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[Joint Public Lecture and Elite Seminar Series]

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



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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 these 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.

Suisheng Zhao is Professor and Director of the Center for China-US Cooperation at Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver. A member of the Board of Governors of the US Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific, a member of National Committee on US-China Relations, a Campbell National Fellow at Hoover Institution of Stanford University, and a Research Associate at the Fairbanks Center for East Asian Research in Harvard University, he is the founder and chief editor of the Journal of Contemporary China and the author and editor of more than ten books, including *The Rise of China and Transformation of the US-China Relationship: Forging Partnership in the Age of Strategic Mistrust* (2013), *China's Search for Energy Security: Domestic Sources and International Implications* (2012), *China and East Asian Regionalism: Economic and Security Cooperation and Institution-Building* (2012), *In Search of China's Development Model: Beyond the Beijing Consensus* (2011), *Village Elections*

in China (2010), *China and the United States, Cooperation and Competition in Northeast Asia* (2008), *China-US Relations Transformed: Perspectives and Strategic Interactions* (2008), *Debating Political Reform in China: Rule of Law versus Democratization* (2006), *A Nation-State by Construction: Dynamics of Modern Chinese Nationalism* (2004), *Chinese Foreign Policy: Pragmatism and Strategic Behavior* (2003), *China and Democracy: Reconsidering the Prospects for a Democratic China* (2000), *Across the Taiwan Strait: Mainland China, Taiwan, and the Crisis of 1995-96* (1999). His articles have appeared in *Political Science Quarterly*, *The Wilson Quarterly*, *Washington Quarterly*, *International Politik*, *The Hague Journal of Democracy*, *European Financial Review*, *The China Quarterly*, *World Affairs*, *Asian Survey*, *Asian Affairs*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Communism and Post-Communism Studies*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, and elsewhere.

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Admission is free. All are welcome.