



COLLEGE OF
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Center for Policy Studies

China's Precarious Rise

a discussion with

Paul Schroeder

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February 15, 2019

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Dampeer Room, Second Floor of Kelvin Smith
Library, 11201 Euclid Ave

In 2008 John Ikenberry wrote about "The Rise of China and the Future of the West." He suggested that rise, "will undoubtedly be one of the great dramas of the twenty-first century." "But," he added, "exactly how this drama will play out is an open question. Will China overthrow the existing order or become a part of it?"

Any answers must begin with judgments about China's political, economic, and social conditions. Susan Shirk at the time described China as a "fragile superpower," with a leadership worried that the nation's development could threaten the Communist Party's control. Five years ago, David Shambaugh argued that China's global presence was more broad than deep, and China was more of a "partial power." Around that time Xi Jinping became first General Secretary of the Communist Party and then President of China – and began responding to such concerns. Since then, Xi has consolidated power in striking ways, including being re-elected in 2018, having his ideology or "thought" referenced in the party's constitution, and the two-term limit on serving as President abolished. His thought emphasizes one-party rule, a "great rejuvenation" of China on the world stage, combining Marxist and Confucian views, and the need for a decisive and visionary leader – Xi.

Xi has a vision for increasing China's power and stabilizing (or from another view, freezing) its political order. But its economy is being challenged by President Trump's policies and cheaper competitors, and insisting on loyalty and appealing through nationalism, though typical, do not sound like reliable ways to manage broad social change.

So what are the prospects, both for China's governance and its foreign policy?

The **Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch** is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.

<http://fridaylunch.case.edu/>