

2025-2026

Asia

CHINA'S
CONSERVATIVE
TURN

The Origins
of
Xi Jinping's
New
Era

LIN LE

**NUCLEAR
NORTH
KOREA**

Strategy & Practice
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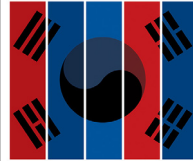
Yangmo Ku

INTERPRETING
the China
Dream

INSTITUTIONAL
ENTROPY &
DELUSIONAL
POLITICS

MING XIA

THE POLITICS OF
SOUTH KOREA
A COMPREHENSIVE INTRODUCTION



JI YOUNG CHOI

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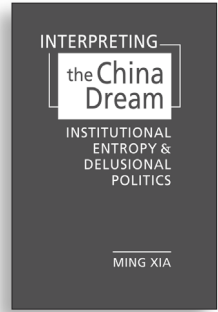
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NEW!

Interpreting the China Dream: Institutional Entropy and Delusional Politics

Ming Xia

“Through an insightful analysis of the ‘China Dream,’ Ming Xia innovatively synthesizes contemporary China studies and opens new paths to understanding the myth and reality, as well as the strength and fragility, of the PRC.” —**Fei-Ling Wang,**
Georgia Institute of Technology



More than a decade ago, Xi Jinping heralded a new era for China when he outlined his “Chinese Dream.” Has that dream become a reality? Did Xi’s transformative vision lead to the promised national rejuvenation?

To answer those questions, Ming Xia delves into the evolution of Xi’s ideological and institutional policies. The result is a balanced study of the authoritarian regime’s successes and failures in its pursuit of its political and economic goals.

Ming Xia is professor of political science at the College of Staten Island, the City University of New York (CUNY), and a doctoral faculty member at the CUNY Graduate Center.

CONTENTS: The China Dream: Found and Lost. Controlling the Discourse on China. Xi Jinping’s “Coronation.” Institutional Innovations and Their Demises. Anarchy and the Triangulation of Political Development. The Oligarchic Transition. Controlocracy and (Un)Freedom of Movement. Money Mania and Financial

Crisis. The Pursuit of Absolute Security. From Enchantment to Enlightenment.

June 2026/ca. 385 pages

ISBN: 979-8-89616-696-2

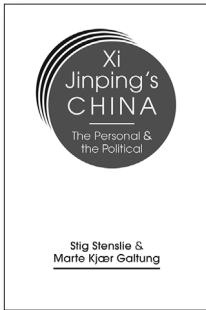
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Xi Jinping's China: The Personal and the Political

Stig Stenslie and Marte Kjær Galtung

“An excellent starting place for anyone interested in the mechanisms of China’s government and its key figures.”

—Byron Rigel Hauck, *Europe-Asia Studies*

“Offers valuable insights into personal and political aspects of Xi’s China and how he has shaped the country.” —Junchen Zhang, *Asian Studies Review*

With steely determination, Xi Jinping has forged his way to absolute power at home, consolidated China’s role as a global superpower, and promoted instrumental myths about his life. All the while, in many ways he has remained a mystery. Which is a problem, assert Stig Stenslie and Marte Galtung, because to understand China today, it is essential to understand Xi.

Who is he? What is his vision for China? What explains his rise? How is he perceived by the masses? These are among the questions that gave rise to this book. Using Xi as a lens with which to examine China’s political development over the past decade, the authors succeed in shining new light on the innermost circles of Chinese politics and on the authoritarian leader himself.

Stig Stenslie is research director and head of the Centre for Intelligence Studies at the Norwegian Intelligence School (NORIS). **Marte Kjær Galtung** is head teacher of Chinese and China studies at NORIS.

CONTENTS: Leadership and Politics in China. Xi’s Climb Through the Ranks. Concentrating Power. Extolling the Leader. An Ideological Renaissance. Stepping onto the World Stage. Is Xi a New Mao? Appendix 1: Timeline of the People’s Republic of China. Appendix 2: Timeline of Xi Jinping’s Life and Career.

pb 2025 (hc 2023)/179 pages

ISBN: 978-1-68585-947-3

hc **\$95/£81**

ISBN: 978-1-962551-37-3

pb **\$28/£23.95**

Australia: hc A\$160.60/pb A\$47.30

NEW!

