

② “New Era”

Chinese Economic Growth: High

US Perception's of China: Cooperation/Partners

Driven by strong economic growth in both countries, political reform in China, and greater people-to-people exchanges, this scenario foresees US-China relations moving towards a blissful “New Era” in US-China relations. This future is distinguished by high Chinese economic growth, US/China economic strategic partnership, Chinese political reform, peaceful resolution of Taiwan issue, effective cooperation on climate change, and strong people to people exchange. The starting point for the scenario is China's accession to the WTO. Although difficult at first, China stays the course with economic reform, and by 2005, begins to fully realize the benefits of joining the global trade organization

In 2007 economic reform spills over to pressure for political reform, and during the 17th Party Congress agrees to wide-ranging political reform in China. From 2007- 2010 Chinese political system is characterized by rising pluralism, increased rule of law, and effective environmental governance. China and the US move even closer together politically and economically in this period. Within regional affairs, this scenario suggests that there will be a peaceful resolution to the Taiwan issue, and regional cooperation on military issues, despite the limited deployment of a US theater missile defense. The “New Era” also promises growing environmental cooperation between the two countries, particularly on climate change.