

REVIEWS

A review of the book:

Jean-Paul Guichard, Antoine Brunet, *China the International Hegemonic Leader?*
Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Emka, 2011, pp. 324

by Joanna Marszałek-Kawa

Two renowned French economists Antoine Brunet and Jean-Paul Guichard are the authors of the interesting book entitled "China the international hegemonic leader? Professor Guichard from a University in Nice deals with the economic analysis as well as with the international relations and Antoine Brunet, the founder of AB Marches, in the years 2003–2007 won first place in the French economists ranking. For ten years he was chief of the strategic HSBC France bank. Since the date the book was published a discussion broke out over the question asked in the title. The intention of the authors was to uncover the totalitarian aspirations of China for domination over the world. They propose a thesis that the western world faces a war and the means of defense is the economy.

They warn that instead of identifying the threat coming from China we passively

watch it which means an inevitable march towards the precipice. In the authors' opinion China is the empire building its power on a political level as well as on the economic level. Enormous economic surpluses of the Middle Kingdom are of a particular danger for the world. They are attained thanks to the use of two instruments which are a low labour market and depreciated value of their currency which is an indicator of lack of fair play in the currency policy. All of these causes the rapid growth of the economy of China which has a negative impact on the economies of western countries.

Another unfavourable phenomenon in the eyes of the western countries is the fact that they are getting into debts with China. This fact is used by China in relation to the western world which is forced to abandon the barriers making Chinese investment in Europe difficult. According to J.P. Guichard

and A. Brunet China first of all care about the purchase of land and key enterprises. This action efficiently shortens the investment process. In the authors' opinion a big mistake lies in the fact there is the undervaluation of the potential of the People's Republic of China. Paradoxically many of them still perceive the Middle Kingdom as a country economically backward and poor country developing only in special economic zones. Meanwhile this country, over recent years, accumulated resources in many areas. It has at its disposal over forty per cent of the world's total foreign currency reserves but also it has blocks of bonds emitted by the western countries.

The book is composed of the introduction and ten chapters. In the first one the authors try to show China as a capitalist and totalitarian superpower. In the second they analyze the creation of the superpowers position in the United Kingdom and later the USA. In the fourth chapter in chronological order a creation of Japan is presented, which became a model of the creation of the current position of China. A difference between these two countries was underlined. The following two chapters contain the analysis of the economic policy of China and the influence of the Chinese trade surplus on the destabilization of the world's economy. In the last four chapters the authors claim that the Chinese are preparing for open economical war with the world. They think that they drew conclusions from the defeats which the Soviet Union and Japan witnessed. In the opinion of Brunet and

Jean-Paul Guichard the strategy of the future economic war is aiming towards destabilization of the western countries. The danger lies in the fact that the world is not aware of this threat. The authors think that facing China is unavoidable. On the basis of the analysis of the big crises it results that the escape from them was thanks to the employment of the 'defensive' protectionism. These methods should be applied in contemporary times. In view of the fact that China do not carry out the revaluation of the yuan there should be carried out a devaluation of western currencies against yuan. In reality China gives 50 percent subvention for exported goods and impose 100 percent customs on goods imported to China. Therefore they propose the monetary protectionism which will not find approval from the World Trade Organization (WTO). According to the authors' opinion WTO became the international watchdog being at the disposal of China. WTO cannot force China to change the currency rate of the yuan because it does not have a mandate for that. In this situation they postulate leaving WTO by the developed countries and establishing by them 'WTO encore'. Two fundamental modifications should allow a possibility that the member states could easily exchange currency and they would authorize the authorities of 'WTO encore' to impose serious sanctions. A condition for China which is to be met to make an accession to the new organization would be the revaluation of the dollar by 100%. In the opinion of the authors the Chinese authorities are trying to prove that the

socialist model that is being realized by them may win over democratic capitalism. Brunet and Guillard think that Chinese people attempt to gain the economical hegemony in the world. That is why they adopted a policy of gaining control over the people and the economy. This policy poses threats to the democratic states which being forced to use democratic procedures can react more slowly.

The demands of A. Brunet and J.-P. Guichard seem to be not that difficult to fulfill because they require a determination and the accordance of the leaders of western countries. That would mean the isolation of China which will not be accepted by most of the countries including those who have the status of superpowers. During the economic slowdown present in companies of the United States, Japan and Western Europe, many of them save themselves by tightening relations with Chinese partners. In recent times this has been made by renowned for high

quality of their products companies such as Swedish Saab or the German Mercedes. The European leaders do not want to listen to the authors' advice. An example of this behavior is a statement by Nicolas Sarkozy who, to the question of seeking funds to rescue the Euro zone, responded: 'If the Chinese decide to invest more in the euro instead of dollar why should we refuse'?

The main theses of the book by A. Brunet and J.-P. Guichard are disavowed by the fact that the euro currency stability is a key issue for China. Currently the European Union is the most important trade partner for China. This means that a recession in the European Union would be unprofitable for the Middle Kingdom. In my opinion Europe should strive to get as much competitiveness as it is possible. This is the only way to maintain its position on a political and economic map of the world.

A review of the book:

**Jakub Nowak, *Online Activity of Citizens. Theories and Practice*,
Lublin: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, 2011, pp. 270**

by Małgorzata Adamik-Szysiak

Dynamic changes occurring within the area of the new media include not only technological, but also social, cultural and political transformations. The increasing

role of the Internet in contemporary democratic societies is the subject more and more often studied by scientists. Jakub Nowak's book *Online Activity of Citizens*.