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## NEW POLICY BRIEF:

### **What power shift to China?**

*By Guy de Jonquières*

**As the west struggles under the double burden of anaemic growth and massive debt, the belief has become common that power is shifting to China. But while western influence in the world may be diminishing, it is by no means certain that China possesses either the will or the capacity to shape tomorrow's international order to its own design and to impose its writ on other nations. [In a new policy brief](#) Guy de Jonquières claims that although western disarray has embolden China to assert its interests and resist external pressures more robustly, it shows little sign of having any coherent global agenda, beyond demanding international respect and securing its own material prosperity.**

Its foreign policy is conspicuously more effective at communicating those things China does not want than at articulating those that it does. And China's economic power is often over-estimated. The importance of maintaining growth at home and the country's rapid integration with the world economy have created an incentive to preserve the stability of the international system and tempered the impulse to engage in nationalistic muscle-flexing or disruptive actions abroad that could damage its own well-being.

Domestic priorities and pressures, not the pursuit of global dominance, will remain the main determinants of China's approach to international relations. However, current battles between its rulers about whether to step up the pace of economic and political reform signify deep divisions about the direction of policy. The echoes are likely to reverberate well beyond China's borders.

[Download the policy brief here](#)

#### Publication details:

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