Building the new model of great powers relations and US-China competition in the Asia-Pacific

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The core premises of new type of great power relationship is that structural conflict between China and the US is not inevitable. The Asia-Pacific region has become a test ground for these two countries to explore the possibility of building a new type of great-power relationship. Is Obama’s strategic rebalance undermining the already flimsy strategic trust between the two countries? Is it possible for China and the United States to build a new type of great-power relationship to help avoid confrontation and conflict? Seeking answers to these important questions, this article argues that China’s rise has forced Beijing and Washington to make a strategic choice to avoid the so-called historic inevitability of the structural conflict between a rising power and incumbent superpower. The US strategic rebalance to address the rapidly shifting balance of power in the region where China has emerged as an ever-more influential power has inevitably caused China’s suspicion about the US containment of China’s rise. A containment, nevertheless, is not a viable objective because the attempt has unsettling consequences not only for China but also for the US and regional security and prosperity. As a result, these two countries have to find a realist approach to work together and constructing a regional order based on traditional balance of power to manage the structural confrontation between a rising power and incumbent power.


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