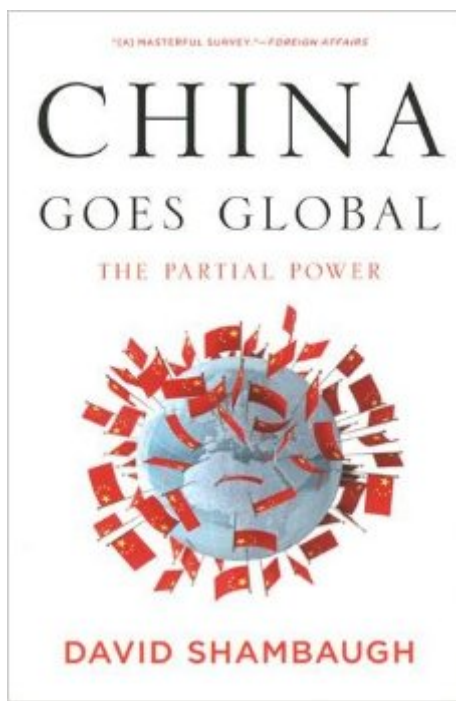


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China Goes Global: The Partial Power



Synopsis

Most global citizens are well aware of the explosive growth of the Chinese economy. Indeed, China has famously become the "workshop of the world." Yet, while China watchers have shed much light on the country's internal dynamics--China's politics, its vast social changes, and its economic development--few have focused on how this increasingly powerful nation has become more active and assertive throughout the world. In *China Goes Global*, eminent China scholar David Shambaugh delivers the book that many have been waiting for--a sweeping account of China's growing prominence on the international stage. Thirty years ago, China's role in global affairs beyond its immediate East Asian periphery was decidedly minor and it had little geostrategic power. Today however, China's expanding economic power has allowed it to extend its reach virtually everywhere--from mineral mines in Africa, to currency markets in the West, to oilfields in the Middle East, to agribusiness in Latin America, to the factories of East Asia. Shambaugh offers an enlightening look into the manifestations of China's global presence: its extensive commercial footprint, its growing military power, its increasing cultural influence or "soft power," its diplomatic activity, and its new prominence in global governance institutions. But Shambaugh is no alarmist. In this balanced and well-researched volume, he argues that China's global presence is more broad than deep and that China still lacks the influence befitting a major world power--what he terms a "partial power." He draws on his decades of China-watching and his deep knowledge of the subject, and exploits a wide variety of previously untapped sources, to shed valuable light on China's current and future roles in world affairs.

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Customer Reviews

In 1990 I moved to Pudong, a farming area on the eastern bank of the Huangpu River, the river which divides East from West Shanghai. This was a year before Pudong was declared a Special Economic Zone and I was one of only three foreigners living there at the time. 23 years later Pudong is China's financial capital, boasts several of the world's tallest buildings and it is home to many global companies. According to a 2011 China census there are now about 50,000 foreign residents in Pudong. So nowadays when people talk up China I am inclined to agree because I have seen the change first hand. In his book *China Goes Global, the Partial Power*, David Shambaugh, a China expert at George Washington University, acknowledges China's epochal metamorphosis from one of the poorest and, some would argue, insignificant countries in the world to one of the wealthiest. He calls this transformation, as many have before him, the "big story of our time." Yet Shambaugh does not subscribe to the hype about China's global dominance, either present or forthcoming. He writes: "Some observers have already proclaimed that China will rule the world, This prospective is profoundly overstated and incorrect in my view.China has a long way to go before it becomes, if it ever becomes a true Global power. And it will never rule the world." Shambaugh argues convincingly that China's global presence nowadays is in his words "shallow." Not only does China not have strong international alliances, say the way US and other western Countries do (Chinese strongest alliances are often with closed failed states like North Korea, and Russia), but China ranks very low on many surveys which measure a country's global standing and effectiveness.

David Shambaugh challenges with much dexterity the conventional wisdom that China already has all the tools to be a global great power. China comes out as a confused and conflicted rising power. Although the country has become prosperous, it feels at the same time that its national security is at risk and that the world has not shown the international respect that it craves. Mr. Shambaugh explores the diplomatic, economic, cultural, and military footprints of China around the world to prove to his readers that China is only a partial power in each of these four dimensions.¹⁾ Diplomatically, China comes out as risk-averse and narrowly self-absorbed. The country is primarily concerned with domestic economic development and the image and longevity of the ruling Communist Party. China has shown both little interest in global governance and discomfort with the liberal international order set by the West after WWII.²⁾ Economically, China increasingly has a

decisive influence on global trade and the imports of energy and raw materials through its mercantilism. However, Chinese outbound investments and multinationals have not yet had much impact on the rest of the world. Similarly, China's aid programs reflect both a lack of size commensurate with its status of world's second-largest economy and a frequent non-compliance with international donor standards.³) Culturally, China is not generating emulation because of the sui generis nature of its culture and the lack of a transferrable economic experience. Nonetheless, the country has a clear impact on tourism and art purchasing around the world.⁴) Militarily, China does not come even close to the U.S. in conventional global power-projection capacities.

China Goes Global attempts to put into context China's influence in the world today. There is no doubt that China's economic rise has created immense interest in understanding the motives and goals of China in both the local and global context and this book adds to the literature on the subject. It is different from many of the other books on the rise of China and what that means by being very specific in its analysis of current institutions and sentiments of policy makers rather than long term hypothesizing about where the current growth trajectory of China will take it. The book is split into 8 chapters the first and last of which set the stage with 6 middle chapters analyzing the various dimensions in which China's influence permeates. The first chapter focuses on China's global identity. It discusses how China does not have a global identity per se and has various perspectives within the country that drive the rhetoric that we often hear. The strength of the party is considered to be a function of focusing the nationalistic pride of the population against the century of humiliation that was endured and so one often hears conflicting messages from China, some catering to domestic nationalism while others to the international audience. The book then goes on to discuss the diplomatic presence and global presence. The author gives the history of the opening of China from Mao to Deng. The history with Russia and then the US is discussed. The author discusses how China is a part of the multinational world but acts in a very bilateral sense. Its voting patterns in the UN general assembly are extremely low overlap with countries like the US vs Russia for example whereas in the security council it has higher overlap.

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