April 2019



Dr. Robert Dohner

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia in the Treasury Department

Dr. Dohner served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia in the Treasury Department from 2005 to 2016 during the George W. Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations. During this period, he oversaw a dramatic expansion of Treasury work on Asia and negotiated with Chinese officials on exchange rates and macroeconomic and financial regulatory policies.

Subject Area/Topic: USA/China/Asia Trade and Technology Policies

Highlights: Dr. Dohner's particular interest is in what our economic agencies do well and not so well when engaging with our most contentious and controversial trading partner—China. He finds that we do an excellent job of focusing vast resources in many agencies on a particular problem. We do a poor job of setting priorities and focusing all of our resources on those aspects of the problem that are critical and lend themselves to negotiation.

There will be a trade deal between the Trump Administration and China. "It will be more significant than recent deals, will open markets and make a nod toward structural issues. However, Trump has a reputation for talking loudly and settling small.