China’s “Peaceful Rise” in the 21st Century

Domestic and International Conditions

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China’s rapid development has attracted worldwide attention in recent years. The implications of China’s rise, from its expanding influence and military muscle to its growing demand for energy supplies, are heatedly debated in the international community. Jingguo’s officially proposed concept, “peaceful development,” has become the underlying principle behind Chinese foreign policy under the fourth generation leadership. However, is “peaceful development” possible in the broad context of domestic and international development?

This book examines the conditions and challenges of China’s peaceful rise and is ideal as a supplementary course book in foreign policy, Asian politics and development.

Will the world’s most populous polity, which is also our planet’s fastest-growing large economy, develop in peace or in strife? This question is international. It is also domestic because of inequalities and growth pains within China. This book addresses issues of representation and legitimacy, coercion and armies, and China’s relations with America, Central Asia, and Japan. The result is a comprehensive overview text, with interpretations based on new scholarship, concerning China’s current development.

Lynn T. White III, Princeton University, USA

Whether China can become a world power without provoking a world war (as Germany and Japan once did) is the key question addressed by this important book. How do the Chinese understand and propose to solve this dilemma?

Both domestic and international implications of China’s strategic choice are carefully analyzed in a text that will interest college students at all levels and indeed everyone interested in the future of world politics.

Lowell Dittmer, University of California at Berkeley, USA