

DRUG WAR 2.0: Will The USA Go To War With China Over Fentanyl? | David T. Pyne

[Part 2 of 2] Is China intentionally killing US citizens with the Fentanyl crisis and will the US retaliate with military power? There are many Republicans who believe that China is intentionally harming innocent civilians. What will Trump do about it? David T. Pyne is a former U.S. Army officer and currently serves as Deputy Director for the Task Force on National and Homeland Security. He also publishes a popular Substack called "The Real War" on which he analyses international affairs and US national politics. David's Substack: <https://dpyne.substack.com> Neutrality Studies is on Spotify and Apple Podcasts now! You can follow us here: Apple: <https://podcasts.apple.com/ch/podcast/neutrality-studies/id1791051233> Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/2vvTf44yckVz1hDggVolgB?si=03305b3fe8ad4cf3>

#Pascal

In general, how many people do you think in the U.S. believe that this is a deliberate attack by China against the United States with fentanyl?

#David

Well, I think it's probably almost universal in the intel agencies and the Trump administration. I think most Republicans believe that as well. I wouldn't think the Democrats would naturally subscribe to that opinion.

#Pascal

I would like to shift gears a tiny little bit because I wonder about the domestic policies that we are seeing going on. And this push now of this frontal assault that Donald Trump is doing against the deep state, against the permanent state, now with attacking USAID, with appointing Tulsi Gabbard as his director for national security. These are very, very radical proposals. What do you make of those?

#David

Well, I think what we're seeing from President Trump is an attempt to return to being a normal president. You know, for the last four years, actually, probably the last eight years at least, U.S. intelligence agencies and federal law enforcement have been weaponized against the Obama administration and most recently in the Biden regime's political enemies. And I think that's, you know, Trump's priority and his focus is to depoliticize those agencies. So there's a lot of corruption.

There's a lot of, you know, globalist, deep state warmongers in those agencies, a lot that really support authoritarianism.

And I think he's trying to root out the authoritarians within our own government. You know, I used to refer to the FBI, Biden's FBI, as the FSB, essentially after the renamed KGB security service in the Russian Federation, because that's the way they acted. I mean, they were arresting all kinds of folks, you know, the J6 nonviolent protesters, along with the few violent ones, and throwing them in what we call the D.C. gulag as political prisoners in solitary confinement, sometimes without any crimes alleged at all. So that's what we would see, I think, in China, in communist countries, perhaps to a lesser extent in the Russian Federation.

There's no place for that in a free country, let alone the United States of America. So I think that's his overriding focus. I think he does want to reduce the size of government. I think he wants to audit Ukraine aid especially, but all foreign aid in general, except for U.S. assistance to Israel and Egypt, which is mandated under the Camp David Accords. I think he wants to maintain that peace treaty in place, and so he's not going to mess with that. But the audit of Ukraine aid in particular, I think, is very important. I think it would reveal, you know, a lot of corruption.

There was, I recently read a post by a Substack author that goes by the name of Simplicius, which is, along with my own Substack site, recommended by Dr. John Mearsheimer. And, you know, admittedly, he tends to be pro-Russian. I mean, he might even be Russian himself. But he talked about a lot of that and how the Russians are winning and how there's a rumor that was released. It was actually an SBR press release that the U.S. is kind of giving up on Zelensky, forcing him into democratic elections. He knows he's going to lose. And I thought that was a really interesting story.

#Pascal

Um, can you explain to me why it is that Donald Trump is now suggesting tariffs on his two closest neighbors and allies, like Canada and Mexico, higher than what he proposes to put on China? I didn't see that one coming, honestly. Like, where is this 25% tax on Canada and Mexico coming from? Mexico, the southern border? Okay, fine. I kind of see that. But why Canada?

#David

I've always been a supporter of tariffs, and I think they're especially effective as a negotiating tactic. I mean, I think tariffs built up the U.S. into the greatest industrial manufacturing power in the world. They were overmatched, I think, almost four times by China. But that's because we gave up tariffs and allowed unilateral trade with the People's Republic of China. But I agree with you; I think it's illogical for us to tariff our neighbors, with whom we have fairly good relations—Canada and, to a lesser extent, Mexico—more than China. Essentially, he's saying it's because of Chinese fentanyl, which China is providing the precursors for to Mexican cartels. So they're the ones trying to kill Americans.

