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### Balancing China and the Realist Road to War Summary Response

This article begins with a minor historical look at the US-China relationship beginning in 1949 before focusing on recent history and hypothesis on how the relationship will or should develop in the future. Basically, some people are looking at the current situation and are calling for a “balancing” of China’s growing power, both economic and military. However, “balancing” is just a more deceitful way of saying “containing” and if any action is taken by the United States, one should keep in mind that China may reciprocate.

For example, some propose that the US should push China back upon itself by surrounding it with American military and isolating it economically. However, the fear is that if the United States makes strong moves against China, the two countries would become rivals, polarizing the region and creating an arms race which could lead to war. This fear is addressed in the comments section, saying that due to the trade and economic necessities that involve the Pacific, an aero-naval war between China and the US (largely taken place in the Pacific region) would have worldwide effects, meaning the United States and other world powers would not allow it to happen.

This article also states that the best way to avoid war is to “step off the road to war.” I can see the obvious logic in this—step off the road and you are no longer on it—but I cannot help but think that in reality, this would only work if both participants step off the path. Even if one keeps walking, then the war at the end of the path will eventually be achieved.

The comments section also highlights some of the more questionable, aggressive actions taken by China against its neighbors, which makes me wonder how and when someone would call China on those actions without inciting a negative response, or if such a thing is even possible. However, if nobody discusses these actions with China and if no resolution is found (and abided by) then I do not know what is keeping China from continuing such actions until the end result is irreparable.