

1. As a superpower, the United States has contributed a lot to the rest of the world over the past decades; what is your take on this? What has the US done effectively? What areas have they not been so successful in?

The United States is a world leader in technological innovation. We have a very vibrant private sector that invests billions of dollars in research and development, attracting the best talents from countries all over the world, including China, to create technologies that will benefit all people. The United States also shines in higher education. Although we are still working to make this education more accessible and affordable to all Americans, the United States still has some of the best universities in the world. Many of the world's most accomplished scientists and business and political leaders are educated here. As a superpower, the United States should strive to be the international example of justice, peace, freedom, humility, human rights, and generosity. We have made progress on many of these fronts, but there is still much work to be done.

2. What are the responsibilities of world powers towards less advanced areas of the world? In your view, what is the best and most effective way of giving support to these areas?

As a Christian and a political leader, I always have believed the rich should be generous in assisting those who are in need. The industrialized countries should do their best to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. More than half the world's people live on less than \$2 a day. Developed countries should increase development assistance with fewer strings, forgive foreign debts of the poorest nations, seek peaceful solutions when there are known threats to peace, and most importantly, get to know the poor and learn how to uproot their poverty. We should give people authority and responsibility over their own affairs, enhance cooperation among donors, and recognize the inevitable impact of abject poverty on human rights, violence, and susceptibility to recruitment for violent acts.

3. What helped you decide to focus your efforts post-presidency on contributing to the public good of the world?

When Rosalynn and I founded The Carter Center in 1982, we envisioned it as a place where people could come together to resolve their differences and solve problems. Since then my life has been much more enriched and enjoyable. The main thing that I've experienced in the last 33 years has been unparalleled exposure to the poorest, and most forgotten, and hardest suffering people on Earth. It's difficult for many of us to understand their plight. But at The Carter Center, we have been able to go into the most remote areas of Africa, Latin America, and Asia and actually meet with people who are suffering and find out why. Then we work with them as partners, providing them with the tools and knowledge that are not otherwise available and giving them maximum opportunity to apply these resources to lift themselves out of the cycle of suffering and hopelessness. Being able to help and seeing the result has been a source of joy for my wife, Rosalynn, and me all these years.

4. What is the role of The Carter Center in providing assistance to less developed countries?

The mission of The Carter Center is waging peace and fighting disease. The Carter Center has always had a policy of not duplicating the effective work of other organizations. If the U.S. government or the World Health Organization or the Gates Foundation is doing something effectively, we don't duplicate them, and we don't try to compete with them. We also do not go into a country without a governmental invitation. Cuba, North Korea, Venezuela, Nepal, Syria, and more than 70 countries have invited us to work with them to find new avenues to peace, build better lives, or observe and sometimes assist their own efforts to hold credible elections for public offices.

We focus on the eradication of diseases that the World Health Organization calls

“neglected tropical diseases.” We go to the poorest places on earth to deal with diseases about which most people in more developed nations have never heard — onchocerciasis, dracunculiasis, schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, and trachoma. These diseases don’t affect rich countries such as the United States, Canada, Europe, or Japan. They don’t even affect countries that are moderately rich, like Egypt. But they adversely affect hundreds of millions of people in Africa and some in Latin America. We are making good progress on a number of fronts. We are getting to the last stage of eradicating Guinea worm, which may be the second disease to be eliminated from the face of the earth after smallpox. Also, we have almost completed the elimination of river blindness in the Western Hemisphere.

5. As China’s power rises, the expectations for it to share in the world’s responsibilities have also risen. What are the United States’ expectations for China in this regard?

There are many critics of China in the United States today who fear China’s rise and worry about China surpassing the United States economically. They question China’s motives in the valuation of its currency and in investing in the developing world, in Africa, and Latin America.

This is in part because our two countries are deeply intertwined and are likely to become more so in the future. China is currently the largest holder of U.S. Treasury bonds, with a portfolio of around \$1.5 trillion. This makes China uneasy about the state of the American economy, prompting it to gradually unload some of its U.S. debt holdings and express its worry publicly.

Other factors that have caused frictions in the bilateral relationship are differences in our histories, cultures, political systems, and principles of foreign policies. These differences need to be carefully studied, conveyed, and taken into consideration when

leaders of the two nations make decisions regarding each other's affairs. This is why I made the decision to set up a U.S.-China relations project at The Carter Center at the urging of President Xi Jinping during my visit to China late last year.

Thirty-five years ago when Deng Xiaoping and I decided to normalize relations between our two nations, we both believed that the benefits of cooperation and collaboration between the United States and China would vastly outweigh the possible risks. I still hold the same belief today. We need to learn from each other's strengths and must each avoid repeating the other's mistakes. In recent decades, China has accumulated vast experience in alleviating poverty, and it is my hope that China can work with many organizations, including The Carter Center, to introduce its experience to less developed corners of this world.

7. In your opinion, how can China make a significant contribution in terms of the world's responsibilities? With regard to sharing these responsibilities, what is the prospect of cooperation between the US and China? In what way can the two countries work together effectively?

China and the United States can inspire and transform the world with a partnership to deal with many global challenges. In fact, when Washington and Beijing reach consensus and agree to cooperate to resolve a problem, that problem can be resolved much more quickly. When I met with Chinese leaders last year, we discussed the possibility of bilateral collaboration to reduce global warming. Chinese leaders expressed full support for recommendations from the early Kyoto Round and the more recent environmental conference in Doha, Qatar. Other countries would follow this dual leadership.

But global warming is just one of the areas that will benefit from a U.S.-China partnership. As the world becomes more economically intertwined and politically

diverse, China should assume greater responsibilities in ensuring regional security, good governance, and accountability in areas torn by conflict or poverty. The United States should welcome China's growing influence in the developing world and actively seek ways to engage China on issues of mutual concern. Our two nations may inevitably compete in some areas, but I am confident that in the long run, leaders and peoples in both countries will realize that the United States and China can benefit through mutual cooperation. Global peace and prosperity hinge on this crucial cooperation.