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Book Review The Hundred-Year Marathon

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The Hundred-Year Marathon: China's secret strategy to replace America as the global superpower. First edition by Pillsbury, M. (2015). Henry Holt and Company. ISBN 978-1250081346

In this very important book, Michael Pillsbury details Chinese Communist Party (CCP) decision-making and culture. Dr. Pillsbury, drawing from decades of United States (US) and Chinese policy experience, including every presidential administration from Ronald Regan to Donald Trump, details his own evolution from believing that China is painstakingly managing its transition from a communist government slowly transiting to democracy. From an overwhelming amount of data and real-world experience, Dr. Pillsbury eventually realizes that he has been the victim of the ministry of misinformation and nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the CCP has no intention whatsoever of transitioning to a democracy but rather is fortifying its authoritarian control of China and is planning to supplant the United States as the world's hegemon. Most interestingly, he details the cultural mindset of the most prominent military generals in that their day-to-day and long-term decision matrix is governed by a history book known as the "Waring States," which details the wars between the states of China over centuries. It is a common history book used in K-12 schools, and most Chinese have read it and understand the importance of deceiving their competitor. This dynasties-old text details how one emperor deceives an emperor of a neighboring state into believing that he is poor, impoverished, and militarily inferior, such that the neighboring emperor is compassionate and wants to help improve human rights and standards of living by giving aid to the state. Pretending to be poor and impoverished to the extent that the neighboring emperor feels compassion. Tricking the neighboring emperor into giving food aid, much like the United States and European countries have done. The United States government granting China most favored nation trade status and providing billions of dollars in aid while suffering unwanted cyber theft, US companies reluctantly agreeing to forced technology transfer, Intellectual Property theft, and cyber intrusions are all part of the deception of the CCP with every intention of stealing everything they can.