

Re: Asians to dominate space too?

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- *From:* Phil Wheeler <w6tuh-ng7@xxxxxxxxxx>
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Brian Tung wrote:

Stephen Astro wrote:

What has China accomplished? Ever? (That the USA didn't accomplish first)

I'm sure this is a troll, but...

Writing (not invented for the first time in China, but certainly long before the Phoenicians, who created the ancestor of the Roman alphabet that English is written with). The invention of paper. Gunpowder. Pretty significant stuff, I'd aver.

Among other things.

Oh, and relevant to this newsgroup, a tradition of supernova and comet observation thousands of years old.

Indeed.

Not to say the U.S. hasn't been a leader in technological innovation for about a century, and the preeminent leader for the last half-century plus, but the rhetorical question is nonsense. I mean, come on, the U.S. as a Western country (let alone a world power) is a few hundred years old.

Funny how we seem to forget that James Watt was from the UK :)

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Now, why did the U.S. become the pre-eminent leader in science and technology? There are lots of factors, but surely a significant one is the exodus of top-notch scientific minds from Europe in the mid to late 1930s. Germany played the xenophobia card to its detriment—a trend that I fear is happening to the U.S. today.

I think that reasoning is a bit flawed, Brian. U.S. leadership really was rooted in developments and events before the 30s. The European exodus may have accelerated it, but did not enable it.

And I don't see a similar exodus from U.S. today due to any xenophobia. We are losing ground because, for a variety of reasons .. from Government to students' personal choice .. we are falling behind in science and technology education. Alas, we are not training enough scientists and engineers to feed any substantial exodus!

Phil

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