

# The Contemporary Transformation of the International System

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## **Lecture 4**

### **The transformation of the states-system: China**

# Lecture 4

Additional source:

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

# Lecture 4

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 6<sup>th</sup> largest economy in world
- 2010 (March – June) China 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/](http://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