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China Center

NEWSLETTER N°35

Articles, news and events on China.

The China Center is an interdepartmental and multidisciplinary Research Centre of the University of Macerata, founded in 2012 within the initiatives of the Department of Law.



Scientific Articles

Three Worlds: the West, East and South and the competition to shape global order

Written by G John Ikenberry, published online on 08/01/2024

The impact of Russia's war on Ukraine may be most significant in pushing the world toward a division into Three Worlds: the global West (led by the U.S. and Europe), the global East (led by China and Russia), and the global South (a diverse group of non-western developing nations). These Three Worlds are not fixed blocs but evolving global factions. The article makes four key points: 1) The Three Worlds system could become a durable pattern of global order, influencing struggles over rules and institutions. 2) It will foster a "creative" politics of global order-building, with the West and East competing for the global South's support. 3) Deep

principles of world order underlie the competition between these worlds. 4) For the West to maintain its central role, it must accommodate the East and South, adapting to a more pluralistic world. In the competition for the South's support, the West has an advantage, as the South's critique is not of the West's pathway to modernity, but of its failure to live up to its principles and share the benefits of liberal modernity.

Development of New Generation of Artificial Intelligence in China: When Beijing's Global Ambitions Meet Local Realities

Written by Khanal Shaleen, Hongzhou Zhang, and Araz Taeihagh, published online on 09/04/2024

China's rise as a leader in AI development is often attributed to the central government's efforts, but local governments also play a crucial role in this achievement. While the central government sets overarching policies, local governments, with varying interests and capabilities, contribute significantly to AI development. The article examines how local governments respond to central policies, particularly the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan (NGAIDP), and whether their actions align with or diverge from central government priorities. Through analysis of AI-related policy documents at the provincial level, the study reveals how local governments interpret and implement the NGAIDP. By using content analysis and fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA), the study highlights the role of local governments in the diffusion of AI policies. It underscores that local governments' responses to central policies are not uniform, emphasizing the political dynamics in policy diffusion and the importance of local governance in China's AI development.

News from China



Picture by SONG CHEN/CHINA DAILY

Building a strong partnership China and the EU are the only credible actors to lead the green transition

Written by ANDREA CALIGIURI, posted by China Daily on 14/02/2025

The U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 Paris Agreement and pro-fossil fuel policies under the Trump administration has created a vacuum in global climate governance. In response, a strong partnership between China and the EU is vital for promoting multilateral climate actions. Both parties share long-term climate goals, with the EU focusing on the European Green Deal for a green

transformation by 2050, and China aiming for carbon neutrality by 2060. Their priorities include decarbonization, clean energy, energy efficiency, and low-carbon technologies. China and the EU have launched initiatives like the Innovation Platform on Sustainable Urbanization and the EU-China Energy Cooperation Platform, which focus on sustainable cities and renewable energy. However, these are limited actions and need to evolve into more structured economic cooperation. Additionally, both sides are working on biodiversity initiatives, with China integrating higher environmental standards into its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and the EU promoting ecosystem management programs.

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Beijing steps up financial 'master plan' with major asset reshuffle

Written by Frank Chen, posted by South China Morning

Post on 17/02/2025

China's Ministry of Finance has transferred stakes in several financial firms to a government-controlled fund, Central Huijin Investment, a subsidiary of China's sovereign wealth fund, China Investment Corporation. This asset reshuffle allows Central Huijin to take controlling stakes in five companies, including three national asset management firms, as part of Beijing's broader push to overhaul the financial sector. The aim is to improve asset quality and stabilize the stock market, while encouraging mergers and acquisitions to create world-class Chinese investment banks. Following the deal, Central Huijin now controls eight securities companies,



including China Cinda Asset Management, China Orient Asset Management, and China Great Wall Asset Management. Analysts expect this reshuffle to spark further mergers and acquisitions in the securities industry and enhance collaboration among the companies under Huijin's control. The move aligns with Beijing's 2023 institutional reform plan to improve the management of state-owned financial assets.

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China made a bet decades ago because it couldn't compete with the US on cars. That bet is paying off big

Written by Laura Paddison and Ella Nilsen, posted by CNN
on 23/01/2025

China's streets have undergone a dramatic transformation, with electric vehicles (EVs) replacing traditional gas-powered cars, creating a quieter, greener urban environment. This shift is not unique to Beijing but is happening across China's major cities, reflecting the nation's growing dominance in clean technology and its leadership in global climate action. China's EV revolution is not only reducing domestic oil demand, but it is also influencing global oil markets as the country, the world's largest oil importer, begins to shift from increasing oil demand to potentially declining it. This change has significant ripple effects worldwide. The foundation of China's EV success dates back nearly two decades when the government saw EVs as an opportunity to dominate a new market and enhance energy security. With reliance on

imported oil and the geopolitical risks it poses, China turned to EVs, powered by domestic electricity sources. The government's early policies, introduced around 2009, provided funding and support for EV manufacturers, helping to kickstart the industry despite initial setbacks.

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