



Testing the New Model for Major Power Relations: The U.S.-China Relationship on the Eve of President Xi Jinping's State Visit July 22, 2015

This Capitol Hill Briefing, hosted by the Committee of 100 (C-100) and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress (USAFMC) Congressional Study Groups, is part of C-100's national Speakers Forum Series, a high-level platform that addresses major issues in U.S.-China relations and the Asian American community. This briefing examined different interpretations of the "New Model for Major Power Relations," proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, and the potential implications for U.S.-China relations, the Asia Pacific, and the international community.

Moderator: David Ignatius, Author and Prize-Winning Columnist for *The Washington Post*



Deep down, anybody who follows foreign policy knows that the overriding, overwhelming challenge of this time is for the U.S. to figure out a path for the U.S. and China to live together, and hopefully cooperate as opposed to confront each other. This issue will be at center stage in September when President Xi Jinping visits Washington. It is a visit that will force the administration and the Chinese leadership to think carefully about how they want to structure the U.S.-China relationship.

We are lucky to have with us at this briefing four experts who have thought deeply about this and who have been practitioners of foreign policy in various ways.

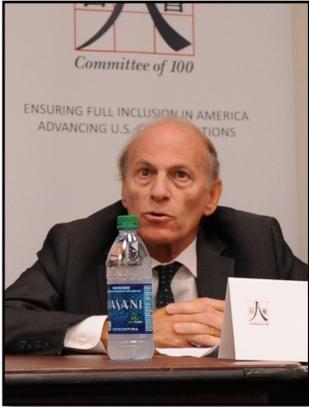
Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy, Former U.S. Ambassador to China; Founding Director and Distinguished Scholar, Kissinger Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Yes, power has to be shared between the U.S. and China. If you don't share power, you have to fight over it. Is it a condominium of the U.S. and China to run things the way we two agree on? Absolutely not – that's the wrong model.

Think instead about France and Germany in the European Union: they don't rule the EU, but you can't get anything accomplished if those two countries don't cooperate. The same applies to the world and the U.S. and China. How do you deal with climate change without the number one and two carbon emitters, the U.S. and China? If the U.S. and China don't agree, we can't expect other countries to step up; if we do cooperate, there is the chance for a global approach. This applies to a whole set of other issues.



Jeffrey Bader, John C. Whitehead Senior Fellow in International Diplomacy,
the Brookings Institution



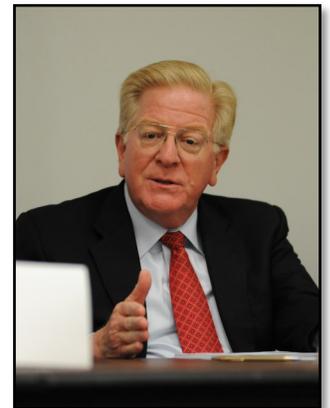
We cannot deal with U.S.-China relations on an action-by-action, step-by-step basis; we need a coherent framework.

The essential elements should include the acceptance and growth of interdependence between the U.S. and China, a term the Obama administration has been increasingly comfortable in using and which does in fact describe the reality of the relationship; a shared responsibility for global issues, we just had a good example of this in the P5+1 negotiations with Iran but clearly there is a lot more we can do; joint acceptance of international norms, where we have significant differences; and managing Asia Pacific issues, with the understanding that China's influence is growing as are its interests and that they are legitimate but that the U.S. has interests in the region and they are enduring.

Rudy deLeon, Senior Fellow, National Security and International Policy,
the Center for American Progress

When President Xi visits in September, he and President Obama will be focused on the next round of climate talks in Paris, where there is potential for important announcements on climate change by the U.S. and China. The two presidents will likely build upon the progress made last November at the APEC summit, perhaps with further agreements on carbon emissions, green finance, and how to constructively use the Arctic Council relationships.

They will also likely discuss what is the “new normal” in China; whether investment by major U.S. companies is still welcome in China and protected by the rule of law; what's next in terms of military-to-military exchanges; and the newly-proposed NGO law that China is discussing. All these issues will be on the agenda.



Robert Manning, Resident Senior Fellow, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security,
the Atlantic Council



The basis for the U.S.-China relationship is interdependence, or you can turn it around and say it is mutual vulnerability. That crosses every area of the relationship, whether its economics, cyber space, outer space, or climate change.

The U.S. and China need cooperation on a big strategic issue, and my candidate is the Middle East. We already see China acting in our direction: they have been helping to broker peace in Afghanistan, they supported Iraq against ISIS, and they have the same concerns about violent Islamic extremism that we do. Don't forget that 70% of the oil from the Middle East doesn't come here – it goes to Asia, and a lot of it to China. So China has as big a stake, if not bigger, as the U.S. in the Middle East.

Key Issues for Policymakers to Consider

- Beyond the military investments, other aspects of the U.S. Pivot to Asia are underfunded. This imbalance makes it appear that our response to China is primarily military, though it is not intended to be — Ambassador Stapleton Roy
- An updated framework for the U.S.-China relationship is necessary, one that promotes international norms and shared responsibility for global and regional issues — Jeffrey Bader
- The U.S. and China have different political institutions, cultural traditions, and economic systems; therefore it is essential that we find ways to respect and cooperate with each other where possible — Rudy deLeon
- The U.S. and China should seek cooperation on a major strategic issue, such as promoting peace, stability, and growth in the Middle East — Robert Manning



C-100 members Jeremy Wu, Michael Lin, and Bob Gee; C-100 Acting Executive Director Holly Chang; Ambassador Stapleton Roy; C-100 member Clarence Kwan; David Ignatius; Past USAFMC President Ambassador Connie Morella; C-100 co-founder and governor Henry Tang; Jeffrey Bader; Rudy deLeon; Robert Manning

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