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HITTING THEIR OWN WALLS: THE TELECOM STRUGGLE

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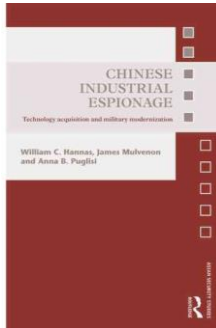
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“Your report was truly prophetic.” – *Dr. Dharmendra Modha, IBM Fellow and team leader behind the just-announced TrueNorth chip – the first instantiation of the SNS Pattern Recognition Processor.* (See “Upgrades.”)



Recommended Reading:

[Chinese Industrial Espionage: Technology acquisition and military modernization](#); by William C. Hannas, James Mulvenon, and Anna B. Puglisi (Routledge, 2013).

This is the best book I have found on China’s institutionalized, state-sponsored efforts in stealing crown jewel intellectual property from other nations. – *mra.*

HITTING THEIR OWN WALLS: THE TELECOM STRUGGLE

Part I: Smartphones

A funny thing happened to South Korea’s march toward total domination of the cellphone market: it ran into its own business model, on a much larger scale.

A decade or so ago, back when Samsung was No. 5 in the global market, members read here that it would soon become No. 1. Well, as anyone following the company’s financials and press will already be aware, Samsung – and fellow South Korean handset makers LG and, in a different way, Pantech – has just run into a buzz saw called China.

Pan-who?

The maker of the high-end “Vega Iron” South Korean smartphone line filed for bankruptcy protection this week.

Until last year, this company you’ve never heard of sold more phones in South Korea than Apple – but less than Samsung or LG – and that should tell you almost all you need to know about how the SK handset market works.

In fact, the practice of ever-larger phone pricing subsidies by local carriers for local products got so out of hand that the government ran an investigation last spring,