The new global paradigm
America, the People’s Republic and the complexity of their rivalry

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China also increasingly contributes to and participates in the activities of the United Nations and its sub-organizations. While the US, as but one example, has left the UN Human Rights Council, China is actively using this forum to influence the international human rights agenda.

In the US, both the rise of China and the idea of being overtaken by the competitor are rising fears. In Europe, the focus is more on how and whether the development and export of technologies that enable new forms of social control might be used by authoritarian regimes in their own realms as well as to help promote the spread of illiberal models of governance to other parts of the world.

This concern over ideological influence is not limited to one side. Decision-makers in Western democracies sometimes underestimate how threatened Chinese leadership still feels by liberal values and worldviews. China’s leadership’s nervousness when looking at events in Hong Kong, as well as its seemingly exaggerated fear of color revolutions and its massive effort to find technological solutions to secure the rule of the Communist Party and, ideally, a “harmonious society.”

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