You know, Mexico's not trying directly to, even though they kind of host the cartels and they're, you know, kind of reluctant to move against the cartels because the cartels have so much power in Mexico. But, yeah, logically his initial plan was to propose, during the election, to enact 60% tariffs on China and then 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico. But I think it was a really brilliant way to use America's diplomatic heft, to use tariffs to pressure Canada and Mexico to secure the border against these drug cartels and illegal immigration. I think that's what I want to see. I think pressuring other countries to do things that protect America is exactly the kind of diplomacy that I want to see from the Trump administration.

#Pascal

But is the Canada border a problem as a fentanyl entry point as well?

#David

Yeah. So I recently saw a post on X that reported there were, I think, 46 pounds total of fentanyl. And I think that's enough to kill, I want to say, 97,000 Americans. It might be 970,000 Americans. So it could still kill 100,000 to a million Americans, the amount of fentanyl on the Canadian border. But admittedly, the fentanyl problem and the illegal immigrant problem are much, much less on the Canada side. So if that's the true reason, you would assume that Mexico would get a higher tariff threat than Canada because the problem is so much less on the Canadian side.

#Pascal

The thing that I generally honestly just don't know, don't understand, is why fentanyl is only a problem in North America. It's not a thing in Europe, as far as I know. It's not a thing in Asia, as far as I've ever seen. I've not heard about it in Africa. I've really only heard about it in North America. Why is that? Because the drug addiction issue is a two-sided one, supply and demand. It's not Chinese coming over the border and pumping this into the veins of Americans, right? It is a part of the population that buys it, wants it, pays money for it, and puts it into their veins. How come?

#David

Well, again, I think it's China deliberately trying to weaken the U.S. Part of their effort to weaken the U.S. was not just to spread COVID to America, which was kind of a U.S.-funded bioweapon that they designed in the Wuhan lab and was released accidentally. Then they did everything they could to spread it to Western countries to weaken and kill us off. But it's also to use fentanyl. I think China is exclusively targeting the U.S. with fentanyl. They're providing the precursors for fentanyl to the cartels at bargain-basement prices, enabling them to enrich themselves and make billions, perhaps even tens of billions of dollars, off American drug addicts.

And sadly, a lot of those pills—high school students, perhaps even middle school students—will buy what they think is something pretty mellow, some kind of low-dose painkiller, and it's laced with fentanyl, and they die from it. As far as why America has such a drug addiction problem in general, that's really something I can't speak to. But what I can speak to is that China is behind the fentanyl overdose issue in terms of the supply side in America.

#Pascal

which is the oldest thing.

#Pascal

Problem in the world, like the Europeans, do they have drugs that circulate, and we try to clamp down on that? I mean, if you go to Singapore and bring even tiny amounts of drugs, they kill you. People are still willing to take the risk because there's still a certain amount of drugs circulating in Singapore. So people go to extreme, insane risks in order to make a buck, right, with drugs. Doesn't it make more sense that it's just the illegal part of the world that does this and creates this bad outcome?

#David

Well, I mean, I think China has, you know, more nefarious objectives. I read that they're trying to develop a bioweapon that kills Caucasians exclusively or non-Chinese citizens. I think that's likely true. I don't think they've had any success with it, but it's been ongoing since 1990. I think that they would prefer to have peace with the U.S., but I think if we were to defend Taiwan militarily, they would indeed try to decimate our population with a cyber attack, a super EMP attack, possibly biological or nuclear weapons. But again, as far as your questions about drug addiction in general and why exactly they would kill Americans that are in the poorer class, I don't have good answers for those questions.

#Pascal

Um, how many people in the U.S. do you think would share your analysis, especially, um, let's say amongst the conservatives? Um, I don't know. I mean, in general, how many people do you think in the U.S. believe that this is a deliberate attack by China against the United States with the fentanyl?

#David

Well, I think that's probably almost universal in the intel agencies and the Trump administration. I think most Republicans believe that as well. I wouldn't think the Democrats would naturally subscribe to that opinion.

#Pascal

So, this is a motivating factor. This is a motivating belief for Donald Trump's actions against both neighbors and against China. Because the question is, if what you're outlining is true and it is a deliberate attack, then this is a reasonable response. If that is not what's happening, if the drug trade is more something that maybe the Chinese don't clamp down on enough and the others don't clamp down on enough, but they don't use that as a deliberate strategy to weaken the United States, then this strategy will not achieve the intended purpose, right? Because it's outside of the realm of power of the other guys.

#David

Yeah, I mean, I think it really is. I think the reality is that China is attempting to kill and succeeding in killing at least 75,000 Americans a year through fentanyl poisoning. I think what needs to be done, I mean, the real cure is, you know, tariffs help. Certainly, they help deter that, especially on the Mexican side to help, you know, interdict that traffic. But I think a better way to resolve that issue is to address China's underlying concerns with their security in terms of, you know, our treatment of Taiwan or, you know, our sorties in the Taiwan Strait, which, you know, they find very objectionable.

