

Butler University Digital Commons @ Butler University

LAS Faculty Book Reviews

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

2-1-2011

The Beijing Consensus: How China's Authoritarian Model Will Dominate the Twenty-First Century by Stefan Halper, Basic Books, 2010

Su-Mei Ooi

Butler University, sooi@butler.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/las_bookreviews

Recommended Citation

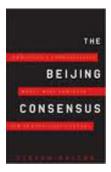
Ooi, Su-Mei, "The Beijing Consensus: How China's Authoritarian Model Will Dominate the Twenty-First Century by Stefan Halper, Basic Books, 2010" (2011). LAS Faculty Book Reviews. 74. https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/las_bookreviews/74

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Digital Commons @ Butler University. It has been accepted for inclusion in LAS Faculty Book Reviews by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Butler University. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@butler.edu.

Because Ideas Matter...

The faculty and staff of Butler University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences presents

Recommended Readings



The Beijing Consensus: How China's Authoritarian Model Will Dominate the Twenty-First Century

by Stefan Halper, Basic Books, 2010

Reviewed by Su-Mei Ooi

Halper's book does a brilliant job of providing the reader with a clear picture of how China's economic clout is now coupled with a growing sophistication in international diplomacy. Nevertheless, while Halper provides a convincing account of how China's economic rise is allowing many developing countries to circumvent governance requirements attached to Western aid and loans he fails to convince the reader that there is such a thing as a "Beijing Consensus." What is clearly a convergence of interests amongst those who do not agree with Washington can hardly qualify as a counter-hegemonic ideological consensus. What of course interests many countries is China's ability thus far to decouple political from economic development. While Halper discusses the complexities of China's modernization in Chapter 5, he refrains from predicting if this decoupling is merely temporary and suggests only that existing social pressures will remain contained largely by continued economic growth. If the "China model" will dominate the twenty-first century, however, China's socio-political stability must at least last that long. All in all, Halper's book is accessible, enjoyable and a good introduction to China and its role in our world today, but leaves some crucial questions unanswered.

- Su-Mei Ooi is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Butler University.