



## *U.S. and China Keep Finding Confrontation*

*Doug Bandow, Forbes*

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Beating up on China has become a favorite political pastime. This year Mitt Romney, playing against type—an avatar of corporate America—threatens to be tough on Beijing. This strategy might win a few votes but could end up discouraging reform within the People’s Republic of China.

China’s history is venerable but tragic. Mao Zedong dominated the PRC from its founding in 1949 until his death in 1976; his policies led to political chaos, pervasive poverty, and mass death. In contrast, his successors, led by Deng Xiaoping, moved China towards the market. The country remains authoritarian, but personal autonomy, economic freedom, and even civic space have expanded.

U.S. relations with Beijing never have been easy....