The Dynamics and Implications of China’s Rise

CSIS EXECUTIVE EDUCATION
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**FOCUS AREAS**
- Politics
- Security
- Economics
- Networking
Course Overview

Led by CSIS’s China team, *The Dynamics and Implications of China’s Rise* will provide government officials, business executives, and other stakeholders an extensive assessment of China’s meteoric economic, political, and military rise. The program will delve into China’s domestic and elite politics, its growing international influence, and its economic development trajectory. CSIS’s top China experts Jude Blanchette, Bonnie Glaser, and Scott Kennedy will lead this three-day online course, which combines lectures, discussions and debate, interactive exercises, as well as presentations by outside experts.

Register

**DATES:** December 7–9, 2020  
**TUITION:** $3,000 per person  
**LOCATION:** Online  
**REGISTER:** Please contact Alyssa Perez at aperez@csis.org or Kathryn Young at kyoung@csis.org.

*[Photo: Wang Zhao/AFP/Getty Images]*
HOW THE PARTY RULES CHINA
After more than 70 years as the sole governing authority in the PRC, the Communist Party of China (CCP) has developed a complex framework to govern a country of 1.4 billion people that has defied predictions of political and economic collapse. This raises important questions about how the Party has managed to remain in power despite frequent prognostications of its demise. In this session, we look at how the Party actually governs China, including how it translates decisions into executable policies, how Beijing controls officials in far-flung regions of the country, and how Chinese leader Xi Jinping has changed the way the Party makes decisions.

WHAT’S “COMMUNIST” ABOUT THE COMMunist PARTY OF CHINA?
As it approaches the 100th anniversary since its founding in 1921, the CCP remains one of the largest, most powerful, and least understood political entities on the planet. As one of the last remaining one-party dictatorships, the CCP is awash in contradictions, the most pronounced being its baroque and seemingly contradictory mixture of both Marx and markets. In this session, Daniel Tobin, a former China analyst for the Department of Defense now teaching at the National Intelligence University, explores the historical and ideological legacies of socialism and Leninism that still drive the CCP in the 21st century.

XI FOR LIFE? UNDERSTANDING CHINA’S LEADERSHIP POLITICS
In March 2018, the PRC National People’s Congress approved a constitutional amendment removing term limits for the office of the presidency, thus paving the way for Xi Jinping’s indefinite rule. But how long can Xi Jinping maintain a grip on power? What opposition does he face within the Party elite? Led by American University political scientist Joseph Torigian, this session explores the dynamics of elite politics, including the risks facing Xi as he seeks to maintain his grip on power in the face of mounting domestic and international crises.

THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC IN 2049
In October 2017, Xi Jinping outlined his vision for the “national rejuvenation” of the PRC by 2049, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. According to this vision, by mid-century, China would finally achieve the “wealth and power” that Chinese rulers have been seeking for centuries. But what does this ambition portend for China’s domestic political system? Will the CCP be able to overcome mounting domestic challenges, from labor unrest to demographic decline? This session examines the domestic challenges facing China in the coming decades.
UNPACKING CHINA’S GREAT POWER STATUS

China’s transformation from an isolated and underdeveloped country into an emerging global power is one of the most consequential forces shaping twenty-first century international politics. Yet despite numerous advances, China’s growing capabilities remain uneven. In some areas China has leapfrogged ahead; in others it lags global leaders. Matthew Funaiolo, Senior Fellow with the China Power Project at CSIS, will use data visualization to help unpack the complexity of China’s rise and provide participants with a more nuanced understanding of the ever-evolving international system.

CHINA’S RISE: SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

China’s ascendance poses a variety of security and foreign policy risks. There is mounting evidence that it seeks to weaken U.S. alliances and compel smaller regional countries to conform with Chinese interests, for example in the South China Sea. At the same time, China’s rise presents considerable opportunities for countries around the world. Challenges like global warming, pandemics, North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs, Iran’s nuclear ambitions, peacekeeping operations, and global poverty alleviation are areas that could benefit from Chinese cooperation. This session will explore the complex set of foreign policy and security challenges and opportunities associated with China’s rise.