China's Conservative Turn: The Origins of Xi Jinping's New Era

Lin Le

"Carefully wrought, Le's book tracks the elite-level debates on structural reform in a textured and well-documented way. Indispensable for scholars of the subject."

—**Marc Blecher,**
Oberlin College

CHINA'S
CONSERVATIVE
TURN

The Origins
of
Xi Jinping's
New
Era

LIN LE

What is the source of Xi Jinping's power in China? How did he gain the elite's support as he took the Communist Party down a conservative path? Lin Le finds answers by dissecting the ongoing struggle between reformists and conservatives across some two decades. His revisionist narrative of China's political history since the early 2000s provides a new perspective on Xi's rise, revealing paths not taken, battles fought behind closed doors, and fierce contestation behind the facade of elite unity.

Lin Le is America in the World Consortium postdoctoral fellow at the Clements Center for National Security, University of Texas at Austin.

CONTENTS: Left vs. Right in China. Going Back to Marxism. Governing Capacity. Scientific Development. Harmonious Society. Socialism with Chinese Characteristics. Years of Backsliding. At a Crossroad. Socialist Core Values. Xi's Chinese Dream. Reform

Derailed? The New Era. "Red Genes" and China's Future.

2025/256 pages

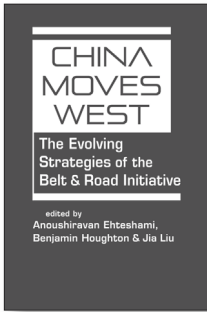
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FORTHCOMING IN PAPERBACK!

China Moves West: The Evolving Strategies of the Belt and Road Initiative

Anoushiravan Ehteshami, Benjamin Houghton, and Jia Liu, editors

In September 2013, Xi Jinping announced the launch of a Chinese-led megaproject, the Belt and Road Initiative, that would transform Asia's position within the global economy. Some ten years on, the BRI, while facing significant obstacles, has gone from strength to strength.

How has China's BRI diplomacy affected its image across Asia? What does the BRI mean for Sino-US competition? Will Russia's invasion of Ukraine and footprint in the region hinder the BRI's success? Addressing these questions and more, the authors of *China Moves West* offer a critical appraisal of how the BRI is progressing, how it is being perceived, and how it is navigating challenges in the geopolitically sensitive regions of Central, South, and West Asia.

Anoushiravan Ehteshami is professor of international relations in the School of Government and International Affairs (SGIA) at the University of Durham. **Benjamin Houghton** and **Jia Liu** are H. H. Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammad al-Sabah Doctoral Fellows at SGIA.

CONTENTS: Introduction—*B. Houghton and A. Ehteshami*. The Belt and Road Initiative: Asianization Amid China's Great Revival—*A. Ehteshami*. Conceptualizing Asia in China: The Challenges for BRI Diplomacy—*H. Liu*. Sino-Russian Competition: The Reshaping of Central Asia—*G. Sciorati and K. Silvan*. China's Changing Image in Central Asia: Exercising Soft and Hard Power—*J. Yu-Wen Chen*. Geopolitics and Russia: Implications of the Invasion of Ukraine for the BRI—*M.N. Katz*. Sino-Indian Competition: The Development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor—*J. Garlick*. China in Afghanistan: The BRI as a Vehicle for Influence—*J. Liu*. The BRI in the GCC States: China's Route to Regional

Predominance?—*B. Houghton*. The BRI in Conflict Zones: The Case of Syria—*K.A. Durkan*. Sino-Iranian Relations: Challenges Facing Beijing and Tehran—*J. Scita*. Turkey Eyes the BRI: Prospects for China's Project at the Eurasian Crossroads—*D. Göçer and C. Ergenç*. Israel: Between the United States and China—*Y. Shichor*. China Moves West: Ten Years of the Belt and Road Initiative—*H. Fan*.

