

The Domino Theory

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The Domino Theory

Jean Collins

As we all know, there is no danger in the world today other than International Communism. How do we know this? Haven't all our wars since 1945 been fought in its name? If wars are not dangerous, what is.

A list of countries where Americans have fought and died because of the Communist Menace reads like a geographical treatise: Greece, Korea, Lebanon, Iran, Taiwan, Guatemala, Cuba, Berlin, Dominican Republic, Laos, Vietnam. This survey has evolved into what is known as the Domino Theory.

The Domino Theory is not a lesson in how to play a sedentary indoor game; it is largely an outdoor sport. It theorizes that, if we do not fight in Greece, Korea, Lebanon, Iran, Taiwan, Guatemala, Cuba, Berlin, Dominican Republic, Laos and Vietnam, we will soon be fighting here at home.

Well, I wouldn't want to do any more fighting here at home than is absolutely necessary, but I don't subscribe to this Domino Theory. Why should I when I have a perfectly good Domino Theory of my own. My Domino Theory is much more practical than the better-known one. In fact, it removes any possibility that it will not work. To prove that mine is the superior model, here is an example of how the old iffy brand works:

First, we start with the Russians and/or the Chinese (whichever the case may be). Back home in Moscow or Peking, a group of ambitious, insecure men sit around a table stroking their bearded and/or beardless chins in deep reflection. "Where shall we start up next?" they ask themselves. "We haven't had a brush-fire war in several months and the Americans are getting soft. They're even beginning to save a little money. In humanity's name, we must see that these poor Communistically-deprived capitalists get their exercise to keep in trim."

"How about another Southeast Asian country?" suggests a naive Russian and/or Chinese (whichever the case may be). "We can always find a dictator in that area who needs a bit of overthrowing."

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He is told: "Southeast Asia would be impractical. The Americans already have an army there — what sort of exercise would that be? We must remember their physical fitness program as well as their Domino Theory. How about a battle nearer their home — say, on one of the Pacific islands?"

"A Pacific island? But do they have dictators there?"

"Don't be ridiculous — there are always dictators. If we do not find one ready-made, we can always create a side for the Americans to take. It doesn't matter much, anyway. Whichever side we are on, the Americans will take the opposite tack out of principle. Let's be fair about this thing. Up to now, the Americans have gotten to do all the traveling. Now it is our turn to take a worldwide tour. Our next target, gentlemen, will be Pacific Island X. . . ."

Meanwhile, back at the Pentagon, the CIA, having already been informed of the Russian and/or Chinese plot (whichever the case may be) to overthrow the government of Pacific Island X, are conferring with military and diplomatic officials. We will not go into all the details involved, because they may well be classified and we would not like to give out such information gratis. We will take up our eavesdropping position only at the point pertinent to our story.

The CIA is explaining that Pacific Island X, an original land of aboriginals, has a potent number of potential Commies. "How can they help it, with their ancestry?" asks the CIA. "We all know that Mela-, Micro- and Polynesians come in various shades of red."

"But who is their government?" asks a chicken colonel, a man slated to become general because of his outstanding skill in superintending traffic within the Pentagon enclave. "We cannot prevent the government's overthrow, if we do not know who he is."

"A minor point," say the CIA. "We have already selected their democratic government for them, as a matter of fact. Our major problem is how to oust the subversive infiltrators, for the land on Pacific Island X is in itself a typically Communist plot. We must not waste time worrying about dubious friendships. We must concentrate on containing the enemy now, as they are getting closer and closer to our shores."

Of course you know what happens. We have been through it all before. The Communists send a few Moscow and/or Peking-trained guerrillas (whichever the case may be) to the Pacific Island of X and arm

them to the teeth with American-war-surplus-foreign-aid equipment. Their arsenal is not overcrowded as everyone knows who has ever tried to find a dentist in that region.

The Americans, who Never Let Their Friends Down, contribute the latest style weapons that the armaments lobby can produce. They send food in the form of surplus canned goods obtained at only slightly elevated prices from the food manufacturers' lobby, and build roads and bridges and dams and dance halls and snack and other bars. All this so the X-ers will know that they have more to gain from a democratic society.

In direct proportion to their newly-gained affluence, the islanders begin to understand what this is all about. They cooperate by forming sides in order to continue the war, for they know if they have no problems, their benefactors will all go home.

The war lasts for several billion American dollars, several thousand American lives, and the most modern roads, bridges, dams, dance halls, snack and other bars are still left standing.

By this time, of course, the Russians and/or the Chinese (whichever the case may be) have long since gone home to plan where the next outbreak will occur . . .

You can see what a mess this all is — this Containment Branch of the Domino Theory. Containing Communism might work all right, if there weren't so many containers.

My Domino Theory consists of positive action. Why bother with all these branch office wars unless we are going to win? Victory always looks better in the history books. How can you explain to a future fifth grade child all the nuances of the old-style Containment Policy? Kids don't care about things like that. They want to know did we win or did we lose the war.

They'll find an instant answer in my Domino Theory

Here is what I would do if I were in an elevated military or political position (whichever the case may be):

Let's start with Pacific Island X. It's there; it's handy, and we are already at war. There are Communists in that jungle? Don't fool around — let's defoliate them out of there. The best way to do it is to blow up Island X. See — this war is already won.

At least it was a war to the Pacific Island X-ers. The more sophisticated among us know it to be only a minor skirmish in the Battle Against International Communism. We must go after the source.

China. Get them now before they become as powerful as the Soviet Union, i.e. before they're big enough to get us. We H-Bomb mainland Cinha (and Formosa, too, while we are about it, because it has already outlived its use). This is excellent military strategy as we have prevented a potential threat.

Now that China and its Militant Communism has been destroyed, is International Communism dead? Not yet, unfortunately, although we are certainly on the right track.

We tour the Soviet Union and make of it one vast Siberia without its people.

Southeast Asia and Indonesia are also defoliated.

Can we go home now to live in our natural peacefulness since we have destroyed so much of the Communistic World? Alas, no. We learn that Egypt's Nasser's Arab unity movement has been a flop and his efforts turned to a more tractable market. Nasser has passed his declining years in rallying the African peoples. The continent we call the Dark One is now blushing a rapidly deepening Red.

Allo! What's this? Monsieur le Président DeGaulle is unhappy that we have bombed his former colonies? He has patiently stood by while Island X, China, the Soviet Union, Indonesia and Southeast Asia went with the wind. He has been too busy with his hobby of collecting gold to notice until now, but he can restrain himself no longer. He sends a Note to the American President, who passes it on to the State Department, who pass it on to the Pentagon. "Hmm," say the Pentagon, as they give their order. "And while you're about it, here's a visa for Eastern Europe, too."

On the way home, we H-Bomb Cuba, and Castro floats beard upward in the Caribbean Sea.

For some reason this makes Latin America angry, and it is with regret that we must teach them a lesson. We have always been good neighbors with this continent and we must now apply the Golden Rule. And so, *Adios Amigos!* We hope that if we ever get out of line, our good neighbors will H-Bomb us.

You can see how foolproof my Domino Theory is. When we play our dominoes efficiently, it is far less costly in men and money. Besides, our troops have already seen the world.

Another fringe benefit of my Domino Theory has to do with the subsequent peace — one of the stickiest factors of any war. Because of the thoroughness of this method, all post-war problems are automatically obliterated.

