

China as a Contradiction

- The categories “developing country” and “developed country” are mutually exclusive. (A country cannot be both a developing country and a developed country because the terms contradict one another.)
- Premise 1
- Premise 2 China is a developing country.
- Premise 3 Developing countries are poorer and weaker than developed countries.
- Premise 4 China's per-capita GDP (Gross Domestic Product) ranks between 66th and 77th in the world, and hundreds of millions of Chinese people still live on only \$1 or \$2 per day.
- Conclusion China is poor and weak.

- Premise 1 At Purchasing Power Parity (PPP), China has the highest GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in the world and has the second highest number of “dollar billionaires.”
- Premise 2 China projects military power well beyond its borders, with at least one foreign military base (Djibouti, as of Aug. 2017).
- Premise 3 China is a member of the UN Security Council and has the power to veto any proposal.
- Premise 4 The ambitious “One-Belt-One-Road” project could only be proposed and undertaken by a great power.
- Conclusion China is a superpower.

Do these two conclusions (argument & counter-argument) contradict one another? Regardless of what you think about your home country, would being a superpower rule out the possibility of being poor and weak? And vice versa, would being poor and weak rule out the possibility of being a superpower? Why/Why not?

Is China a paradox (Sth. which clearly exists but appears to be self-contradictory)?

Are all the premises true? Are any less true than the others?

What loopholes can you find? (i.e. what examples can you imagine which keep the premises true but lead to a different conclusion?)