pb February 2026 (hc 2024)/263 pages

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ISBN: 979-8-89616-689-4

pb \$35/£29.95

Australia: A\$185.90/pb A\$59.40

China's Strategy in the Gulf: Navigating Conflicts and Rivalries

Benjamin Houghton

“Houghton systematically unpacks Beijing’s strategy in the Gulf.... Persistent rivalries and conflicts across the region will ensure that this work remains timely and relevant for years to come.” —Robert Mogleinicki, Arab Gulf States Institute

China’s foreign and security policy in the Gulf region has been characterized by the cultivation of strong positive relationships with all of the Gulf states, irrespective of their domestic politics and the ubiquitous rivalries between neighbors. Has this “hedging strategy” proven fruitful? Or has it had negative consequences?

Addressing this issue, Benjamin Houghton explores the contours of China’s hedging strategy in the Gulf from the time of the 1979 Iranian revolution through early 2024.

Benjamin Houghton is research fellow in the Department of Politics, Philosophy, and Religion at Lancaster University.

CONTENTS: China in the Gulf: Cultivating Strategic Relationships. A Contested Region: The Gulf Regional Security Subcomplex. Stark Beginnings: From Iran’s Revolution to the Iran-Iraq War. Opportunistic Timing: The Kuwait Crisis. Navigating US Predominance: Dual Containment. In for the Long Haul: Intensified

Rivalries in the Twenty-First Century. Hedging: Everyone’s Friend, No One’s Foe?

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Latin American and Caribbean Overseas Foreign Direct Investment in China in the Twenty-First Century

Enrique Dussel Peters, editor



While overseas direct investment from China has been studied widely, OFDI to China has been largely ignored. Contributors to this volume pivot the conversation to examine macroeconomic and historical features of investment flows to China from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and a range of Caribbean and Central American countries, framing each case study within wider bilateral socioeconomic relationships.

Enrique Dussel Peters is professor of economics and director of the Center for Chinese-Mexican Studies at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

CONTENTS: Introduction. Argentina's OFDI to China. Brazil's OFDI to China. Caribbean OFDI to China. Central American OFDI to China. Chilean OFDI to China. Mexico's OFDI to China. Peru's OFDI to China.

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Latin America, China, and Great Power Competition: New Triangular Relationships

Enrique Dussel Peters

"A superb, innovative, challenging, and deep analysis of the confrontation between the United States and China from a Latin American/Caribbean perspective.... Strongly recommended."
—Carmelo Mesa-Lago,
University of Pittsburgh

"A profound and timely exploration of a fundamental relationship in today's world."
—Ariel C. Armony, Babson College



"Dussel Peters weaves theoretically driven and empirically based economics with a keen sense of the local, national, and most importantly geopolitical context that, whether we like it or not, has permeated every aspect of economic policy and is likely to do so into the future.... A 'must read' for policymakers, economists, political scientists, and students and will remain so for years to come." —Kevin Gallagher, Boston University

The emergence of Latin America and the Caribbean as an arena for US-China competition raises a number of important questions: What are China's goals in LAC? Is its presence there a good thing for the region? What challenges does it create? How is the US responding? Enrique Dussel Peters responds to these questions from a fresh perspective, exploring the dynamics of new triangular relationships.

Enrique Dussel Peters is professor of economics and director of the Center for Chinese-Mexican Studies at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

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Hedging the China Threat: US-Taiwan Security Relations Since 1949

Shao-cheng Sun

“Masterfully treats the highly tense territorial dispute between Taiwan and China and American involvement.”

—Choice

“Shao-cheng Sun ... exhibits a deep knowledge of his subject throughout this sizable text. The level of detail provided on the various historical crises involving Taiwan, the PRC, and the United States alone makes the book a valuable resource; its sixteen chapters offer a deep exploration of the relationship amongst these three polities.”

—C. Dale Walton, *Comparative Strategy*

The United States has never formally recognized Taiwan as a sovereign state, yet it has provided the country with security assistance since the establishment of the Republic of China (ROC) government there in 1949. What accounts for this equivocal stance? And how is the US leveraging Taiwan against China?

To unpack this complex triangular relationship, Shao-cheng Sun explores the history of US commitments to the ROC since the presidency of Harry S. Truman. His analysis of each successive administration’s policymaking reveals the interplay of personal, domestic, and global interests in what has become one of the most precarious situations in world politics today.

