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The Power of Ideas: The Rising Influence of Thinkers and Think Tanks in China

Cheng Li



President Xi Jinping has publicly called for the building of a strong think tank community in China, and significant resources have thus been devoted to the development and expansion of Chinese think tanks. Although some critics deride them as “tanks without thinkers,” China’s think tanks play an increasingly important role in crafting domestic and foreign policy. Their close connections to the party leadership make them an invaluable window through which foreign scholars and officials can observe both the Chinese intellectual discourse and policymaking process. In a pioneering new study, *The Power of Ideas: The Rising Influence of Thinkers and Think Tanks in China*, **Dr. Cheng Li** of the Brookings Institution examines the complicated relationship between the Chinese government and think tanks. On September 6, 2017, Dr. Li will join the National Committee for a discussion of his book, and the prospects for China’s efforts to promote new types of think tanks.

Bio:

Cheng Li is director and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution’s John L. Thornton China Center. Dr. Li is also a director of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, a member of the Academic Advisory Team of the Congressional U.S.-China Working Group, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a member of the Committee of 100. He is the author/editor of numerous books, including *Rediscovering China: Dynamics and Dilemmas of Reform* (1997), *China’s Leaders: The New*



Generation (2001), Bridging Minds Across the Pacific: The Sino-US Educational Exchange (2005), China's Changing Political Landscape: Prospects for Democracy (2008), China's Emerging Middle Class: Beyond Economic Transformation (2010), The Road to Zhongnanhai: High-Level Leadership Groups on the Eve of the 18th Party Congress (2012, in Chinese), China's Political Development: Chinese and American Perspectives (2014), Chinese Politics in the Xi Jinping Era: Reassessing Collective Leadership (2016) and The Power of Ideas: The Rising Influence of Thinkers and Think Tanks in China (2017). He is the principal editor of the Thornton Center Chinese Thinkers Series published by the Brookings Institution Press.

Dr. Li has advised a wide range of U.S. government, education, research, business and not-for-profit organizations on work in China, and is frequently called upon to share his perspectives and insights as an expert on China. He recently appeared on BBC, CCTV, CNN, C-SPAN, ABC World News with Diane Sawyer, NPR Diane Rehm Show, and the PBS Charlie Rose Show. Dr. Li grew up in Shanghai during the Cultural Revolution. In 1985, he came to the United States where he later received an M.A. in Asian studies from the University of California and a Ph.D. in political science from Princeton University.

Wed, 2017-09-06 17:30 to 19:00

Speaker(s):

Cheng Li

Venue:

Dorsey & Whitney, LLP

New York, NY

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