

# New Approaches of Chinese Foreign Policy

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## Abstract

One can discern three different approaches in the evolution of Chinese foreign policy. First, historical legacies have always played a critical role in the formulation of China's policy calculations. I call this the "history-embedded" perspective. Second, with the recent rise of China's economic and political might, nationalism in China has correspondingly been on the rise. National interests have been further prioritized over ideological considerations. This approach can be called "national interest-driven" foreign policy. Third, Beijing has become increasingly confident not only about its strengths in the world arena but also about its ability to coordinate with related powers regarding their various interests. This approach can be called "co-management of major powers." Until recently Beijing has emphasized the first two sets of considerations, but seems to be gradually moving toward a new approach, namely co-management with major powers.

Quansheng Zhao is Professor of international relations and Director of Center for Asian Studies at American University in Washington, DC; serving as Director of the Division of Comparative and Regional Studies for three terms (1999-2008). He is Research Associate at the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research of Harvard University. He is also Guest Professor at Beijing, Qinghua, and Fudan Universities in China, and Korea University in Korea, and Coordinator for the Global Forum of Chinese Political Scientists. Professor Zhao received his B.A. from Beijing University, M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. He is on sabbatical leave for the 2008-2009 academic year as a Visiting Professor at Ritsumeikan University in Japan (fall 2008) and Leiden University in the Netherlands (spring 2009).

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