Shao-cheng Sun is associate professor of political science at The Citadel.

CONTENTS: China, Taiwan, and the United States. Early Commitments to Taiwan: The Truman Administration. The Offshore Islands Crises: The Eisenhower Administration. Maintaining the Status Quo: The Kennedy Administration. The PRC Nuclear Test and the Vietnam War: The Johnson Administration. The Opening of China: The Nixon Administration. Moving Slowly Toward Normalization: The Ford Administration. Establishing Diplomatic Relations with China: The Carter Administration. Arms Sales Disputes and Reassurances: The Reagan Administration. Dealing with the Tiananmen Square Crisis: The G.H.W. Bush

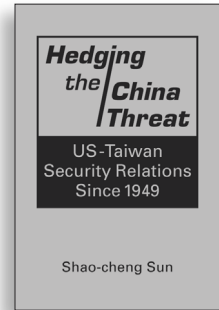
Administration. The 1995–1996 Taiwan Strait Crisis: The Clinton Administration. From Strategic Competitor to Strategic Partner: The G.W. Bush Administration. Seeking a Rebalanced Policy: The Obama Administration. Confronting a More Assertive China: The Trump Administration. The Taiwan Strait Crisis of 2022–2023: The Biden Administration. The Future of US-China-Taiwan Relations.

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Countering China: US Responses to the Belt and Road Initiative

Edward Ashbee

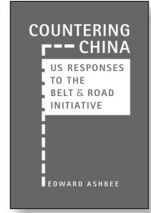
“Highly recommended.” —*Choice*

“A most insightful, well-structured, and readable book that comprehensively explains the Western reaction to China’s Belt and Road Initiative.”

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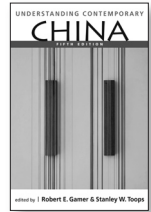
Understanding Contemporary China

Robert E. Garner and Stanley W. Toops, editors

“This fifth edition remains arguably the best multidisciplinary anthology on China, offering up-to-date information in a single volume.... Highly recommended.” —*Choice*

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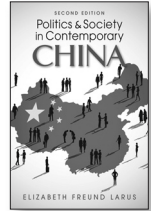
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American Journal of Chinese Studies

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The Rise of China’s Industrial Policy, 1978 to 2020

Barry Naughton

“Meticulously researched.... A reader interested in the PRC’s industrial policies and their background will currently find no better coverage.”

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NEW!

Nuclear North Korea: Strategy and Practice from the Korean War to the New Cold War

Yangmo Ku

“An impressive work.... Ku provides a comprehensive look at North Korea’s path to acquiring nuclear weapons, as well as an insightful assessment of policy options for dealing with a nuclear-armed North Korea in the future.” —Terence Roehrig, University of Wisconsin-Madison and US Naval War College

“Ku eloquently explains the geopolitical elements that have driven North Korea’s nuclear program.” —Gregory Moore, Notre Dame College

Despite crippling economic hardships and intense international pressure, North Korea has managed to become a nuclear nation. What drove the country to so resolutely prioritize the development of nuclear weapons? What strategies has it used in pursuit of its goals? And what are the broader strategic, geopolitical implications of its nuclear program? Addressing these questions, Yangmo Ku unpacks the complexities of North Korea’s nuclear ambitions and achievements and sheds light on the conundrum that they pose for both East Asian stability and global security.

Yangmo Ku is professor of political science at Norwich University.

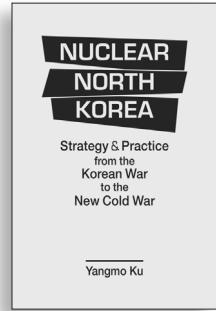
CONTENTS: North Korea Chooses the Nuclear Path. Harnessing the Technology. An International Conundrum. The (In)Effectiveness of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The (In)Effectiveness of Sanctions. The Impact of the New Cold War. Seeking Effective Coping Strategies.

