Building the new model of great powers relations and US-China competition in the Asia-Pacific

Professor Suisheng Zhao
Director, Center for China-US Cooperation
Joseph Korbel School of International Studies
University of Denver

Thursday, 24 April 2014, 2:30-4:00 PM
Social Sciences Chamber, 11/F, The Jockey Club Tower, The University of Hong Kong

The core premises of new type of great power relationship is that structural conflict between China and the US is not inevitable. The Asia-Pacific region has become a test ground for two countries to explore the possibility of building a new type of great-power relationship. Is Obama’s strategic rebalance undermining the already flimsy strategic trust between the two countries? Is it possible for China and the United States to build a new type of great-power relationship to help avoid confrontation and conflict? Seeking answers to these important questions, this article argues that China’s rise has forced Beijing and Washington to make a strategic choice to avoid the so-called historic inevitability of the structural conflict between a rising power and incumbent superpower. The US strategic rebalance to address the rapidly shifting balance of power in the region where China has emerged as an ever-more influential power has inevitably caused China’s suspicion about the US containment of China’s rise. A containment, nevertheless, is not a viable objective because the attempt has unsettling consequences not only for China but also for the US and regional security and prosperity. As a result, these two countries have to find a realist approach to work together and constructing a regional order based on traditional balance of power to manage the structural confrontation between a rising power and incumbent power.


For registration, please email Mr Neo Chan at neochans@hku.hk

Admission is free. All are welcome.