About the Publication

*Politik* is a biannual student publication from the University of New South Wales offering comment, research and analysis on international affairs. We offer students the opportunity to publish researched pieces on international issues they are interested in and thereby develop their writing skills and research interests. *Politik* is a cross-disciplinary publication, drawing together students and academics from disciplines ranging from Arts and Law to Science, Medicine and Economics. Pieces are encouraged from all fields where the article provides an insight into a topical international issue, event or region.

Each issue will be divided into the following sections:

- Asia-Pacific
- Europe, Middle East & Africa
- Americas
- Science & Environment
- Global Health
- Business & Economics

Submissions are welcome to any of these sections.

*Politik* will publish two issues per year, one in each semester.

Submission Information

Articles submitted for print should be between 1000-1300 words, excluding references.

Pieces should be written in an academic style, and while opinion is encouraged, the article should be presented in a scholarly manner. Subject matter should be researched to support ideas within the article. All non-original ideas should be referenced in endnotes following the article. While the style is academic, keep sentences short and concise so as to make the piece readable.

Articles should be structured with a title, introduction, body and conclusion, and should have appropriate sub-headings.

References should be formatted in the Oxford referencing style. Please note that we request endnotes rather than footnotes. Where full endnotes are provided, a separate bibliography is not necessary. Writers can find an external guide on how to reference in this style by the UNSW Learning Centre here: [http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/pdf/biblio.pdf](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/pdf/biblio.pdf)

The deadline for submissions for Issue 1 is **Monday 14 April 2014** (Week 7),

Issues are themed, and submissions are invited to be related to the theme but do not have to be. The theme for Issue 1 is ‘Old World, New World’.
How to submit an article to *Politik*

If you wish to submit an article for Issue 1, please email a short proposal to editor@politikunsw.com before Sunday 30 March.

Please indicate in your proposal:
- Your name, contact number, course and year of study at UNSW.
- Which section of the issue you wish to contribute to (e.g. Europe, Americas, Science & Environment).
- A brief outline of your proposed article topic.

If your proposal is accepted, you will be contacted via email and provided with a further style guide to write your article.

To submit your article to *Politik*, please email your submission as an attachment in Microsoft Word format to editor@politikunsw.com.

- Please indicate in your email:
  - Your name, contact number, course and year of study at UNSW.
  - Which section of the issue you are contributing to.

- In the subject line of your email, please include your surname and the title, or abbreviated title, of your article.

By submitting an article to *Politik* you agree for it to be published in either the print issue or online via the *Politik UNSW* website, or both. All views presented will be held to be those of the contributing author and not of the publication.

*Politik* is a non-partisan publication and welcomes a diversity of views. Please be respectful in your submissions.

**Review Process**

All articles submitted to *Politik* will be reviewed by the *Politik* editorial staff and may be presented for review to members of the Academic Advisory Board. Contributors will be informed by email as to whether or not their article has been selected for final publication. By submitting an article, authors accept that both copy (syntactical, grammatical and style-based) and substantive (content-based) changes may be made by editors prior to inclusion in the issue. Contributors will be consulted before any major changes to their work.

**Online material**

Shorter comment-style pieces are also welcome for publication solely on the website, length 500-800 words, following the above guidelines.

If you are interested in contributing a photo journal to the website, please email editor@politikunsw.com with your project idea.

[www.politikunsw.com](http://www.politikunsw.com)
Sample Article

The New Challenger: Will China Overthrow the Existing International Order or Join It?

The rise of China and the increasing shift of power to Asia are today a reality more than a prediction. What impact this rise will have on the international order is uncertain, as we try to analyse the motives and influence of a non-Western superpower. While China assures the world of its intent for a “peaceful rise”, the nation’s actions have been frequently analysed as a threat, as the United States worries of its eclipse and adjusts its foreign policy in the face of China’s increasing economic and military might. This is but a traditional scene of a power transition. However, the opaqueness and complexity of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and yet its increasing participation in the international system, poses a question that lacks a simple answer: will China overthrow the existing international order or become a part of it?

Shifting Centres
Since the onset of the post-WWII era, the international order has been Western-centric, a conglomeration of rules and institutions chiefly led by the US. These institutions, such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), are rooted in the forces of democracy and capitalism, values which Chinese domestic and foreign policy does not traditionally espouse. Indeed, China rises from outside of the international order. China’s increasing power leads observers such as realist John Mearsheimer to speculate that China will seek to become first a regional hegemon, and, in cementing its power, will engage in conflict with the US for a dominant superpower role. The resulting possibility is the success of China and a new Asian-centric world order, in which the rules and institutions are dictated as per China’s interests.