April 2026/ca. 215 pages

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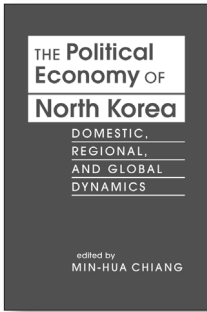
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The Political Economy of North Korea: Domestic, Regional, and Global Dynamics

Min-Hua Chiang, editor

“An essential reference. Its extensive coverage of North Korea’s internal and external relations offers researchers and analysts valuable insights into the potential future pathways of North Korea’s economic development.” —Seungho Jung, Pacific Affairs

“A well-edited, cohesive volume on the fundamental goals and strategies of Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il, and Kim Jong Un to define the DPRK’s economic structure and outcomes.... Highly recommended.” —Choice

Driven by foreign investments and exports, the economies of many East Asian countries have seen dramatic growth—but North Korea has lagged behind. Why? What are the country’s prospects for development? In what ways do its external relations affect its domestic economy?

To answer these questions, the authors of *The Political Economy of North Korea* delve deeply into the economic policies of the successive Kim rulers. The result is a systematic overview of North Korea’s economic development and the wide range of domestic, regional, and global factors at play.

Min-Hua Chiang is research fellow and economist in the Asian Studies Center at the Heritage Foundation.

CONTENTS: The North Korean Puzzle—*M.-H. Chiang*. DOMESTIC DYNAMICS. A Self-Reliance Economy Under Kim Il-Sung—*W.B. Brown*. Economic Transformation Under Kim Jong-Il—*S. Lee*. Byongjin Economic Policy Under Kim Jong-Un—*Y.-c. Chung, Y.-h. Kim, and K. Moon*. REGIONAL DYNAMICS. Cooperation with South Korea—*H.-y. Lee*. Support from China—*T.Y. Kong*. The Renewed Role of Russia—*O. Garanina*. The Importance of Japan—*Y. Jo*. GLOBAL DYNAMICS. Relations with the United

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The Politics of South Korea: A Comprehensive Introduction

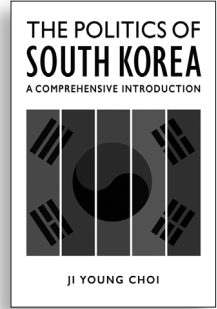
Ji Young Choi

“Offers great value to anyone keen to develop a systematic understanding of South Korea’s domestic politics and foreign relations.” —Yong Wook Lee, Korea University

“A comprehensive yet readable account of Korea’s meteoric rise.... Ji Young Choi provides a balanced and nuanced portrayal that is thoughtful, thorough, and engrossing.” —Mitchell Lerner, Ohio State University

“Superbly written and covering all of the major issues, this is an excellent introduction to South Korea’s politics, economy, and international relations.”

—Yong-Chool Ha, University of Washington



Once an impoverished, autocratic country, in just a few decades South Korea has transformed itself into a vibrant democracy with a highly developed economy. Using a comparative perspective to look at the factors behind South Korea’s dynamism, Ji Young Choi provides a comprehensive, balanced, and accessible introduction to the country’s politics, economy, and international relations. He also considers the political and economic history of North Korea in the context of inter-Korean relations.

Ji Young Choi is associate professor of politics and government and director of East Asian studies at Ohio Wesleyan University.

CONTENTS: Why Study South Korea? The Impact of History. The Long Road from Dictatorship to Democracy. The Challenges of Democratic Transition and Consolidation. Economic Development and Financial Crisis. The Culture Industry and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The Evolving Dynamics of Foreign

Relations. Grappling with North Korea. South Korea at a Crossroads.

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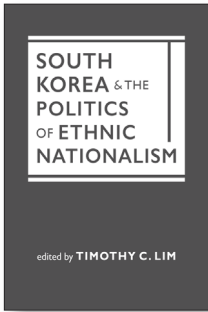
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South Korea and the Politics of Ethnic Nationalism

Timothy C. Lim, editor

Though for decades South Korea was considered the quintessential homogeneous nation-state, the more recent influx of significant immigration has given rise to intensely debated questions about the nature of the country's national identity. Who is a "real" Korean? Who has a right to be a member of South Korean society? Which immigrants are acceptable? Who qualifies for citizenship? How should the diaspora be considered? And more fundamentally, how well does the concept of ethnic nationalism serve as an analytical concept for explaining and predicting the contours of identity, belongingness, and citizenship?

