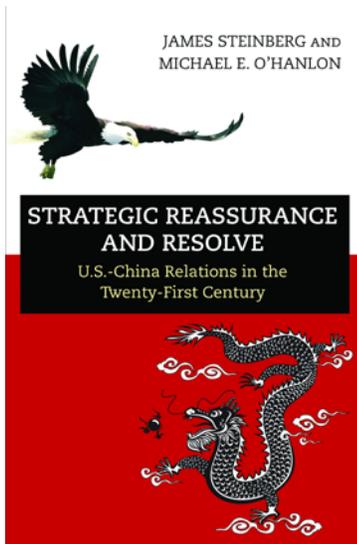


Is a Future Conflict with China Inevitable?



James Steinberg and Michael O'Hanlon argue that U.S.-China relations can strengthen by taking concrete measures to calm strategic concerns in this new book.

"A must-read for anyone interested in the future of U.S.-China relations."

— **Stephen J. Hadley, former national security advisor to President George W. Bush**

After 40 years of largely cooperative Sino-U.S. relations, policymakers, politicians, and pundits on both sides of the Pacific see growing tensions between the United States and China. Some go so far as to predict a future of conflict, driven by the inevitable rivalry between an established and a rising power, and urge their leaders to prepare now for a future showdown. Others argue that the deep economic interdependence between the two countries and the many areas of shared interests will lead to more collaborative relations in the coming decades.

In **STRATEGIC REASSURANCE AND RESOLVE: U.S.-China Relations in the Twenty-First Century**, (Princeton University Press, June 2014), James Steinberg (former deputy secretary of state in the Obama administration) and Michael O'Hanlon (senior fellow at Brookings) stake out a third, less deterministic position. They argue that there are powerful domestic and international factors, especially in the military and security realms, that could well push the bilateral relationship toward an arms race and confrontation, even though both sides will be far worse off if such a future comes to pass. They contend that this pessimistic scenario can be confidently avoided only if China and the United States adopt deliberate policies designed to address the security dilemma that besets the relationship between a rising and an established power. The authors propose a set of policy proposals to achieve a sustainable, relatively cooperative relationship between the two nations, based on the concept of providing mutual strategic reassurance in such key areas as nuclear weapons and missile defense, space and cyber operations, and military basing and deployments, while also demonstrating strategic resolve to protect vital national interests, including, in the case of the United States, its commitments to regional allies.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

James Steinberg served as Deputy Secretary of State during the Obama administration. He is currently dean and professor of social science, international affairs, and law at the Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Steinberg is also a former vice president and director of Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution.

Michael O'Hanlon is senior fellow and director of research for the Foreign Policy Program at Brookings and the Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence. He is also the co-author of *Bending History: Barack Obama's Foreign Policy* (Brookings Press, 2012).

We hope you will consider interviews with the authors of **STRATEGIC REASSURANCE AND RESOLVE** around President Obama's trip to Asia.

For more information or to interview James Steinberg, please contact Andrew Desio with Princeton University Press at (609) 258-5165 or email at andrew_desio@press.princeton.edu.

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