

War & Peace in the 21st century

China and the US: Can Bipolar Confrontation Be Avoided?

Palau de Pedralbes, Barcelona
March 11th, 2023

CIDOB **50**
years
BARCELONA
CENTRE FOR
INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS

In collaboration with:

esade
RAMON LLULL UNIVERSITY

EsadeGeo-Center
for Global Economy
and Geopolitics

With the support of:



Fundació "la Caixa"

And of the institutional board members:



China and the US: Can Bipolar Confrontation Be Avoided?

In the last quarter of 2022, China and the United States faced two decisive political moments. On the one hand, in mid-October China held the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party, in which Xi Jinping was re-elected as Secretary General for a third term, and the main lines of domestic and foreign policy were drawn up. On the other hand, in early November the US held mid-term legislative elections, in which the management of the Biden Administration was evaluated. Both milestones could mark a turning point for the internal and international politics of the two great global superpowers at a time when the relationship between them has been marked by a growing logic of rivalry and confrontation. Simultaneously, revisionist powers such as Russia are seeking to shape the international order based on spheres of influence and the European Union is advancing its discussions on strategic autonomy and trying to increase its geopolitical profile, while moving towards greater levels of integration, as a result of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The logic of a new bipolar confrontation between China and the US also threatens global governance, multilateral institutions and globalisation as we have known them during the last decades. Against this backdrop, protecting global cooperation and public goods is of utmost importance. The recent pandemic, the climate and energy crisis, food security and the impact of new technologies are challenges that require greater doses of international cooperation, solidarity, and the establishment of governance frameworks that favour agreements between great powers. No block will be able to handle international challenges alone, and interdependence will continue to be a fundamental element of the global order. The conference “China and the US: Can Bipolar Confrontation Be Avoided?” will analyse the conflict relations between great powers and outline areas where cooperation can emerge, while promoting constructive relations for global public goods.

09:30 **Opening**

Laia Bonet, Third Deputy Mayor, Barcelona City Council
Antoni Segura, Chairman of the Board, CIDOB

09:45 **Introduction**

Javier Solana, Honorary Chairman of the Board, CIDOB; President, EsadeGeo

10:00 **Geopolitical tensions and global rivalry**

A discussion between:

Bonnie S. Glaser, Managing Director, Indo-Pacific Program, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Yan Xuetong, Dean, Institute of International Relations, Tsinghua University

Shivshankar Menon, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)

Judy Dempsey, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe; Editor in Chief, Strategic Europe

Chaired and moderated by:

Cristina Gallach, Special Commissioner for the Alliance for the New Language Economy; former Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Government of Spain; and former UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information

Followed by a debate between the speakers

11:15 **Coffee break**

11:45 **How to advance cooperation in a renewed framework of multilateral governance**

A discussion between:

Homi Kharas, Senior Fellow, Center for Sustainable Development, Brookings Institution

Mikko Huotari, Executive Director, Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS)

Michael Kovrig, Senior Adviser for Asia, International Crisis Group

Chaired and moderated by:

Corinna Hörst, Advisory Board Member, Women in International Security - Brussels

Followed by a debate between the speakers

13:00 **Debate with the audience**

13:30 **Closing Remarks**

PoI Morillas, Director, CIDOB

Working language: English

#WP2023

WIP & Peace
in the 21st century