

中国学者的世界  
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CHINA IN THE WORLD  
A SURVEY OF  
CHINESE  
PERSPECTIVES  
ON INTERNATIONAL  
POLITICS AND  
ECONOMICS

# The World in 2020 According to **China**

*Chinese Foreign Policy Elites  
Discuss Emerging Trends  
in International Politics*

EDITED BY  
**SHAO Binhong**

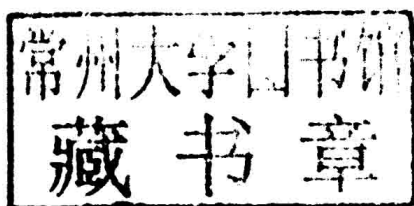
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# China in the World

## *A Survey of Chinese Perspectives on International Politics and Economics*

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VOLUME 2

The titles published in this series are listed at *[brill.com/cwpe](http://brill.com/cwpe)*

## Journal Information

*World Economics and Politics*, launched in 1979 by the Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, is a journal that focuses on theories of the study of international relations. It adheres to the principle of combining studies of international politics and world economy. It also seeks to combine theory and practice, and to balance studies of domestic and international issues. The journal is devoted to improving the comprehensiveness, foresight, and innovation of research, and to catching up with the latest developments in relevant disciplines.

*International Economic Review*, launched by the Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, in 1996, is a policy review journal that focuses on international relations, economy and politics, and Chinese macroeconomics. It is highly respected in China's academic, political, and industrial circles for its thoughtfulness, policy reference, and academic standards.

*International Studies*, launched by the China Institute of International Studies, in 1959, is a comprehensive academic journal on international studies. It aims to aid China's diplomacy and seeks to conduct strategic, foresighted, and policy-oriented studies from multiple macro and international strategic perspectives. In its academic analyses, the journal reflects China's strategic diplomatic thinking and provides theoretical support for China's diplomatic practice. Its main columns include International Relations Special, International Politics Special, Comprehensive Analysis of International Security and Strategy, Regional and International Issues, and Hot Issue Focus.

*Global Times*, sponsored by *People's Daily* international newspaper, was founded on January 3, 1993, and published Monday to Saturday. *Global Times* foreign correspondents work all around the world in more than 90 countries. They go to news hotspots to report exclusively from the scene of major events, allowing them to present to Chinese readers the ins and outs of world affairs. *Global Times* has been named China's "most credible newspaper" and is one of "China's 500 Most Valuable Brands."

*The Journal of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies* was launched in 1992 by the National Institute of International Strategy, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and the Chinese Association of Asia-Pacific Studies. It covers the latest theoretical and empirical research from China and abroad on political, economic, security, and social issues in the Asia-Pacific region. *Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies* is one of the core journals in China and receives sponsorship from the National Fund for the Social Sciences. According to rankings in the Chinese Social Sciences Citation Index (CSSCI) released by Nanjing University in 2012, the journal ranks third among Chinese journals on politics and second among Chinese journals on international studies.

*Contemporary International Relations* is a state-level academic journal on comprehensive international studies that is run by China Institutes of Contemporary

International Relations. It presents the latest research results from domestic and foreign experts and scholars on international strategy, international relations theory, world politics, foreign affairs, economy, military affairs, and other major issues. It seeks to publish strategy-centered, dynamic, academic, and policy-oriented studies. Its main columns include Special Coverage, International Politics and Security, World Economy, Major Power Relations, Foreign Opinion, Dynamic Study, Theoretical Discussion, and Academic Argument.

# Foreword

Fortunately, in the realm of China's foreign relations 2013 was not as tumultuous as 2012. While tensions between Beijing and Tokyo remained high, the level of overt hostilities was less than it was the previous year. In addition, although little progress was made on the South China Sea dispute, there was also little in the way of direct conflict between the various claimants to this contested territory. More broadly, the Sino-U.S. relationship haltingly moved away from some of the most contentious issues over which the two sides had recently sparred.

In short, a modicum of stability returned to China's relationship with the outside world.

More significantly, beyond these generally positive topical developments, another trend took even deeper root in 2013. Directly stated, China more firmly established itself significant actor on the global stage. China, it is now quite clear, is a major, perhaps even "great," power, within the current international order.

This significance of this trend both for China and the world, however, remains rather opaque as fundamental aspects of the country's rise continue to be the subject of intense debate. More specifically, China's apparent ascension to great power status has further fueled discussions (both within the country and in the rest of the international system) related to three wide-ranging sets of issues.

First, analysts continue to ask how sustainable China's rise is. What are the basic metrics by which this accession should be measured? Is this trend now so firmly established that it has become irreversible? Will it continue at the same rate for the foreseeable future? To what degree might internal factors undermine these developments? What can the Chinese leadership do to further cement China's emergent global role?

Second, observers continue to search for indications about what the Chinese leadership (and people) intend to do with their newfound power. While not always explicitly stated, this vein of analysis, more than any other, informs almost all recent scholarship and media reports about China. It is a hunt that has become all the frenzied as the country's power appears to have grown. While such concerns have taken myriad formations, they all amount to variations on the same theme: is China a status quo or revisionist power within the existing international order?

Third, China watchers are increasingly divided about what course of action the rest of the world should take in response to China's rise. This concern is most pointed within Asia, where each of China's neighbors now find themselves in a position where they must choose between working with Beijing, standing up to China's leaders' emergent interests in the region, or hedging their bets by attempting to do both at the same time. However, as China's global profile grows, those in Africa, Europe and South America are faced with similar, if not quite as existential in nature, decisions. At the

same time, the United States continues to struggle to develop a coherent strategy for responding to the now established trend of growing Chinese power and influence both in Asia and the rest of the international system. In the midst of such rapid changes, it is then not surprising that American academics and policy makers remain quite divided over the degree to which Washington should cooperate or confront Beijing on a wide array of issues.

Within the context of such broad debates the significance of this second volume in the *China and the World* series should be readily apparent. To be frank, it does not provide complete answers to the questions raised in this preface (it is unlikely at this juncture that any book could accomplish such a task). However, it does contain English language translations of the most prominent recent writings of China's leading scholars in the fields of international relations and political economy. Such work, apart from this series, is largely inaccessible to those unable to read Chinese language sources, and yet offers crucial insights into Chinese thinking and debates over fundamental aspects regarding the China's rise and its implications for the rest of the world.

Individually the chapters that follow reveal a great deal about the sophistication and insight to be found in scholarly work now being published within China. Collectively, as with the previous volume in this series, they point to just how extensive differences are within the country over fundamental issues related to China's rise. In light of such attributes, the book is an invaluable resource to all those looking to gain a deeper, and more nuanced, understanding of this trend.

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February 2014



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