

## U.S.-China Relations

### Constructing a Successful China Strategy

#### Promote Balance and Democratic Ideals in Asia

#### Background

The rise of China presents a maze of contradictions: participation in international organizations appears to have strengthened, not weakened, China's resistance to domestic reforms; the Chinese people are gaining economic freedoms but not political or religious liberties; and China invests in the United States while enhancing the capacity to confront us militarily, to list a few.

China policy will come to the fore during the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, as advocates of containment call attention to the U.S. trade deficit with China and to the Communist regime's human rights violations, military build-up, repression of Tibet, and expanding influence throughout Asia. The Presidential nominees will feel pressured to demand a tougher stance toward China, a position that the next President is almost certain to abandon after a period of confusion, repeating a pattern of four of the last five administrations.

#### Recommendations

The next President will need to consolidate our strengthened partnerships with Japan, India and Australia and pay renewed attention to critical alliances that have entered a period of drift -- particularly the US-ROK alliance. The components of this approach must:

- be carefully tailored to avoid forcing a strategic choice on those nations that do not want to choose between China and the United State in Asia
- include continuing strategic dialogue with the EU on China and Asia strategy, which generally will be an important part of the regional strategy for managing China's rise
- be based on a recognition of the need for balancing and hedging, but confident in the steady spread of universal ideals in Asia that reinforce the American edge and shape the regional environment in ways that will encourage positive change in China's own attitude on rule of law, governance, human rights and even political participation

## Key Facts

- the United States has bet that China's entry into the World Trade Organization would change China at a faster rate than China would change the world
- China's growing integration with the world economy is improving the lives and choices of the average Chinese citizen—but the government is suppressing civil society and religious freedom whenever they might foster alternative power centers to the Chinese Communist Party
- China is the largest holder of U.S. treasury bonds—yet it develops capacities for cyber-warfare and submarine and space warfare to defeat the United States in a possible contest over Taiwan

The full version of this paper is available along with supporting background material at [www.opportunity08.org](http://www.opportunity08.org).

## About the Author and the Project

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Michael Green is a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and an associate professor of international relations at Georgetown University. At the National Security Council, he was special assistant to the President for national security affairs and senior director for Asian affairs from January 2004 to December 2005. He also served in the U.S. Department of Defense as senior adviser to the Office of Asia Pacific Affairs. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Institute for International Security Studies.

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