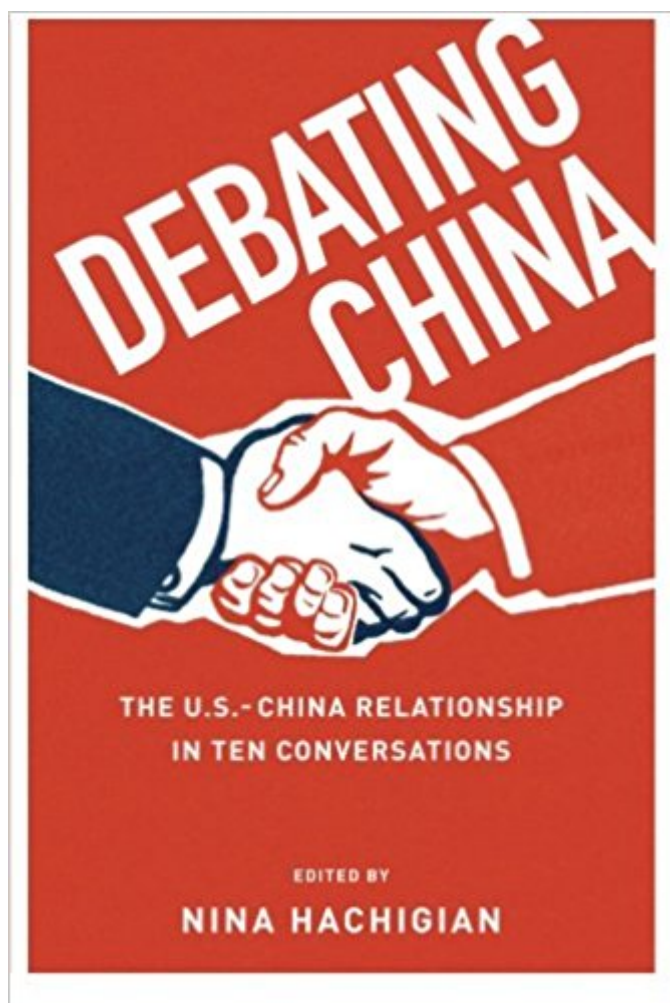


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# Debating China: The U.S.-China Relationship In Ten Conversations



## Synopsis

America and China are the two most powerful players in global affairs, and no relationship is more consequential. How they choose to cooperate and compete affects billions of lives. But U.S.-China relations are complex and often delicate, featuring a multitude of critical issues that America and China must navigate together. Missteps could spell catastrophe. In *Debating China*, Nina Hachigian pairs American and Chinese experts in collegial "letter exchanges" that illuminate this multi-dimensional and complex relationship. These fascinating conversations—written by highly respected scholars and former government officials from the U.S. and China—provide an invaluable dual perspective on such crucial issues as trade and investment, human rights, climate change, military dynamics, regional security in Asia, and the media, including the Internet. The engaging dialogue between American and Chinese experts gives readers an inside view of how both sides see the key challenges. Readers bear witness to the writers' hopes and frustrations as they explore the politics, values, history, and strategic frameworks that inform their positions. This unique volume is perfect for anyone who wants a deeper understanding of U.S.-China relations today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"These fascinating conversations between leading Chinese and American experts constitute a highly accessible and informative guide to the state of the most important diplomatic relationship in the contemporary world." --Francis Fukuyama, Stanford University "Readers of *Debating China* will feel as if they are participating in high-level Track II diplomacy, the quasi-official efforts of former

government officials, foreign policy experts, and interested stakeholders to help two governments come closer together. The exchanges between prominent Americans and their Chinese counterparts are not always reassuring, but they are stimulating, important, and rare." --Anne-Marie Slaughter "This is a dynamite concept extremely well-executed. I can give it two of my highest accolades: I'm finding it hard to stop reading and I'm planning to use it as required reading for my class next semester." --Harry Harding, University of Virginia, Dean of Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, Professor of Public Policy and Politics "Debating China is a stimulating and unusual exploration of key dimensions of the U.S.-China relationship. Its 'conversational' format facilitates the back-and-forth exchange missing in other studies. Pointed, sharp, and substantive, these conversations illustrate clearly why the United States and China do not see eye-to-eye on most issues, yet why they must 'agree to disagree.' A perfect text for classroom use and a stimulating read for specialists." --David Shambaugh, George Washington University, and author of China Goes Global

