese -- anything done by the government is regarded by some people as a conspiracy or ulterior motive, and

even some extremists think the history of the Communist Party of China is full of conspiracies. Such arguments are criticized by officials as "historical nihilistic". Obviously, conspiracy theory is not of a fixed ideology, and even to some extent identities of Western conspiracy theories and historical nihilism believers can be converted with each other.

Conspiracy theory is a worldwide problem, but particularly acute in China. It is all created by the special cultural environment in China. Without religious restraints, a farming nation tends to fall into a psychological state of extreme egoism for everyone has to make his own efforts (including help from immediate families, at most) for self-preservation in the poor living and production environment in the agricultural society, impossible to survive by collaborators' mutual help like marine peoples (such as sailors, and fishermen and merchants), as a result, "everyone would just do their own thing", and "blood is thicker than water" have been potential guidelines of many Chinese people. It can thus be seen that many Chinese people are naturally suspicious that other people's motives or behaviors are out of their own interests, thus forming the conspiracy theory "hell is other people".

So we should not simply be alert to the book *Currency War* preached Western conspiracy theories as it is only the tip of the iceberg of conspiracy theories prevalent in China. Besides that, there are many other conspiracy theories, such as "hypothetical minorities", "hypothetical Muslim", "hypothetical Japan", "hypothetical Taiwan" and even "hypothetical the Government of China" was said before, in addition to "hypothetical Western" Such "hypotheticals" close to paranoia with a lack of rational judgment made based on objective facts apparently are no good to the development of China and the world, so every Chinese people must recognize their harms in time and take the initiative to get out of such morbid psychology and be an excellent interlocutor with the world.

Second, at present China must spontaneously deny pop-nationalism, which is an obstacle to China's dialog with the world and a stumbling block in the real rise of China.

Connotation and harm of pop-nationalism have been fully discussed above, so this part will focus on how to spontaneously deny pop-nationalism, it's the only and best way to eliminate Western conspiracy theories fundamentally. For Chinese people, pop-nationalism is indiscriminate "rejection of everything foreign" and national inferiority, as touted in the book *Currency Wars*, several Western financial groups could overthrow the Chinese regime even by way of currency circulation, which is quite incredible. What reflected in this mass psychology is in fact a lack of sense of security and confidence. Pop-nationalists can't see China's status in the world economy today and or correctly recognize development patterns and trends of the world economy and politics. Over time, this mass psychology would grow into a huge obstacle to China's dialog if continuously spread and solidified.

Therefore, China now has to spontaneously recognize the hazards of pop-nationalism for it will cause serious harm to China's future development and the construction of the world economic order, and the Government of China must not treat it as a simple patriotism to encourage and

promote. Of course, pop-nationalism and patriotism share some similarities in a few way, but entirely different in essence, because pop-nationalism would prevent China's further integration into the globalization and gradually eliminate the responsibility that China should bear, eventually being a stumbling block in the rise of China as a great power, in case it becomes a force. So many Chinese people named pop-nationalists "false patriots".

Third, China now must objectively and truly know the world so as to communicate with the world in the right way, instead of getting indulged in the "hypothetical Western".

Ancient Chinese people always kept sufficient vigilance against the lies in books, such as the sayings "Knowledge in books is limited" and "we would rather be short of books than believe all books totally", so today Chinese people should not know the world simply relying on the books like *Currency Wars* that only aim to make profits with ignorance of fundamental facts. But the good market of the book *Currency Wars* exactly reflects that a lot of Chinese people are willing to know the world through this book, although there are advocates of pop-nationalism. However, they fail to realize that it is a completely wrong way to know the world.

If Chinese people cannot know the world objectively and truly, they will not obtain the right way to communicate with the world. Therefore, Chinese people must recognize China's international status and the external environment in an objective and proper way. I think it needs the Government of China, Chinese people and the international community to work together -- in particular, the international community should have enough patience, tolerance and time to provide Chinese people with a free and easy environment to know the world, rather than sarcastically criticizing some words or motivation of the Government of China and Chinese people that look not in line with the mainstream of the world standing on Western-centralism, as it would be deliberately misinterpreted by Western conspiracy theorists and cause unnecessary misunderstandings due to difference in culture background and political system.

And both Government of China and Chinese people should see the world and China's present international environment in an objective and positive way with a more inclusive heart, to find the general characters in culture, politics and economy between China and the West, instead of expanding the differences, and should know the rise of China means the need to bear more responsibility for world peace and the development and promote multipolarization of the world. So now the Chinese people need to find universality and intergrowth of each individual in the world with the mind of globalization, and then completely get rid out of the nightmare fantasy of the "hypothetical Western". As the Chinese scholar Ch'ien Chung-Shu (1979) said, people must have a lot in common in psychology, no matter they come from China or West (p.2). There is no doubt that this appeal will help the Government of China intensify internal reform and opening to the outside world in the coming period of time, as it will prompt the Chinese people to know the world better from modern and objective perspective, and eliminate the worries of other countries in the world about the "rise of China".

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