However, it is more likely that China will become a part of the existing order, and seek to secure its own interest, rather than reject the system entirely.

While China has historically held a deep mistrust of Western power and imperialism from the Opium War years, it has nonetheless shown a willingness to converge to Western systems in the recent past. Since 1978, economic reforms led by Deng Xiaoping in his leadership of the CPC saw capitalist market principles introduced into the Chinese model of socialism, including widespread privatisation and the opening up of the country to foreign investment. While this may have begun as a conceded understanding that to succeed China would have to learn the rules of the game, capitalist values have since become so entrenched in the nation’s economic success that Deng’s “Socialism with Chinese characteristics” is perhaps more aptly described today as “Capitalism with Chinese characteristics”.

On the Rise
China’s rise is being facilitated by its participation in the existing order. Its pursuit of admission to the WTO, a laborious process that ended in the nation adhering to Western economic regulations it did not craft, was a clear sign of China’s wish to integrate into the international economic order. It has since capitalised on its
membership; in August 2013, China’s own permanent representative Yi Xiaozhun was appointed WTO deputy director-general. China can be expected to continue to use the institution as a means of promoting its economic prosperity.

To shun the existing order would thus be to shun the prospect of continued economic success. China is unlikely to make such a move, particularly in light of economic interdependence; Ross Terrill of Harvard University argues that China is an opportunistic rising power - while the CPC will readily seize opportunities to extend its global influence, it will not embark on risky ventures that will harm its economy or isolate Beijing politically.\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{ii}}} Indeed, the new administration under Xi Jinping appears willing to coexist with the US and make room for itself within the existing order, with Xi proclaiming at his first bilateral summit with US President Obama that “the vast Pacific Ocean has enough space for two large countries like the United States and China.”\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{iii}}}

With China already so engrossed within the international order, overthrowing the system would be a difficult feat. We can thus see the cyclical secret of the Western system’s success: although a new nation may become powerful, the Western order will continue as it is entrenched in the institutions which the new powerful nation subscribes to, and it will continue until these institutions are irrepairably eroded. John Ikenberry argues that on top of these deeply rooted rules and institutions, the Western order is particularly difficult to overthrow due to the huge benefits and incentives for economic participation, which attract developed and developing countries alike, as well as the system of coalition leadership, wherein a ‘coalition of powers arrayed around the US’ prevents one nation from truly dominating the entire order.\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{iv}}} Indeed, in overthrowing the existing order, China would be challenging not only the US but the entire Western world, a move for which it is neither powerful enough, nor willing to isolate itself over.

**Much to be had**

Politically, China has gained from the Western order as well. Through its inclusion on the United Nations Security Council, China is already party to great power exceptionalism. It has also been the champion of the Westphalian concept of national sovereignty. Through these means, China has been able to defend its set of core interests, particularly in regards to Taiwan and the Spratly Islands territorial dispute. If we consider that the way a rising power changes the system is influenced by the level of that power’s dissatisfaction with the old system, it is clear that now that China is accumulating power and rank, the current order in fact serves its interests rather well.

It is thus more likely that China will opportunistically seek to support the existing international order but aim for its own increasing prominence. Joshua Cooper Ramo has written that in accordance with the ‘Beijing Consensus’, China will lead by size and example rather than by traditional force,\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{v}}} the path for it to do so remains through the Western system. China will continue to use the existing rules and institutions, from international trade to state sovereignty, to further its interests, which would not be helped by rejecting the order.

With this in mind, and the likelihood of the Western order to continue for some time, the US needs to reshape its analysis of China’s rise, and move away from
viewing the matter from a “threat” perspective. The United States’ future as an important player within the international system now rests on reinvesting in the existing system so that it is not edged out by China’s ascent into these institutions. The US will need to follow the rules of its own system to provide both the system and itself with legitimacy, after the drastic effect that events such as the Iraq War and subsequent deviations from international law have had on its international standing. The US must further incorporate China into multilateral institutions so as to prevent an antagonistic China bloc from developing outside of the existing system. While rivalry and competition is an inevitability in great power politics, the most common fuel for an ultimate clash is misunderstanding and a failure for powers to accommodate one another. What both powerful nations would do well to recognise, then, is that in the case of China’s rise, a smooth coexistence within the current order remains firmly in both nations’ interests.

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