Contesting Revisionism: China, the United States, and the Transformation of International Order

This talk is based on a book with the same title published by Oxford University Press in 2021 and co-authored with Huiyun Feng, Kai He, and Weixing Hu. It studies states’ motivations, specifically, whether a great power has “revisionist” intentions as inferred from its conduct. The concept of “revisionism” (or its opposite, a state’s commitment to the “status quo”) has been a crucial part of international relations scholarship. Yet despite the importance of this concept, scholars have not applied it in an objective and systematic way in their studies or even worse, have often deployed it as just a codeword to indicate disapproval of another state. It is therefore necessary for scholars to develop this concept more analytically and systematically, one that is based on empirical evidence, to study international relations.

Steve Chan is College Professor of Distinction (Emeritus) at the University of Colorado, Boulder. His publications include twenty-one books and about one hundred and eighty articles and chapters. His most recent books are *Rumbles of Thunder: Power Shifts and the Danger of Sino-American War* (Columbia University Press, forthcoming); *Contesting Revisionism: China, the United States, and the Transformation of International Order* (Oxford University Press, 2021; co-authored with Huiyun Feng, Kai He, and Weixin Hu); *Thucydides’s Trap? Historical Interpretation, Logic of Inquiry, and the Future of Sino-American Relations* (University of Michigan Press, 2020); *Trust and Mistrust in Sino-American Relations* (Cambria, 2017); *China’s Troubled Waters? Maritime Disputes in Theoretical Perspective* (Cambridge University Press, 2016); *Enduring Rivalries in the Asia-Pacific* (Cambridge University Press, 2013); and *Looking for Balance: China, the United States, and Power Balancing in East Asia* (Stanford University Press, 2012). His articles have appeared in journals such as *American Political Science Review, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, Security Studies*, and *World Politics*. He can be contacted at steve.chan@colorado.edu.