Written by By Michael Daly Guest Columnist Friday, 28 April 2023 05:49



The U.S.'s allergic reaction TO COMMUNISM

PART TWO OF FOUR

We now know that the Domino Theory was a flawed concept. So, our justification for replacing the French in opposing Vietnamese independence was simply wrong. And I should point out that several years ago the Wall Street Journal reported that Vietnam is our largest trading partner for textiles after China. Our trading partner – and just as communist as ever.

But our allergy to communism persists. As former Senator J. William Fulbright pointed out so eloquently in his 1966 book, *The Arrogance of Power*,

"The American view of revolution is thus shaped by a simple but so far insuperable dilemma: we are simultaneously hostile to communism and sympathetic to nationalism, and when the two become closely associated, we become agitated, frustrated, angry, precipitate, and inconstant. Or, to make the point by a simple metaphor: loving corn and hating lima beans, we simply cannot make up our minds about succotash."

Fulbright also notes that communism is commonly a stage in the growth of a nation from autocracy. We see Russia gave it up and the only way China can call itself communist was to add a healthy dose of capitalism under Deng Xiaoping. And now as Xi Jinping creeps toward more government control China's economy is sure to suffer.

A personal view of U. S. foreign policy

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Witness the recent disappearance of star Chinese investment banker Fan Bao. Chinese capitalists surely see the dangers. Isn't it time we reexamine our seeming allergy to the word communism?

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