

Engaging with the World: Chinese Foreign Policy Decision Making

Session 5: How Leadership Matters in Chinese Foreign Policy Making (4 hours)

Purpose:

To understand the role of individual leaders in Chinese foreign policy making.

Key points:

1. Traditional Chinese views on the role of individual leaders in Chinese politics
2. Psychological perspectives on the role of individual leaders in foreign policy making.
3. Applying psychological perspectives to the study of Chinese foreign policy
4. The impact of leadership on Chinese foreign policy: Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao, and Xi Jinping.

Reading assignments

Chapter 4, “Main Actor—The Central Leadership” in Lu Ning, pp.77-105.

Chapter 6, “Changing Dynamics in Foreign-Policy Decision-making,” in Lu Ning, pp.150-170

H. Lyman Miller and Liu Xiaohong, “The Foreign Policy Outlook of China’s ‘Third Generation’ Elite,” in Lampton, pp123-150

Alice L. Miller, “The Politburo Standing Committee under Hu Jintao,” *China Leadership Monitor*, No. 35 (2011)

Zhang Qingmin “Toward an Integrated Theory of Chinese Foreign Policy: Bringing Personality back in,” forthcoming.

Questions:

What are the major psychological perspectives in the study of foreign policy ?

How do you see the role of Chinese leaders in Chinese foreign policy?

Has this role changed since 1949?

Explain the impact of Chinese leaders’ personalities on changes in foreign policy strategy since the founding of the PRC.