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Dr. Robert Daly **Director of Kissinger Institute on China**

Dr. Robert Daly is the director of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States. This is a non-profit research organization dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of issues in the relationship between the People's Republic of China and the United States. It was inaugurated in 2008 and is part of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Before coming to the Wilson Center, Daly was the director of the Maryland China Initiative at the University of Maryland. Before that, he was American Director of the Johns Hopkins University-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies, in Nanjing, China.

He began work in U.S.-China relations as a diplomat with the United States Information Agency from 1989 to 1991, after which he taught Chinese at Cornell.

He is a regular commentator on current affairs for the Chinese service of the Voice of America.

Subject Area/Topic: CHINA IS THE ONLY REAL THREAT TO U.S. SUPREMACY

Highlights: According to Daly, the U.S. foreign policy establishment tends to focus on security threats like terrorism and conflicts with countries like Iran, North Korea & Russia. In the past, we have paid little attention to threats to our primacy from China. We have mainly addressed occasional disputes over matters like trade, currency manipulation, intellectual property rights, and human rights.

Daly believes we have entered a period when the leaders of our countries (Xi Jinping of China and Donald Trump of the United States) are both inclined toward a more adversarial or at least a competitive relationship. The Chinese leadership thinks the U.S. is in irreversible decline while the U.S. thinks China is trying to become a world hegemon, at least in Asia. Both leaders are distrustful of their own expert bureaucracies, which increases the likelihood of “wild card” or unexpected and serious problematic events.

China may not be quite ready to take up the costs of real-world leadership. But it is also not clear whether the United States is still capable of or interested in world leadership, particularly in continuing to guarantee the world's security. President Trump's willingness to take money from the State Department, AID, and other agencies to give to the military may not bode well for an environment in which China is making tremendous investments in trade, infrastructure, science, and engineering. Trump has not focused on or staffed up to deal with China.