

**GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP**  
**([WWW.BEDFORDNY.COM](http://WWW.BEDFORDNY.COM))**

**KATONAH VILLAGE LIBRARY**  
**December 11, 2012**

**10:15 A. M. – 12:30 P. M.**

**CHINA AND THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGING LEADERSHIP**

Topic Leader: Charlie Kimball  
Moderator: Peter Grunthal

**AGENDA**

10:15: Kickoff

- Welcome and Introduction of Guests & New Chapter Members
- Briefing Book Orders
- Topic Leader Presentation
- Group Discussion
- Noon (Approximate): Current Events Discussion

***CHAPTER MOTTO - "DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT  
FONDNESS FOR DISPUTE OR DESIRE FOR VICTORY" – BEN FRANKLIN***

**SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TOPICS**

- January 8, 2013 -- **Foreign Policy Implications of Climate Change**  
Topic Leader: Ken Krieger  
Moderator: Tyler Beebe
- January 22, 2013 -- **The Future of the Euro**

Topic Leaders: Tyler Beebe and Peter Grunthal

- February 5, 2013 -- **Humanitarian Intervention**  
Topic Leader: Howard Jacobs
- March 5, 2013 -- **Myanmar and Southeast Asia**  
Topic Leader: Charles Kimball
- March 19, 2013 -- **Threat Assessment**  
Topic Leader: Gary Wenglowski
- April 2, 2013 -- **Egypt**  
Topic Leaders: Mike Kornfield and Peter Kuniholm
- April 16, 2013 -- **Iran**  
Topic Leader: Fred Piker
- April 30, 2013 -- **NATO**  
Topic Leader: Tyler Beebe
- May 14, 2013 -- **China in Africa**  
Topic Leader: Joe Adams

## TODAY'S TOPIC

On November 8, two days after the U.S. elected a president for the next four years, the National Committee of the Communist Party of China met to appoint the leadership that will guide it, the world's largest population and the world's second largest economy for the next ten years.

Charlie Kimball, who is professionally versed on Chinese affairs and who recently returned from Asia, will put our discussion in perspective with a brief presentation on the history of Chinese leadership, the nation's "geopolitical style," currents of discontent inside China today and potential impacts the new generation of leaders could have on Chinese domestic affairs and the nation's relations with the rest of the world.

Discussion points may include:

- How will the changing leadership in China, and the elections in the US, affect the US-China relationship? What are the key aspects of the US-China relationship (diplomatic, militaristic and economic) and how are they likely to evolve?

- How are the existing territorial disputes (between China/Japan/Korea/Vietnam/Malaysia/ and the Philippines) concerning various islands in the Western Pacific likely to be resolved? Should the US have a role in settling these disputes? What should that role be? Is it in our interest (short and long term) to avoid any change in the current positions?
- What about disputes involving Taiwan, Tibet, areas in or near Western China and Outer Mongolia? What should the US position on these be?
- How can we work with China (cooperatively) to improve the relationship with North Korea?
- Will rising nationalism in China lead to militarism in Japan and how should US respond to that?

Related to our recent discussion of the Brzezinski and Kagan essays...

- Does the decline of the industrial strength of the US and its indebtedness to China and OPEC foreshadow its decline in influence? To what extent are we too dependent on Chinese manufactured goods?
- If the US does decline significantly who would replace it? Both authors think that there would be a significant realignment with the most likely result being a multi-polar world where power would be shared by Russia, China and the EU. How would this work, particularly in the relationship between the US and China?

### SUGGESTED READING

- **2012 Report to Congress of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission**, (especially the Executive Summary) available at [www.uscc.gov](http://www.uscc.gov).
- **China's Leadership Handover, A Report from the Economist Intelligence Unit**, available at [www.eiu.com](http://www.eiu.com)
- Also, Topic Leader Charles Kimball has prepared four packages of materials that have been previously e-mailed.

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