

have called this the new normal; this is what we should expect. But in many ways, when we look at this chart—Republican, Democratic administrations—the 3-percent line here is not a great number. It is an OK number. The traditional numbers of economic growth are closer to 4 percent for our country. But literally, in almost 15 years, we haven't hit it—not once. President Obama was the first President who never hit 3 percent GDP growth in a year, ever.

This is not a healthy economy, and in many ways people are starting to question the American dream, the idea that each generation will be better. We have to get back to a strong economy. I certainly hope the Trump administration will be focusing on this. I know that many Members of this body are focused on this issue.

Last quarter we didn't have a good start with the new administration—0.7 percent GDP growth, less than 1 percent growth. Economic growth, even more than military might, in many ways is the coin of the realm in Asia. We must get back to a robust economy.

Many experts at home and abroad say we can't do it. They say our demographic challenges are too great, but I disagree. If we look at U.S. history, every time we are dismissed, every time someone talks about the decline of the great American engine of growth, whether in the 1930s or in the 1970s or beginning in the 1980s when Japan was going to overtake us—every time that has happened and the naysayers are out there, the U.S. economy comes roaring back. It is critical that we do this now.

We have so many strategic advantages, even relative to China, with regard to our economy. So many of our challenges, in my view, are self-inflicted problems that we can solve.

Strong economic growth—at least about 3 percent—will more closely bind our allies to the United States in the Asia-Pacific region.

Strong economic growth will help us rebuild our military, which has been drastically cut over the last 8 years. Strong economic growth will be critical to tackling our challenges at home, such as skyrocketing deficits and debt levels and crumbling infrastructure. Perhaps, most importantly, strong economic growth will enable us to view the future, including the rise of China, with confidence and not fear.

Our great Nation succeeds when we look to the future with opportunity, not with trepidation. In Professor Allison's upcoming book, currently titled "Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides's Trap," he notes that fear was the driving force that propelled Athens and Sparta into the Peloponnesian War. "What made war inevitable," Thucydides tells us, was the rise of Athens and the fear this instilled in Sparta.

In the 12 of 16 cases he reviews in his book where a rising power challenged an established power leading to war,

fear was a key driving force that often precipitated war. The more our policies at home can renew America's strength, vitality, and confidence, the more likely in my view it is that we will develop clear, long-term foreign policies that can help us avoid the Thucydides Trap.

I have had the opportunity in my career to view the U.S.-China relationship over the past two decades from a variety of different lenses and perspectives. Over 20 years ago, I was deployed as a young marine infantry officer as part of an amphibious task force to what later became known as the Third Taiwan Strait Crisis, defending U.S. interests in the region and those of our ally Taiwan.

Later, I was an NSC staffer and an Assistant Secretary of State under Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and I spent a lot of time in China working on these issues. I became a State of Alaska official, traveling for my State as the commissioner of natural resources and energy. I have traveled to China to pursue the promise of better economic relations. China is now the No. 1 market for my very export-oriented State, for Alaska exports. Now, as a U.S. Senator, I am focused on this issue and cochairing the U.S.-China working group with my good friend Senator DAINES and getting out to the region as often as possible.

I have seen the promise, opportunity, and challenges of the U.S.-China relationship as it has matured over the last 20 years, and I have deep respect for China, its history, and all that it has recently accomplished. I know some of the leaders there and consider them colleagues.

This body, the Senate, and our country need to do more to focus on how to make sure that the rise of China is compatible with U.S. economic and national security interests and, most importantly, with the interests of the people we represent.

I have laid out some core principles this evening on how we might begin to develop a coherent, long-term strategy and address the challenges and opportunities of China's rise. I hope my colleagues—Democrats and Republicans—will work together over the years on this incredibly important issue. There is so much at stake and a lot of work to do by many in the governments, the private sector, and the military—both in the United States and in China and in the countries of the region.

The gravitational pull of history might be working against us. There is a lot riding on how we address this pre-eminent geostrategic issue.

Let me conclude by reading how Professor Allison, in his book, sums up the challenge. He states:

The return to prominence of a 5,000-year-old civilization with 1.4 billion people is not a problem to be fixed. It is a condition—a chronic condition that will have to be managed over a generation. Success will require not just a new slogan, more frequent presidential summits, or additional meetings of departmental working groups. Managing this relationship without war will demand sus-

tained attention, week by week, at the highest levels in both governments. It will require a depth of mutual understanding not seen since the Henry Kissinger-Zhou Enlai conversations that reestablished US-China relations in the 1970s. Most significant, it will mean more radical changes in attitudes and actions by leaders and the public alike than anyone yet has undertaken. To escape Thucydides's Trap, we must be willing to think the unthinkable—and imagine the unimaginable. Avoiding Thucydides's Trap in this case will require nothing less than bending the arc of history.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:31 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MATTHEW BASSETT, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE JIM R. ESQUEA.

THE JUDICIARY

AMY CONEY BARRETT, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE JOHN DANIEL TINDER, RETIRED.

