

**Freshman Seminar 100  
China on the World Stage  
Professor Carol Wise  
Fall 2024**

**Mondays 2-4 pm  
Room SOS B52**

**Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:30-5:30 pm and by appointment  
My Office: DMC Room 214  
Email: [cwise@usc.edu](mailto:cwise@usc.edu)**

Under the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), China emerged as the most prosperous and largest empire in the world. The height of Chinese wealth and power was during the 18th century, but by the late 1880s China had been eclipsed by the rise of Great Britain and its sweeping industrial revolution. Chinese scholars refer to the period from 1850 to 1950 as the century of Chinese humiliation. The “West,” including Britain, France and the U.S., increasingly encroached on China, the most traumatic events being two opium wars with Britain and the ceding of Hong Kong to the British in 1842. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century China was in a state of decline and destitution. In 1949 the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) won a domestic revolution and anointed the country as the “People’s Republic of China.” Gradual market reforms began in 1978, the result being that China rebounded to become the second richest country in the world by 2002. This recovery is remarkable in two respects: first, China is the *only* great empire to recover to this extent; second, China’s rebound has been engineered by the CCP under the banner of a “socialist market” model.

This 11-week seminar will explore the political and economic foundations of China’s resurgence and the role that it has come to play on the world stage. We will begin with an examination of the rise and fall of great empires and seek to specify the ways in which China’s resurgence has been exceptional. We will then turn to the period beginning with the fall of the Qing Dynasty in 1911, up to the CCP’s 1949 revolutionary victory. The next two sessions will review the rule of paramount leader Mao Zedong from 1949-1976 which reveals the strengths and weaknesses of a communal/collective model based on economic autarky and political isolationism; and, the about-turn taken by Mao’s successor, Deng Xiaoping, in launching a trade and investment-led development strategy in 1978 now commonly known as “capitalism with Chinese characteristics.” The remaining sessions will cover the political and economic repercussions of China’s 2001 entry into the World Trade Organization; the advent of a decade-long commodity boom based on China’s voracious demand for oil, copper, soybeans, and iron ore; China’s emergence by 2012 as the second richest country in the world based on its 3.2 trillion in foreign reserves, its status as the top recipient of foreign investment and the dominant exporter of manufactured goods; China’s tense relations with the West but much warmer ties with Russia and countries in the global south; and, China’s Belt and Road initiative---an ambitious trillion-dollar infrastructure lending program to developing countries launched in 2013.

Carol Wise is Full Professor of International Political Economy in USC’s Department of Political Science and International Relations. Prof Wise has published widely on trade, investment, institutional reforms and democratization in emerging market economies. In USC’s Dornsife College, Professor Wise teaches the core undergraduate course “Politics of the World Economy” and a senior capstone seminar on “International Political Economy and Development.” Her latest book is *Dragonomics: How Latin America is Maximizing (or Missing Out) on China’s International Development Strategy* (Yale University Press, 2020). Since 2019, she has been a faculty member of the International Summer Program at Renmin University in Beijing. Prof. Wise received her PhD from Columbia University in 1991.

## USC Policies, Offices & Resources

### **Well-being & COVID-19 Policy:**

The USC Student Health Centers (Engemann Student Health Center on the main campus and the Eric Cohen Student Health Center on the health campus) offer resources for students who are feeling sick or have concerns regarding their health. For more information, please visit <https://studenthealth.usc.edu/>.

For medical care or counseling and mental health call: 213-740-9355 or visit:  
<https://studenthealth.usc.edu/medical-care/> (medical health) and/or  
<https://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling/> (counseling/mental health).

Students must comply with all aspects of USC's COVID-19 policy. Failure to do so may result in removal from the class and referral to Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards. This means that students must follow the university's indoor mask mandate, regardless of vaccine status.

### **Academic Accommodations:**

The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be generated. The LOA must be given to the course instructor by the student. This should be done as early in the semester. See [www.osas.usc.edu](http://www.osas.usc.edu).

### **Diversity & Inclusion:**

Every student in this course, regardless of background, age, sex, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, political affiliation, physical or mental ability or any identity category, is a valued and equal member of the class. My intent as an instructor is to provide an inclusive learning environment where individual differences are respected, appreciated, and recognized as a source of strength.

### **Academic Conduct:**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, [policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

### **Support Systems:**

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call [engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling)  
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

### **Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX:**

Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy,

veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations (213) 740-5086 equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu.

### **USC Support and Advocacy:**

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student. Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101 diversity.usc.edu Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

### **USC Emergency:**

(213) 740-4321– 24/7 on call dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

### **USC Department of Public Safety:**

(213) 740-6000 – 24/7 on call dps.usc.edu Non-emergency assistance or information.

