



EXPLAINING THE RISE OF CHINA: A Challenge to Western Social Science Theories?

Monday, April 5, 2010 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Lower Level Conference Room, Busch Hall
27 Kirkland St., Cambridge, MA

Reception to Follow -- First Floor Foyer, Busch Hall

Panelists:

SEBASTIAN HEILMANN

Professor of Comparative Government and
Political Economy of China, Trier University

KOKUBUN RYOSEI

Dean and Professor, Faculty of Law and
Politics, Keio University

BARRY J. NAUGHTON

Professor of Chinese Economy, Sokwanlok
Chair of Chinese International Affairs,
University of California, San Diego

PAN WEI

Professor, School of International Studies;
Director, Center for Chinese and Global
Affairs, Peking University

WANG HUI

Professor of Chinese Literature & History,
Tsinghua University; HYI 2010 Pusey Fellow

Moderated by Elizabeth J. Perry

Henry Rosovsky Professor of Government,
Harvard University; Director, Harvard-
Yenching Institute

What explains China's stunning economic record and continued political stability decades after most other Communist systems in the world collapsed? Does the Chinese case pose a challenge to certain basic social science assumptions about the relationship between economic and political change?

Is the People's Republic of China simply an example of "delayed democracy"? Or is China on a trajectory that defies standard Western predictions about the connection among markets, civil society, and democratization? If the Chinese case does indeed depart significantly from standard models of transition and transformation, what wider lessons can we draw from its experience – for other developing countries as well as for social science theory?

This roundtable brings together an inter-disciplinary group of distinguished international scholars – from China, Japan, Germany and the United States – to offer their perspectives on these complex questions.