JOHN KENNETH BUSH, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, VICE DANNY J. BOGGS, RETIRED.

JOAN LOUISE LARSEN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, VICE DAVID W. MCKEAGUE, RETIRED.

KEVIN CHRISTOPHER NEWSOM, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE JOEL F. DUBINA, RETIRED.

DAVID C. NYE, OF IDAHO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO, VICE EDWARD J. LODGE, RETIRED.

SCOTT L. PALK, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA, VICE STEPHEN P. PRIOT, RETIRED.

DAMIEN MICHAEL SCHIFF, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE GEORGE W. MILLER, RETIRED.

DAVID RYAN STRAS, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT, VICE DIANA E. MURPHY, RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR PROMOTION IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624, 3037, AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. SUSAN K. ARNOLD
COL. JOSEPH B. BERGER III
COL. ROBERT P. HUSTON

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. RICHARD J. LABEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. TODD W. LEWIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. GEORGE N. APPENZELLER
COL. TELITA CROSLAND

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. STEVEN R. RUDDER
IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

JAMES E. THOMPSON
IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

PABLO F. DIAZ
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CRAIG A. NAZARETH
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

BRIAN C. MCLEAN
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

RAYMOND C. CASTELINE
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DANIEL J. SHANK
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS A CHAPLAIN UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHRISTOPHER W. DEGN
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

JASON T. KIDDER
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

TITO M. VILLANUEVA
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 4333(B) AND 4336(A):

To be lieutenant colonel

PHILIP J. DACUNTO
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

STEPHEN R. NOVEMBER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

LUISA SANTIAGO
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ROBERT J. BONNER
IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JUANITO F. BOYDON, JR.
MICHAEL J. MONAGHAN
DANA M. MUCHOW
MICHAEL S. RICHMAN
ELMER L. ROMAN
SURESH K. THADHANI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

ANTHONY L. BAYUNGAN
TASYA Y. LACY
MICHAEL A. LEACHMAN
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

TODD M. BOLAND
DEWUAN L. BOOKER
TODD M. BRUEMER
JOHN S. CHRISTENSEN
JOHN P. V. COLLINS
MARK E. CROWE
GEORGE F. GLAZE
JEFFREY T. GRANT
MICHAEL J. HANSON
JAMES A. HAYES
WILLIAM J. MCCABE
REINALDO J. MORILLO
KANAN C. OTT
BARRY R. PARKER
BRIAN J. SHEAKLEY
JASON W. STICHT
KAIL C. SWINDLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JAMES G. ADAMS
ROBERT E. ASMANN
FRANK J. BANTELL
PAUL A. BARNETT
JEFFREY T. BEARDEN
STUART H. BLANCHETTE
LANE A. BOLAND
DAVID E. BOWEN
ROBERT C. BURDEAUX
RANDY J. BURLESON II
ISEL CARO
MICHAEL CHIN
PETER J. DALVE
MICHAEL J. DARCY
ZACHARY J. EVANS
STEPHEN A. EVERAGE
PATRICK W. FINNEY
SCOTT P. FITZSIMMONS
MATTHEW I. GERMANN

ROBERT C. GERSTEMEIER
BRIAN J. GIRACCA
STEVEN C. GOFF
ABIGAIL D. GOSS
ELIZABETH L. GREENWOOD
JONATHAN D. GRUEN
MARK A. HAMMOND
JARED M. HANNUM
WALLACE T. HARRISON
MATTHEW A. HAWKINS
TRAVIS W. HAYES
RUSSELL A. HERRELL
WILLIAM HOLMGREN
BRYAN M. HOOKS
POUL H. JENSEN
JEREMY M. KOMASZ
CORDELL R. KOOPMAN
SUZANNE J. KRAUSS
CHARLES D. KUBA
TREVOR L. LANGE
DAVID M. LANGLEE
MICHAEL P. LOHAN
DAVID C. LUNDAHL, JR.
REGINALD L. MACKAY
STEPHEN R. MELVIN
PERRY D. MEYER
JOHN E. OUELLETTE
SCOTT M. PATTERSON
GREGORY K. PAVLYAK
MAURICIO PEREZ
ERIC R. PIHL
CHRISTOPHER A. RAKOV
MATTHEW R. RITCHEY
BRAD W. ROCKWELL
JARRET L. ROTH
PAUL M. SCHALLER
ARCHIBLE W. SHERMAN
DANIEL M. SHIN
ADRIAN SIEBENHAAR
CHRISTOPHER T. SLAYMAN
DAVID J. SMITH
WILLIAM M. SULLIVAN
WILLIAM L. WALTON, JR.
THOMAS J. WILEY IV
CHARLES C. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

SHAWN G. DENIHAN
CHAD A. RUNYON
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

KELVIN J. ASKEW
ERIKA L. BERRY
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

KATHLEEN A. ALLEN
CHRISTOPHER FRYE

CONFIRMATION

Executive Nomination Confirmed by
the Senate May 8, 2017:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

HEATHER WILSON, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.