## **Course Plan**

This course is eleven weeks long, worth two credits and graded on a pass/no pass basis. Through film and selected readings, we will explore together the remarkable story of China's rise in the 21st century. Requirements include the submission of 2 film reviews, 3-5 pages in length, one in-class presentation on articles or book chapters that pertain to the rise of China in the international political economy and a second in-class presentation that pertains to a major **benchmark** in China's post-1949 history.

As part of the course, you are required to watch the following films:

**Film 1---"How 16<sup>th</sup> Century China's Demand for Silver Led to the Opium Wars"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0fRDd07Mu0>

**Film 2---"China's Century of Humiliation"** (posted on Brightspace)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boPkMCJSYs&t=4170s>

**Film 3---"China: A Century of Revolution---1911-1949"**

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=china+a+century+of+revolution+part+1](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=china+a+century+of+revolution+part+1)

**Film 4---"China: A Century of Revolution---the Mao Years,"**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJyoX\\_vrlns](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJyoX_vrlns)

**Film 5---"Assignment China: The Week That Changed the World."**

<https://china.usc.edu/assignment-china-week-changed-world> (we will watch this in class)

**Film 6---"China: A Century of Revolution---the Deng Xiaoping Years,"**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fh9Qma\\_V4h4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fh9Qma_V4h4)

**Film 7---"China: Power and Prosperity,"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JovtmKFxi3c>

***Important benchmarks in China post-1949 history:***

- 1) Great Leap Forward
- 2) Cultural Revolution
- 3) Tiananmen Student Uprising
- 4) “Go Out” Strategy 1999
- 5) South China Sea

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**WEEK 1 (August 26): Overview of Course**

**WEEK 2 (September 2): LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**

**WEEK 3 (September 16): The Rise of China in the Global Economy According to Chinese Scholars**

***Suggested readings but not required (posted on Brightspace):***

- C. Fang, “Population Dividend and Economic Growth in China, 1978-2018,” *China Economic Journal*, 11 (2018): 243-258.
- Y. Huang, “Why Did China Take Off?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 26 (2012): 147-170.
- Y. Yao, “An Anatomy of the Chinese Selectocracy,” *China Economic Journal*, 11 (2018): 228-242.
- M. Yu, “China’s International Trade Development and Opening-up Policy Design Over the past Four Decades,” *China Economic Journal*, 11 (2018): 301-318.

**Homework: Watch Film 1 or 2 above**

**WEEK 4 (September 23): The People’s Republic of China and Western Outreach**

**Required Reading:** H. Kissinger, *On China* (New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2011), pp. 236-274, posted on Brightspace (**student leads discussion**)

In class, we will watch parts of Film 5 above together

***Other readings suggested but not required (posted on Brightspace):***

**U.S.---Nixon Goes to China**

- M. MacMillan, “Nixon, Kissinger, and the Opening to China,” in Fredrik Logevall and Andrew Preston, eds., *Nixon in the World: American Foreign Relations 1969-1977* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008) pp. 107-125.

**Latin America**

- E. Halperin, “Peking and the Latin American Communists,” *The China Quarterly*, vol. 29 (January-March 1967): 111-154.
- W. Ratliff, “Chinese Communist Cultural Diplomacy toward Latin America,” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, vol. 49, no. 1 (1969): 53-79.

- C. Wise, *Dragonomics*, chapter 2.

**Homework: Watch Film 3 and 4 above**

**WEEK 5 (September 30): China, a Late Start as an East Asian Developmental State**

**First film review is due, 3-5 double-spaced pages. You can write your review on any of the films list above. Please submit your review through “turn-it-in” on Brightspace.**

**We will watch parts of Film 6 above in class together**

***Suggested readings but not required (posted on Brightspace):***

- P. Evans, “Predatory, Developmental, and other Apparatuses: A Comparative Political Economy Perspective on the Third World State,” *Sociological Forum* 4 (1989): 561-587.
- S. Haggard, *Developmental States* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2018), pp. 1-57.
- A. Kohli, *State-Directed Development* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 1-26.
- C. Wise, *Dragonomics*, pp. 40-47.

**Two Student Benchmark Presentations**

**Cultural Revolution**

**Tiananmen Square**

**Homework: Watch Film 6 above**

**WEEK 6 (October 7): China’s 2001 Accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO)**

**Required Reading:** W. Hu, “China as a WTO Developing Country Member, Is It a Problem?” Policy Insights No. 2019/16, CEPS November 2019, posted on Brightspace (**student leads discussion**).

***Other readings suggested but not required (posted on Brightspace):***

K. Hopewell, “Different paths to power: The rise of Brazil, India and China at the World Trade Organization,” *Review of International Political Economy* (2014), pp. 1-28.

B. Vickers, “The Role of the Brics in the WTO: System-Supporters or Change Agents in Multilateral Trade?” *The Oxford Handbook on The World Trade Organization*, November 2012.

