

Main topic: to examine the prospects for US-China relations in the context of China's rise.

1 Key terms

- power cycle theory
- preventive war
- revisionist vs. status quo power
- motivational taxonomy
- embedded images

2 Key readings

- Friedberg, "The future of US-China relations" (2005)
- Nathan and Scobell, "How China sees America" (2012)
- Cunningham, "China's search for coercive leverage in the information age" (working paper)

3 Key ideas

Question: Why do wars between hegemonic and rising powers occur?

Answer: (1) preventive: the hegemon fights the rising power in anticipation of the power shift; (2) revisionism: the rising power fights the hegemon to revise the status quo

Question: How will China's rise affect the US?

Answer: This depends on whether one views China as a status quo or a revisionist power. If China is a status quo power, then China will rise peacefully. If China is a revisionist power, there is a greater likelihood of competition and conflict with the US.

Question: How do balance of power and hegemonic stability theorists view China's rise?

Answer: Balance of power theorists argue that stability comes from a balance of power, so the current system is unstable. Hegemonic stability theorists argue that stability comes from an *imbalance* of power, so as China's power grows closer to that of the US, we are more likely to see conflict.

4 Additional review questions

- What are China's foreign policy goals?
- Which motive from Cottam's motivational taxonomy best explains China's efforts to be more militarily assertive in territorial disputes?
- Why does China heavily invest in information-age strategic weapons? What characterizes China's force posture vis a vis these weapons?
- Will China's rise inevitably lead to conflict? What are the six different perspectives Friedberg discusses?