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POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW PRESENTATION



Aerospace Development: An Indicator of China's Future Trajectory

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China is the first developing nation to have developed comprehensive aerospace capabilities. Its long-lagging aviation industry is finally reaching internationally-capable levels. The commercial dynamism far exceeds anything that Cold War China or the Soviet Union could ever have produced. Comparing and explaining varying levels of aerospace technology attainment among developing great powers—primarily China, with comparative case studies involving India and Brazil—offers insights into what leads to different kinds of aerospace development, and why different great powers adopt different technological strategies to further their power. The metric of “full-spectrum” aerospace development offers insights into a vital subject: what type of power will China become?

Andrew S. Erickson is associate professor in the strategic research department at the U.S. Naval War College and a founding member of the department's China Maritime Studies Institute. He is also a fellow in the Public Intellectuals Program of the National Committee on US-China Relations. Professor Erickson received his PhD and MA in international relations and comparative politics from Princeton. He is coeditor of the Naval Institute Press book series, “Studies in Chinese Maritime Development,” the latest volume of which is *China, the U.S., and 21st Century Sea Power* (forthcoming 2010). During the 2010-2011 academic year, Professor Erickson will be a Harvard-Princeton China and the World fellow, and he plans to work on a book project concerning Chinese aerospace development.

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