



NAVAL INSTITUTE PRESS BOOK NEWS

CHINA'S ENERGY STRATEGY

THE IMPACT ON BEIJING'S MARITIME POLICIES

EDITED BY GABRIEL B. COLLINS, ANDREW S. ERICKSON,
LYLE J. GOLDSTEIN, AND WILLIAM S. MURRAY

“China’s Energy Strategy is a necessary read for anyone interested in the future of the People’s Republic of China’s energy development and its strategic implications for the U.S., with particular attention to maritime development in both countries. The book tackles the prospects for China’s energy development in a remarkably comprehensive, nuanced fashion. It evaluates Chinese perspectives and prospects, analyzes the PRC’s capabilities in each relevant global region, and dissects the PLA Navy’s capabilities with respect to energy security issues. The authors, including those writing for the final section, which analyzes the implications for U.S. policy, carefully identify inevitable uncertainties and analytical disagreements. On balance, the book stresses the room for U.S.-China energy cooperation in the maritime domain. Importantly, it provides the rich array of data and analysis necessary for readers to develop their own deeply informed perspectives on this issue.”

—Dr. KENNETH LIEBERTHAL, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan and former Senior Director for Asia on the National Security Council

China’s rapid growth has prompted Beijing to undertake an aggressive search for resources on a truly global scale. The resource most directly tied to continued growth in China is energy. Rising consumer appetites in China, coupled with occasional rolling blackouts due to spiraling demand in Chinese cities, have prompted intense anxieties in China concerning energy security. Since 80 percent of Chinese fossil fuel imports pass by ship through the Malacca Strait, an important component of Beijing’s concerns have come to be known in China as the “Malacca Dilemma.” This book draws on America’s finest experts in the fields of economics, energy, China studies, and naval strategy in order to explore China’s “Malacca Dilemma” and its implications for global maritime security.

The essays in this volume draw from a wide variety of viewpoints, but a central theme of the analyses is that the United States needs to be concerned that China is drawing upon much of the world’s remaining oil reserves for its exclusive use. The resulting competition for this diminishing resource could lead to energy insecurity and may support other tendencies toward rivalry that in turn could foster a naval arms race neither side seeks. One of the major conclusions of this study is that there is, in fact, ample room for Sino-American energy dialogue and cooperation in the maritime domain and that the competition for limited energy sources like oil need not lead to conflict.

The book’s authors are all authorities in their fields; many of the contributors are frequent advisers to major oil, shipping, and other national corporations, as well as governments. As a result, this volume takes into account an unprecedented range of influences and factors befitting such an important and complicated topic.

“This book is a comprehensive assessment of China’s overall and maritime energy security strategies; as important, it provides clear and detailed guides to judge the nature of future Chinese naval developments and overall Chinese security strategy.”

—Admiral DENNIS BLAIR, U.S. Navy (Ret.), former Commander, U.S. Pacific Command

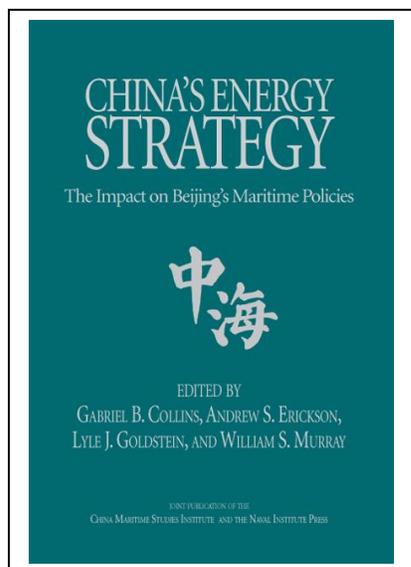
“Comprehensive, diverse and essential for national security professionals...a subject we must understand clearly for our Asia-Pacific future.”—Admiral THOMAS B. FARGO, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
former Commander, U.S. Pacific Command

GABRIEL B. COLLINS is a research fellow in the Strategic Research Department at the U.S. Naval War College. He is a founding member of the China Maritime Studies Institute and is proficient in Chinese and Russian. He has published articles about energy, China, and shipping in various scholarly and energy industry journals.

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CHINA’S ENERGY STRATEGY

Publication date: May 2008

510 pages.

ISBN 978-1-59114-330-7

List price: \$47.95

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edited by Andrew S. Erickson, Lyle J. Goldstein,
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ISBN: 978-1-59114-326-0 (NIP, 2007)

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