

The Contemporary Transformation of the International System

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The transformation of the states-system: China

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Additional source:

Millennium: Journal of International Studies, 2010,
Vol.38, no.3 (special issue 'After Liberalism')

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1. Developments in China post-Mao Zedong
2. China today domestically and internationally

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- 1. Developments in China post-Mao Zedong**
 - Deng Xiaoping's 'Open Door' policy 1978
= partial liberalisation and modernisation of China's economy
 - May/June 1989 'Tiananmen Square' = political crisis as China's political institutions incapable or unwilling to respond to effects of economic modernisation domestically + failure to respond to international changes in Soviet Union and East/Central Europe

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- China took its own specific ‘road’ to economic reforms
 - selective, focused initially on agriculture, international trade and foreign investment (*‘open door’ and ‘long march’* to a more market economy)
 - BUT initially continued centralised ‘output planning’ and State ownership of medium and large enterprises

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China's economic reforms successful in:

- a) accelerating growth rate in economy and sustaining it over long period;
- b) transforming collective agriculture;
- c) spurring growth of rural industry;
- d) expansion of exports

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2. China today domestically and internationally

- 2000 China 6th largest economy in world
- 2010 (March – June) China 2nd largest economy in world (overtook Japan, according to Japanese govt. figures)
- urban population estimated to double by 2025 (estimated will have 221 cities with one million plus populations – Europe 35)
- 2006 overtook USA as largest emitter of greenhouse gases

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China's official international political strategy

“to unswervingly pursue an independent foreign policy of peace The fundamental goals are to preserve China's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, create a favourable international environment for China's reform and opening up and modernisation construction, maintain world peace and propel common development.”

(Chinese govt website.

www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjdt/)

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July 2001 Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation (with Russia)

- economic, strategic cooperation, and diplomatic and geopolitical reliance, plus some military cooperation and sharing of military 'know how'

= counterbalance to USA
developments in the region
strategically after 9/11 in 2001

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USA/China areas of disagreement:

- a) Climate change
- b) Human Rights
- c) Taiwan
- d) 'Rogue states' – (i) North Korea
(ii) Iran
(iii) Burma
- e) Military competition
- f) Economic disputes – China's currency, tariffs, 'rare earth metals', censorship/Google