T. Yeling, “How the WTO Changed China: The Mixed Legacy of Economic Engagement,” 100 (2021) *Foreign Affairs* 90

**Student Benchmark Presentation**

**“Go Out”**

**Homework: Watch Film 7 above**

**WEEK 7 (October 14): FALL BREAK no class**

## **WEEK 8 (October 21): China's Belt & Road Initiative**

### **Required Reading**

• K. Acker, D. Brautigam and Y. Huang, "Debt Relief with Chinese Characteristics." China-Africa Research Initiative (CARI), Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Working Paper no. 39, June 2020, posted on Brightspace. **(student leads discussion)**

### ***Suggested readings but not required (posted on Brightspace):***

• M. Du, "China's 'One Belt, One Road' Initiative: Context, Focus, Institutions, and Implications," *The Chinese Journal of Global Governance*, 2 (2016), access full text at: [https://brill.com/view/journals/cjgg/2/1/article-p30\\_2.xml](https://brill.com/view/journals/cjgg/2/1/article-p30_2.xml)

• P. Ferdinand, "Westward Ho---The China Dream and 'One Belt, One Road'," *International Affairs*, 92 (2016), pp. 941-957.

• J. Hillman and D. Sacks, *China's Belt and Road: Implications for the US*, Independent Task Force Report, Council on Foreign Relations, 2021. New York, NY, pp. 2-22.

• M. Ye, "Fragmentation and Mobilization: Domestic Politics of Belt and Road in China," *Journal of Contemporary China*, 28 (2019), pp. 696-711.

### **Student Benchmark Presentation**

#### **South China Sea**

## **WEEK 9 (October 28): US Trade War against China**

**Required Reading:** C. Brown, "The US-China Trade War: Phase One Agreement," Working Paper 21-2, Peterson Institute for International Economics, Washington, DC, 2021, posted on Brightspace. **(student leads discussion)**

### ***Suggested readings but not required (posted on Brightspace):***

• T. Liu and T. Woo, "Understanding the U.S.-China Trade War," *China Economic Journal*, 11 (2018), pp. 319-340.

• A. Lukin, "The US-China Trade War and China's Strategic Future," *Survival*, 61 (2019), pp. 23-50.

• D. Steinbock, "U.S.-China Trade War and Its Global Impacts," *China Quarterly of International Strategic Studies*, 4 (2018).

### **Student Benchmark Presentation**

#### **Great Leap Forward**

## **WEEK 10 (November 4): US vs. China---Competition on Chips, AI and the Technological Frontier**

**Second film review is due, 3-5 double-spaced pages. You can write your review on any of the films list above. Please submit your review through "turn-it-in" on Brightspace.**

**Required Reading:** A. Demarais, "How the U.S.-Chinese Technology War Is Changing the World," *Foreign Policy*, November 19, 2022. **(student leads discussion)**

[https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/11/19/demaraiss-backfire-sanctions-us-china-technology-war-semiconductors-export-controls-biden/?tpcc=fp\\_live](https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/11/19/demaraiss-backfire-sanctions-us-china-technology-war-semiconductors-export-controls-biden/?tpcc=fp_live)

***Suggested readings but not required:***

- T. He and Y. Ji, Y, “China’s Techno-Economic Statecraft Amid US-China Strategic Rivalry: AI and the ‘New Whole-State System,’” *Orbis* (Philadelphia), 67 (2023), pp. 605–625. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.orbis.2023.08.008>
- P. Mozur et al, “China’s Rush to Dominate AI Comes with a Twist: It Depends on U.S. Technology,” *New York Times*, February 21, 2024. <http://libproxy.usc.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/blogs-podcasts-websites/china-s-rush-dominate-i-comes-with-twist-depends/docview/2928864937/se-2>
- P. Nung Wong, *Techno-Geopolitics: US-China Tech War and the Practice of Digital Statecraft*. India: Routledge, Chapters 1, 3 & 4. <https://doi-org.libproxy2.usc.edu/10.4324/9781003047100>
- J. Qui, “The Return of Billiard Balls? US–China Tech War and China’s State-Directed Digital Capitalism,” *Javnost - The Public*, 30 (2023), pp. 197–217. <https://doi-org.libproxy2.usc.edu/10.1080/13183222.2023.2200695>
- M. Ryan and S. Burman, “The United States–China ‘tech war’: Decoupling and the Case of Huawei.” *Global Policy*, 15 (2024), pp. 355–367.
- A Demarais, “How the U.S.-Chinese Technology War Is Changing the World,” *Foreign Policy*, November 19, 2022. [https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/11/19/demaraiss-backfire-sanctions-us-china-technology-war-semiconductors-export-controls-biden/?tpcc=fp\\_live](https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/11/19/demaraiss-backfire-sanctions-us-china-technology-war-semiconductors-export-controls-biden/?tpcc=fp_live)

**Week 11 (November 12):**

**Class Dinner**

**Northern China Dumpling House**

**2904 Figueroa Street (at corner of 28<sup>th</sup> street)**

**7:00 pm**