

Dynamics Among Nations builds on innovative theories of complexity science, global political economy, and comparative history to address the policy conundrums elicited by China's emerging global role.

In Stage One of its global integration, China opened its economy to the world largely in pursuit of domestic goals. The economic engagement with foreign markets that followed the era of Deng Xiaoping has led to success in building domestic infrastructure, increasing productive capacity, and lifting almost a billion people out of poverty.

Yet China's very rise confounds conventional theories of economic and political modernization. As a model of state-led development, China has changed perceptions about the relationship of states and markets. Its record in promoting social mobility through bureaucratic inclusiveness as an alternative to electoral participation goes unrecognized in traditional modernization theory.

Dynamics Among Nations examines how China's rapid modernization is also changing the dynamics of the macro properties of the international economic system. China's economic expansion and its newly acquired "soft power" allow it to pull the international system into new patterns of communication, trade, and political alliances. But again, less studied or understood is how China's systemic importance—its role in the global political economics and economic stability—has revealed itself in unanticipated and unintended ways. This shifting balance in global power and its implications within and beyond China's borders are at the heart of *Dynamics Among Nations*.

The *systemic* impact of China's rise on the norms of global governance has been a central question in policy debates in capitals around the world. And while China's economic engagement and success is changing the global system, it is also changing China. China has now financed a multilateral development bank; it participates as a founding member in several other multilateral initiatives; and it has announced plans for a major development initiative to re-create, with modern infrastructure, the Silk Road of antiquity, which will connect China with landlocked Central and Middle Asia. The creation of such a corridor of development on its western borders is China's answer to the risk of fundamentalist insurgency there.

China is only beginning to come to terms with its enlarged role in global affairs, a role its leaders assumed primarily to attain domestic stability and growth. Yet it now matters very much to China's future if the system of international relations that has sustained its peaceful rise will remain stable. These recent initiatives represent a considerable escalation of China's integration into the world community, and open within China vigorous discussion about what heightened interconnectivity will mean for China and the world.

Relevant policy questions for China are how to strengthen international law, organization and cooperation. Is a new template for global legitimacy necessary? What new rules for global cooperation will manage new networks of cultural and geographic affinity that result from heightened global interconnectivity? Can a new order, with broader legitimacy, be created without a strategic event as calamitous as another world war?

Policy conundrums elicited by China's emerging global role raise questions about global development not easily answered within analytical conventions that originate in neoclassical economics. *Dynamics Among Nations* proposes a new approach to examine China's modern emergence as a framer of world order.

The academic value of *Dynamics Among Nations* rests in its introduction to new and relevant theories to help understand China's path of modernization, and the network structure that links social authority, with social mobility and state capacity. These insights offer novel problem-solving strategies for China's engagement with the world.

Questions from *Dynamics Among Nations ... On Global Development Policy:*

- Can global stability be maintained without a "captain at the helm"? How will dilemmas of global collective action be resolved without a hegemon?
- Are the concepts that all open societies possess—the rule of law; enforced property rights; competent and honest bureaucracies; an open economic system; and an open and competitive political system—formed by incremental changes, or are they the results of a cascade of simultaneous changes?
- In what direction does causality run—from socioeconomic development to institutions, or from institutions to development? How does sequence matter?
- Does the gap between the most complex and the simplest forms of economic organization increase over time?
- Why do interdependence and fierce competition for global resources intensify divergent patterns of institutional change?
- If good institutions that offer accountability, transparency, and predictability are inherent properties of prosperity, why do efforts to transplant them falter?
- Why do some countries grow despite corruption, while others do not?
- How does China build a global system of economic relations with manufacturers and suppliers – yet without institutions that protect property rights, without independent regulators, and with a government that is not constitutionally barred from confiscating

property?

Questions from *Dynamics Among Nations ... On China's Role in the Network Structure of International Trade:*

- What *positive* forces of attraction will enable China to become the center of a network of developing nations?
- Will China's centralized hub-and-spoke network integrate with the distributed, more decentralized network structure of the global economy?
- How will the constraints and opportunities in the global marketplace change China's domestic policy priorities?

Questions from *Dynamics Among Nations ... On Comparative World History:*

- Why was China unprepared to meet the challenge of Europe's industrialization and global domination, despite being unified under a single emperor for much of its history? Why, in fact, did the Industrial Revolution take place in Europe, and not China?
- Why were military innovations like the use of gunpowder or cannon – which put the class basis of social order at risk – diffused in Europe but resisted in other world regions, most notably in China, where they originated?
- How did the Qing dynasties slow and painful decline set back the development of China?

Questions from *Dynamics Among Nations ... On Global Stability and the Liberal World Order:*

- Will the rise of new centers of cultural and geographic affinity require new rules for global cooperation?
- Can international stability be maintained when a core group of liberal democracies no longer dominates but is joined or even supplanted by the rising non-Western powers formerly on the periphery of global trade or production? Will a full-blown crisis or authority unfold, as the universality of liberal internationalism becomes a more fractious issue?

For the Chinese version I suggest a new title:

China and the New World Order