

WRITERS'
SYMPOSIA
GUT ANKELOHE

Ankelohe
CONVERSATIONS



As of April 23, 2008

Ankelohe Conversations 2008

April 24 to 27, 2008

The Struggling Giant – Understanding the World through Chinese Eyes

hosted by

Dräger Foundation, Lübeck

and

Lutz Kleveman, Gut Ankelohe

with support from
American Council on Germany (ACG), New York
ChinaDialogue.net, London
Prospect Magazine, London
and
Volkswagen AG, Wolfsburg

Conference Venue:

Gut Ankelohe
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Thursday, April 24, 2008

- Arrival of participants at Gut Ankelohe during the course of the day
- 6.30 - 7.30 pm Reception, followed by dinner
- 8.30 pm **Opening speech**
- China on the Rise – Is this the End of Western Hegemony?***
- Speaker
Dr. John C. Hulsman, The Alfred von Oppenheim Scholar in Residence, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin, Germany
- Chair
Lutz Kleveman, Author and AnkCon Host, Gut Ankelohe, Germany
- 10.00 pm Relaxed gathering at bonfire

Friday, April 25, 2008

- from 7.30 am Breakfast
- 9.00 - 10.30 am **Session 1: *The Chinese Model: 'Socialism with Chinese Characteristics' or 'Autocratic Capitalism'?***
- The historical legacies, particularly since the mid-19th century
 - The roots and reasons for China's sudden wealth and power
 - The post-1989 strategy to liberalise the economy while retaining the Communist Party's grip on political power
 - Communist capitalism: more than 80% home ownership in cities, private entrepreneurs, a flourishing stock market, still many state enterprises but capitalist distribution
 - Integration into the international order: China has joined the WTO, moved towards rule by law, market economy, right to private property, growing civil society etc.
- Chair
David Goodhart, Editor, Prospect Magazine, London, UK
- Speaker
Jonathan Fenby, China Director, Trusted Sources, London, UK
- 10.30 - 11.00 am Coffee break

11.00 am
- 12.30 pm

Session 2: *A Harmonious Society? – China’s Domestic Challenges*

- How does China handle human rights, workers’ rights and the environment in China?
- Demographic and social problems; rising inequalities between rural and urban populations; massive migration into big cities
- What does the vastly widened wealth gap mean for social harmony/tension?
- The power struggle between the central government and regional leaders: Is Beijing too weak to push through reforms?
- What political demands does the emerging middle class in China make?
- The impact of pollution and climate change on China
- In light of the technological revolution, esp. the internet, how effectively can autocratic regimes still control information and freedom of expression?

Chair

Isabel Hilton, Founder and Editor, ChinaDialogue.net, London, UK

Speakers

Isaac Mao, Vice President, United Capital Investment, Shanghai, P.R. China

Nicholas Young, Founding Editor, China Development Brief, London, UK

12.30 - 2.00 pm

Lunch

2.00 - 3.30 pm

Session 3: *Collateral Damage – Is China’s Economic Boom Sustainable?*

- Is China’s economic growth “unstable, unbalanced, uncoordinated, and unsustainable”? (Wen Jiabao)
- The nature of the Chinese economy: massive corporate savings, overdependence on exports, huge foreign exchange reserves: Is the Chinese model on the verge of destabilizing the international economic system?
- Can China satisfy her growing need for resources, food, and energy?
- China and the rule of law: How attractive is China for foreign investors?
- Massive investment capital, intellectual property theft, product piracy, and imitations: Are Chinese companies taking over Western rivals?
- Do trade conflicts with U.S./Europe threaten the globalized economy?

Chair

Dr. Richard Parker, Lecturer in Public Policy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA

Speakers

Shuli Hu, Editor, Caijing Magazine, Beijing, P.R. China

Dr. Wei Zhang, Lecturer in Chinese Economy, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

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| 3.30 - 4.00 pm | Coffee break |
| 4.00 pm | Screening of a film by Xiaolu Guo , writer and film maker |
| 6.00 pm | Trip to the seaside for dinner |

Saturday, April 26, 2008

from 7.30 am Breakfast

9.00 - 10.30 am **Session 4: *Chinese Exceptionalism: What are China's Political Beliefs?***

- The doctrine of Chinese exceptionalism: The construction of a (false?) national narrative to support the continuing search for a modern political form
- The notion of 'stability' and the revival of Confucianism
- Is there a "Chinese Dream"?
- Autocracy as an alternative to what the Chinese rulers see as unstable and aggressive Western democracy
- Is there still an isolationist, suspicious Middle Kingdom mentality?
- In international negotiations, do the Chinese mean what they say?

Chair

Oliver August, Middle East Correspondent, The London Times, London, UK

Speaker

Dr. Kerry Brown, Associate Fellow, Asia Programme, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London, UK

10.30 - 11.00 am Coffee break

11.00 am - 12.30 pm **Session 5: *Beijing's Aims and Strategies – The World Through the Eyes of China's Leaders***

- China's geopolitical ambitions, nationalism, and the desire to right historical injustices (Japan, Taiwan, etc.)

- China's abandonment of a foreign policy of no-comment and non-interference in favour of more active involvement
- The extension of China's spheres of influence in Asia and around the world
- To what extent have the hawkish U.S. foreign and defense policies provoked China into becoming more antagonistic?
- To what extent does Beijing see the West's 'war on terror' and liberal interventionism as strategies to expand Western hegemony?
- Is China's economic wealth making the country aggressively expansionist, like pre-1914 Germany?

Chair

Robert Gifford, Foreign Correspondent, National Public Radio, London, UK

Speaker

Prof. Dr. Eberhard Sandschneider, Otto Wolff-Director of the Research Institute, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin, Germany

12.30 - 2.00 pm

Lunch

2.00 - 3.30 pm

Session 6: *Toward a Multipolar World – China's Soft Power and Political Alliances*

- China's new role in the developing world, esp. the Middle East and Africa
- How does China see the USA, Russia and the European Union?
- China's difficult relationship with India
- The convergence of strategic and ideological interests: China's changing alliances with other anti-Western autocracies around the world such as Iran, Sudan, Venezuela, Burma, Belarus, Zimbabwe
- The creation of the Shanghai Five Organisation in opposition to NATO
- Assuming Responsibility – China's Role in Solving Global Problems (climate change, poverty, energy security, terrorism?)
- China's role in the international organizations
- China's role in international crisis prevention

Chair

James Crabtree, Director of Public Services, Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), London, UK

Speaker

Firoze Manji, Co-Editor, Pambazuka News; Director, Fahamu – Networks for Social Justice, Oxford, UK

3.30 - 4.00 pm

Coffee break

4.00 - 5.30 pm **Session 7: *Confrontation or Integration – How should the West deal with rising China?***

Speakers

Brad Adams, Executive Director Asia Division, Human Rights Watch, New York, USA

Dr. Robert J. Shapiro, Chairman, Sonecon, LLC, Washington, D.C., USA

- Appeasement, accommodation, cooperation, containment, or confrontation – what is the West's best strategy to deal with China?
- Can the West still 'manage' China?
- Is it wrong to believe in the “soothing scenario” (James Mann)?
- What are the chances that China and the West will responsibly cooperate to solve the global challenges facing us all, esp. climate change, poverty, energy security, terrorism?
- Will sabre-rattling get in the way of sensible international agreements, e.g. on nuclear proliferation and poverty relief?
- Tibet, political dissidents: given China's current power – how to address human rights questions?

6.30 pm Dinner and relaxed gathering

Sunday, April 27, 2008

Departure of participants during the course of the day

from 6.00 am Breakfast

12.30 pm Lunch