

National Defense University Pacific Symposium

China's Global Activism: Implications for U.S. Security Interests

June 20, 2006
National Defense University
Fort Lesley J. McNair

"U.S. policy remains focused on encouraging China to play a constructive, peaceful role in the Asia-Pacific region and to serve as a partner in addressing common security challenges, including terrorism, proliferation, narcotics and piracy. U.S. policy seeks to encourage China to choose a path of peaceful economic growth and political liberalization, rather than military threat and intimidation. The United States' goal is for China to continue as an economic partner and emerge as a responsible stakeholder and force for good in the world."

- 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review -

China's rapid economic growth, increasingly sophisticated diplomacy, and military modernization efforts are supporting increased activism and expanded influence both within Asia and in other regions of the world. Within the span of a single generation, China has moved from near isolation to a hub of the globalized economy, from fielding a backward, bloated military to a much more professional force boasting pockets of high-tech excellence, and from hostility to global institutions to active participation in multilateral organizations such as the UNSC and WTO.

As China's power grows, Beijing will have more options in using economic, diplomatic, and military instruments to advance its national interests in East Asia and on the world stage. With increased power and influence come increased responsibilities and the potential for clashes of interest with the U.S. and other great powers. China may assume the role of a responsible stakeholder in the international system, but that outcome is not certain. China's choice of how to exercise its increasing global influence will affect its Asian neighbors and the world community.

This conference is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive assessment of China's increased regional and global activism, the policy choices Chinese leaders face, the implications of increasing Chinese influence and activism for U.S. security interests, and policy options to influence outcomes in directions favorable for U.S. interests.

Featured speakers include senior government officials involved in establishing and managing defense and security policy and a wide range of defense experts. This symposium will be of interest to specialists in national security affairs in and out of government, military officers, the diplomatic and attaché corps, and members of the media.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20

0715 – 0815 Registration

Room 107, Eisenhower Hall

0735 – 0800 Optional Tours of NDU Library Special Collections, Marshall Hall and Roosevelt Hall

0810 – 0820 Administrative Remarks

Baruch Auditorium

AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 20

0820 – 0830 Welcome and Opening Remarks
President, National Defense University

0830 – 1015 Panel 1: China's Global Activism

- How is China using economic, diplomatic, and military tools to increase its influence and pursue its interests in Asia and other regions of the world?
- What can we infer about China's strategic objectives from the pattern of its increased global activism?
- When conflicts arise within China's grand strategy, how does Beijing balance and resolve those conflicting interests?

Moderator: **Mr. Kevin G. Nealer**, *Principal and Partner, The Scowcroft Group*

Presentation: **Dr. Phillip C. Saunders**, *Senior Fellow, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University*

Commentators: **Mr. Daniel Blumenthal**, *Resident Fellow, American Enterprise Institute*
Dr. Bates Gill, *Freeman Chair in China Studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies*

1015 – 1030 Break

1030 – 1230 Panel 2: Military Modernization and International Influence

- Taiwan has been the primary focus of China's military modernization, but the PLA is also expanding its conventional power projection capabilities. What are current PLA land, naval, and air capabilities, and how are they likely to change over the next decade? What missions will drive development of power projection capabilities, and how will they influence China's international role?
- China has invested considerable resources in developing a new generation of conventional and nuclear missiles and associated C4I systems that will be deployed over the next decade. How will these new capabilities affect China's role within Asia and its relationships with other major powers?
- China has increased participation in peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance missions and broadened the scope of military exchanges and security cooperation efforts. Where are China's military diplomacy efforts directed, and what contributions do they make to PRC national security goals?

Moderator: **LTC (Ret) Roy Kamphausen, USA**, *Director of National Security Affairs, National Bureau of Asian Research*

Panelists: **Mr. David Helvey**, *Country Director for China, Taiwan, & Mongolia, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD/ISA) - Asia and Pacific Affairs*

Dr. Bernard Cole, *Professor of International History, National War College, National Defense University*

LTC (Ret) Dennis Blasko, USA, *Independent Consultant, author of The Chinese Army Today: Tradition and Transformation for the 21st Century*

Ms. Kristen Guinness, *Senior Analyst, Center for Naval Analyses*

1240 – 1400 Luncheon Room 155, Marshall Hall
Speaker: **Dr. Arnold Kanter**, *Principal and Founding Member, The Scowcroft Group*

1410 – 1540 Panel 3: Regional Perspectives on China’s Global Activism (Africa, Latin America, and the Near East and South Asia)

- How do governments, the business community, and citizens view China’s increased economic and diplomatic presence in their region?
- How much interest do countries have in increased military exchanges and security cooperation with China? What do they hope to achieve via this cooperation?
- Have developmental assistance, education programs, and soft power been effective tools of Chinese public diplomacy?
- What impact does China’s increased presence and influence have on U.S. interests?

Moderator: **Dr. Elizabeth Van Wie Davis**, *Professor, Department of Regional Studies, Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies*

Panelists: **Dr. Swaran Singh**, *Associate Professor, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi*
Dr. Cynthia Watson, *Professor, National War College, National Defense University*
Ambassador David Shinn, *Adjunct Professor, the George Washington University and former Ambassador to Ethiopia and Burkina Faso*

1600 – 1615 Break

1615 – 1745 Panel 4: Policy Implications for the United States

- What does the pattern of China’s global activism suggest about Beijing’s willingness to play the role of a “responsible stakeholder”? Which issues are most problematic, and what can the U.S. do to make cooperative Chinese approaches more likely?
- How effective are existing USG policies, alliances, and diplomatic relationships in sustaining international support for the war on terrorism and other U.S. foreign policy objectives? What, if any, effect have Chinese activities had on the willingness of potential partners to cooperate with the United States?
- Will increased Chinese global influence affect the USG’s ability to carry out its international agenda? If so, what adjustments should the USG make to its policies?
- How can the U.S. achieve consensus on a grand strategy to guide relations with China?

Moderator: **Dr. Stephen J. Flanagan**, *Director, Institute for National Strategic Studies and Vice President for Research, National Defense University*

Panelists: **Dr. James Przystup**, *Senior Research Fellow, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University*
Dr. Aaron L. Friedberg, *Professor of Politics and International Affairs, the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University*
Mr. Frank S. Jannuzi, *Professional Staff Member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*
Dr. Jonathan D. Pollack, *Professor of Asian and Pacific Studies and Chair of the Asia-Pacific Studies Group, U.S. Naval War College*