

**CAN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES
BUILD A NEW MODEL OF MAJOR
POWER RELATIONS?**

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EAI Background Brief No. 1053

Executive Summary

1. The relationship between China and the United States is one between a rising power and an established power.
2. The two countries are looking for a new type of relationship to avoid falling into the Thucydides Trap and manage competition.
3. The United States' pivot to Asia and China's rapid rise are powerful driving forces that reshape regional strategic landscapes in the Asia-Pacific.
4. In response to US rebalance to Asia, Xi Jinping's current foreign strategy prioritises "safeguarding core national interests" and developing maritime power as the national long-term objectives.
5. The United States' strategic rebalancing could be a source of conflict, but it could also provide an opportunity for China to remap its regional strategy.
6. For the United States, the challenge is how to reassure China of its alliance policy in Asia while being more open-minded to build a regional architecture that accommodates China's interests.
7. For China, it needs to adopt innovative ways to reassure Washington and its Asian neighbours as it rises in power and influence.
8. Central to Asia-Pacific security is a stable China-US relationship that can effectively manage their competition while expanding cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
9. Territorial disputes in the South China Sea remain as the central problems in China-US relationships. How the United States responds to its allies in the Asia-Pacific region with regard to the territorial disputes issues will be a touchstone for building a new model of US-China relations.