The authors of *South Korea and the Politics of Ethnic Nationalism* engage with these debates, highlighting the factors and processes that complicate the many issues involved.

Timothy C. Lim is professor of political science at California State University, Los Angeles.

CONTENTS: South Korea and the Politics of Ethnic Nationalism—*T.C. Lim*. Globalization and Transborder Membership Politics—*J. Kim*. "We Are Not Foreigners": The Nature of Korean Chinese Identity—*Y.C. Chien and Y-S. Kim*. North Korean Defectors and Their Struggle for Identity—*K. Jung*. The Transformative Impact of Marriage Migration—*T.C. Lim*. Defining the Korean Diaspora—*E.A. Chung*. The Paradox of Ethnic Nationalism and

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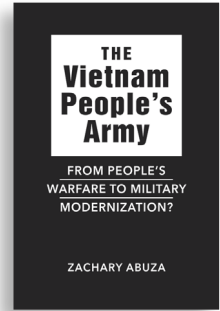
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NEW!

The Vietnam People's Army: From People's Warfare to Military Modernization?

Zachary Abuza

"Abuza casts a bright light on a pivotal aspect of Vietnam's future trajectory ... and its important implications for the region and the world." —Prashanth Parameswaran, Wilson Center



Can the Vietnamese military, which decades ago defeated the French, the Americans, and the Chinese, move away from its tradition of “people’s war” to adapt to both the realities of modern warfare and the emergence of new threats? As he addresses this question, Zachary Abuza delves into the inner workings of the Vietnam People’s Army (VPA) and its efforts to develop its military capabilities. He also explores the role of the VPA in Vietnamese society, in the region, and in the global arena.

Zachary Abuza is professor of national security strategy at the National War College and adjunct professor in the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service.

CONTENTS: The Challenges of Military Modernization in Vietnam. Strategic Culture. A Party Army. The Ministry of National Defence. Budgets and Business. The Armed Services. Civil-Military Relations. Defense Diplomacy.

Defense Cooperation with the United States. Sowing Seeds of Doubt?

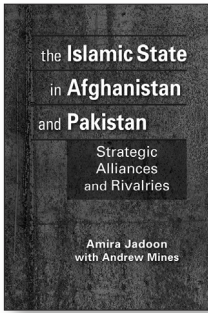
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The Islamic State in Afghanistan and Pakistan: Strategic Alliances and Rivalries

Amira Jadoon with Andrew Mines

“Both readable and informative.... There is no other published work today with such a high level of insight into this enduring regional terrorist group.” —Thomas F. Lynch III, *Parameters*

“A work rich in useful detail.” —C. Dale Walton, *Comparative Strategy*

The deadly attack on Kabul’s airport in August 2021 shocked the world and brought concentrated attention to the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISK). New questions quickly arose: How did this ISIS affiliate become such a force in Afghanistan and Pakistan? And why is it now a lethal threat to the Taliban? Addressing these questions, Amira Jadoon and Andrew Mines draw on original data and newly available primary sources to dissect ISK’s inner workings and explain its rise and resilience.

Amira Jadoon is assistant professor of political science at Clemson University and nonresident fellow at the Stimson Center. Previously, she was assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and the Combating Terrorism Center at the US Military Academy at West Point. **Andrew Mines** is research fellow in the Program on Extremism at George Washington University.

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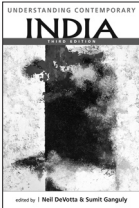
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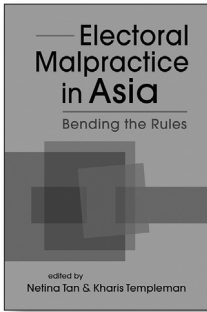
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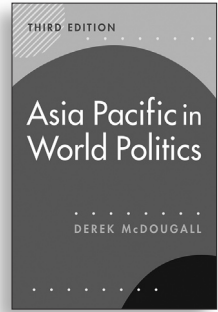
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