

Outline for UMichigan Ambassadors Forum

- ❖ Xi-Putin: Beijing Winter Olympics: pinky swear and blood brothers: No Limit
 - Classic: enemy of my enemy is my friend.
- ❖ China happy to see pushback against unilateral US security assertions
 - NATO expansion
 - Asian Alliances and patrols right up to China's Borders
- ❖ Comfortable economic and security relationship
 - China buys raw materials, sells manufactured goods.
 - China moving into Russia's backyard, central asia security.
 - Kazakhstan
- ❖ China buying some cheaper oil (21% -- although still affected by general rise in price) and raw materials
- ❖ Russia more dependent on China;
 - about face from 1950s; Russia now the little brother
- ❖ West is preoccupied; China can portray itself as a foundation of stability for global system
 - Xi's -- Global Security Initiative in May -- indivisible security.
- ❖ Yet, all is not well.
 - China had significant interests in Ukraine -- 6000 citizens
 - Strengthening western alliances and solidarity
 - No longer able to enlist Europe in "multipolarity"

- East rising; west declining -- not so clear.
- Russia is not much of a market for China's exports; China needs to be careful not to further alienate western consumers
- Russian hardware proving not as good as US made.
- Western resolve on sanctions proving much stronger than expected; example.
- ❖ Both China and India expressed concerns at Shanghai cooperation summit in September and more explicitly just this week.
 - Unusual for both of them.
 - China even stepped up a few months ago and suggested they could mediate.
- ❖ NONE OF THIS MATTERS
 - Communist party; Xi's third term next week.
 - Worried they're betting on a loser
 - If Putin fails, what does this mean for his "best friend?"
 - Strengthening Western resolve
 - US victory despite Xi's best efforts to raise China's status.
 - Demonstrating China may be a paper tiger? Weaponry, ineffective invasion, referendum.
 - Lose important markets as West emphasizes self sufficiency
 - Economic hit as China's economy slows and challenged by covid, lockdowns, population decline, etc.

- China needs technology and productivity; can't get that from Russia and can't get it all internally.
- ❖ Xi will get his third term -- but he's in for a rocky time.
 - Some indications he's planning a purge, as well as moving new people up.