



College of Arts & Sciences
Center for the Humanities

The Rise of a Superpower China

Friday February 12, 2010 3:30 p.m

CAS Gallery at Wesley House
1210 Stanford Drive
University of Miami

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Some well-informed analysts see China dominating the world in the years ahead and re-shaping politics in a direction favorable to authoritarianism rather than human rights and democracy. Others see China as a bubble economy that will inevitably burst. Yet others fear for a war between the present superpower, America, and the rising superpower, China. The Chinese Communist Party government, in contrast to each and all of these projections, insists that China's rise will facilitate peace and prosperity. China therefore should be seen as a global moral pole. This talk will probe what lies behind these clashing perspectives on the future. Whatever lies ahead, no one should doubt that the rise of China is a world-changing event perhaps as significant as the rise of Europe which started around 1500.

Edward Friedman is the author, most recently, of *Chinese Village, Socialist State* (1991), *The Politics of Democratization: Generalizing the East Asian Experience* (1994), *National Identity and Democratic Prospects in Socialist China* (1995), and *What if China Doesn't Democratize?: Implications for War and Peace* (2001). His teaching and research interests include democratization, Chinese politics, international political economy, revolution, and the comparative study of transitions in Leninist states.

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