They consider these their own home waters. So, I think we need to de-escalate in the Western Pacific and the Far East. If we have better relations with China, then we can, I think, as part of a trade deal or a deal that would include resolving the Taiwan issue entirely with what I proposed: kind of an EU-style confederation between Taiwan and China, where Taiwan becomes part of a Chinese union or a union of Chinese republics. I think that would be sufficient to cause China to stop trying to kill Americans through fentanyl and devise ways to destroy us long-term in the event we go to war with them over Taiwan.

So, you know, again, another option I've been proposing since 2019 is a tripolar sphere of influence agreement in which we would agree to a Chinese sphere of influence over Taiwan, Mongolia, and Southeast Asia. They're recognizing a sphere of influence for us over perhaps Western Europe and the Western Hemisphere, perhaps even over Japan, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, and maybe South Korea as well. But we would pull our troops out of South Korea and try to sign a permanent peace agreement with North Korea. So I think that's another way we could allay China's legitimate security concerns. But, you know, that said, I do view China as an inherently aggressive power.

But I think we can use a mix of diplomacy and containment to mitigate Chinese aggressive intentions, because I think they don't really want war with the U.S. They're preparing for war, assuming that the U.S. is going to defend Taiwan, and they're mobilizing their economy and military for war. In the very near term, I think they've been waiting for Trump to become president before they blockade Taiwan because they truly believe, and I think they're probably correct, that Trump is

going to opt for a peace deal to resolve a blockade rather than try to break a blockade militarily and lead us down the path to nuclear war.

#Pascal

You have to invite Chinese colleagues and maybe Russian colleagues in order to discuss this analysis because it's essential. I mean, I absolutely agree. And we're still going through insanely dangerous moments. But what I also figure out is it's really, really hard to know what the other side is actually doing. And just like the United States is not a unitary actor, right? There are people like Rand Paul and there's people like Tulsi Gabbard, and even the neocons, they're all around, and they all influence a push and pull.

And it would surprise me if that wasn't the case for the Chinese and for the Russians too, maybe in different ways with different factions, but the push and pull is there. Last question about what's currently going on with Mr. Trump. Do you think, what's his next big target internally? Because he has been signing a lot of executive orders. And do you think that they will stand? Because he's also really testing the limits of executive orders here, like pushing far beyond what I thought was possible. This will be challenged, won't it? Quite a few of them probably in court.

#David

Yeah, I think a lot of his executive orders are already being challenged. And, you know, I think he's doing the right thing. The Republican majority is in the House of Representatives, and the Senate's good, but we still have the filibuster to get through. Our majority in the House, I think, is like 217 to 215, with the resignations of three of Trump's cabinet members necessitating the need for special elections, which won't be completed until next month. So, I think the purpose of these executive orders is to reverse the extreme authoritarian tendencies that we saw in Biden's executive orders.

So I guess that's the point I'm trying to drill through, is that, you know, I don't view this as a departure from the norm so much as an attempt to restore kind of the pre-Biden tendency, the normality that we had in terms of our democratic traditions, non-politicization of our intel agencies, and non-weaponization of our federal law enforcement agencies. And, you know, at the same time, he's trying to reduce U.S. involvement in terms of regime change wars, trying to end the wars. USAID, of course, played a pivotal role in the Maidan revolution as a CIA front group that provided \$5 billion to the Ukrainian opposition groups, without which there wouldn't have been a Maidan revolution.

Let's just be honest. Without that \$5 billion, there wouldn't have been the funding necessary to make that happen, and Ukraine would likely still have 100% of its internationally recognized territory. So that's key, you know, doing everything he can to defund and end wars. As he

mentioned, I think they referenced his inaugural address and prior to that, as well as to reduce government spending, because, as you know, we've been having federal budget deficits between one and one point five and two trillion dollars, which is just not sustainable from a U.S. perspective.

#Pascal

Well, a lot of things will clear up in the next couple of weeks because the directions for the next four years are being set right now. We will certainly talk again, David. People, if they want to find you, they should go to therealwar.com, right? Or anywhere else?

#David

Yeah, it's dpyne.substack.com. So it's d-p-y-n-e.substack.com. That's The Real War newsletter.

#Pascal

Everybody, check out David's Real War newsletter. David Pyne, thank you very much for your time today.

#David

Thanks so much. Have a great day.