Nina Hachigian is Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, in Washington, D.C. Earlier, she served as a staff member of the National Security Council. She is co-author of *The Next American Century: How the U.S. Can Thrive as Other Powers Rise*. She has written essays for *Foreign Affairs*, *The Washington Quarterly*, *Democracy*, and *Survival*, as well as op-ed pieces for *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and the *South China Morning Post*, amongst others. Hachigian has been a guest on "Real Time with Bill Maher," CNN, Fox News, BBC, and NPR's "All Things Considered" and "Morning Edition." She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

If you want to read only one book about the US-China perceptions of one another on the most important issues that will affect the entire world for many future generations, read this book! Though anyone with even a casual interest in the US-China debate should read this, it is written for everyone. Nina Hachigian paired a China and US expert for each major issue and set them free to present their candid responses to what Hachigian wrote as "Framing Questions." It was a creative way to discover just how and what each country and, more importantly its people, thinks of one another in terms of global intentions and trustworthiness. I found these conversations so informative and engaging, it was difficult to stop reading. Each time I felt confident supporting a stated response, I then read the counterargument and quickly gained a respect for the struggle facing both sides. This book reiterates there are two sides to every argument. Hachigian's outstanding experts did not pull punches. There is very little feel-good diplomatic speak. This book made me feel like a

fly on the wall inside a room with only the top China and US leaders speaking their true feelings about the most important issues that can only be resolved by our two countries. No press, no U Tube. Move over CNN.....this is the real story.

This book could easily be misread as "Americans are being genuine and the Chinese are weaving propaganda", but that is not what Ambassador Hachigian has captured. Truth be told, if you read this with an open mind, your view about the China threat, and potentially America's message to China, will significantly change. Perhaps the U.S. and PRC will continue talking past each other until the citizens of each country try to view the other's perspective. This book does an interesting job of highlighting difficulties each country faces domestically that prevent international concurrence on major issues.

This is a rare treasure that presents the width and depth of today's US-China relations. For anyone who is interested in this important bilateral relationship, the book will be one of the best resources to turn to. The beauty of the book lies in that the correspondence between the American and Chinese experts on the same topic clearly show the agreements and more importantly, the disagreements of the two sides on each issue. For people who are trying to understand the fundamental conflicts of views between the two countries, the correspondence between the best-informed folks did the perfect job in comparing the differences point by point. The topics covered by the book are extensive. From military security to media, from economic relations to global responsibility, all the heatedly debated top agenda between Beijing and Washington is included and presented in a comprehensive way. The authors used policy languages that are both nuanced and easy to understand, making the book a good read for both savvy policy analysts and students of US-China relations.

Not too often do amateurs get a window into the highest level of behind-the-scenes policy makers. Here, in real time, is the thinking of China experts from the West and America experts from China on issues that will be in play in the 2016 Presidential Election. Off the media radar, China and America are flashing sharp elbows at each other in the South China Sea. China is chomping at the bit to assimilate Taiwan, but how? By salesmanship or seamanship? Next door neighbor, Kim Jong-un, is paranoid and nuclear. Sixty years ago, out of nowhere, the islands of Quemoy and Matsu became front page copy in the Nixon/Kennedy debates. Look for the views Ms. Hachigian teases out of high level advisors to move center stage before we know it; her "conversations"

provide great insight for thoughtful Americans.

Breaking free from the typical mold of analyses on this most critical of bilateral relationships, this book does a masterful job of crystallizing the key differences and potential areas for future cooperation between Washington and Beijing. By pairing leading experts in the field together to debate those issues most likely to shape the relationship, Ms. Hachigian has given casual observers an accessible primer on US-China ties and, importantly, provided US policy makers an invaluable tool for understanding China's perceptions of US intentions and policies. Highly recommended.

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