

# *Writing “Revisionist China”: The Political Thought Dimension of the China Threat*

Chih-yu Shih

## *Abstract*

The article studies Chinese foreign policy revisionism from the political-thought dimension. It demonstrates that the perception of the China threat was not solely based on materialist facts, a conspiracy crafted by the U.S., or an intended challenge posed by China. It was additionally a derivative of the political thought battle following the Cultural Revolution. Specifically, the critical reflections in various Chinese intellectual circles in response to the perception of Western/liberal encroachment have led to the unexpected realignment between New-Left Socialism and Neo-Confucianism. The realignment has enabled the construction of revisionism, leading China experts in the West to perceive an existential threat.

All of the Chinese threat and revisionism charges consistently refer to China’s authoritarian or autocratic style of governance, suggesting that revisionism is more than the rise of China’s economic and military power. Initially, the authoritarian style alerts the Western nations because China’s successful economic growth under authoritarianism provides a plausible substitute for liberal democracy for Global South countries. According to a prevailing impression, the process seemed to begin in

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**Chih-yu Shih** is Professor in the Department of Political Science, National Taiwan University. Correspondence should be sent to [cyshih@ntu.edu.tw](mailto:cyshih@ntu.edu.tw).