CHINA’S VISION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER

China has in many ways benefited from the post-World War II international order, but it is increasingly clear that Beijing is dissatisfied with certain elements of that order and seeks to revise and reshape it to protect Chinese interests. Xi Jinping has promoted a more assertive foreign policy to “strive for achievement” in advancing Chinese interests and called for China to lead global governance reform. There is growing evidence that Beijing is pushing policies and practices that run contrary to Western liberal norms and practices. This session will examine China’s vision for the regional and international order, its policies to make revisions, and the implications for the rest of the world.

CHINA’S ECONOMY: THE GOOD, THE BAD, & THE UGLY

China’s economic development has been the most successful in history, but it’s difficult to discern the reasons for its success. China has faced countless challenges over the years – bloated state-owned enterprises, a rigid bureaucracy, a greying population. All of these challenges are restraints on growth, so how has China become such a success story, and what challenges remain? In this session, we analyze the various reasons for China’s economic success and examine the alternative trajectories China could follow in the next two decades.
**CHINESE TECHNOLOGY POLICY: THEORY AND PRACTICE**

Planned economies are prone to failure. Although China’s economy has become more marketized, state intervention is still ubiquitous. We see many of the pathologies of interventionism – blocks of empty apartment buildings, industrial overcapacity and zombie state-owned enterprises – yet Chinese industrial policy to promote advanced technologies has no doubt contributed to China’s success as well. This session will address several questions: How does planning and government guidance operate? Where has industrial policy been successful and where a dismal failure? What lessons does China offer for debates about the U.S. developing its own industrial policy to strengthen our competitiveness? We’ll draw on the insights of a guest speaker and discuss specific technologies and companies.

**CHINA & GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE: FROM FREE RIDER TO HEAVY DRIVER**

Alongside China’s rapid economic growth, the country has shifted its international role from being a “free rider” to a “heavy driver.” The U.S. originally encouraged China to be a “responsible stakeholder,” but it now has second thoughts because it worries China is promoting an alternative international order. During this session, we’ll look at the reality of Chinese initiatives – from the Internet to investment and trade – and the U.S.’s policy options.

**Exercises**

**DEBATE: CHINA POSES AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO U.S. INTERESTS**

Although concern about Chinese policies at home and abroad is on the rise, there is no consensus among experts on the nature of and extent to which China poses a threat to American interests. Yet decisions about U.S. strategy and allocation of resources require a clear assessment of the China challenge. Two leading experts will debate this proposition and participants will pose questions as well as vote on whose argument is more persuasive. After the debate, we will discuss the assumptions of the speakers and the policy implications of their positions.

**EXERCISE: SHOULD THE U.S. DECOUPLE FROM CHINA?**

In a period of tense strategic competition between the U.S. and China, it is an open question of whether these two countries will find a stable equilibrium that allows them to preserve much of their ties, or whether they are destined to decouple. Through a simulated scenario of negotiations, this session focuses on the economic and political dynamics related to the building up or breaking down of the U.S.-China relationship.
About the China Programs

Arguably the most pressing geopolitical challenge of the twenty-first century, China’s growing military, economic, and technological capabilities present unique and enduring dilemmas for US policymakers and stakeholders. In order to help shape the US response to a rising China, CSIS conducts research and analysis that spans the bilateral relationship and focuses on the most pressing issues. CSIS’s work on China is led by the Freeman Chair in China Studies, the China Power Project, and the Trustee Chair in Chinese Business and Economics.

The Freeman Chair in China Studies strives to be the leading source of insights and analysis of the Communist Party of China in order to better inform US policymakers and the American public. The China Power Project provides analysis and insights on Chinese foreign and security policy to the policy, business, and academic communities. The Trustee Chair in Chinese Business and Economics is dedicated to providing thought leadership for the policy community about the dynamics of China’s economy and its implications for industries and other countries by focusing on the intersection of China’s economy and economic policies, the world of technology, US-China relations, and global governance.

About CSIS

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, nonprofit policy research organization dedicated to advancing practical ideas to address the world’s greatest challenges. Ranked the number one think tank in the United States by the University of Pennsylvania’s annual think tank report, CSIS is one of the preeminent international policy institutions focused on defense and security, regional stability, and transnational challenges ranging from energy and climate to global development and economic integration.

CSIS offers a wide range of executive programs featuring world-class experts that include a combination of in-depth geopolitical seminars, professional skill-building workshops, interactive crisis simulations, and networking opportunities. To learn more about existing programs, or to inquire about custom opportunities please visit us at www.csis.org/executive-education.