



*Trading places? China, the United States
and the evolution of the
international political economy*

A Public Lecture presented by Professor Mark Beeson
University of Birmingham

The remarkable economic rise of China and the recent turmoil in US financial markets inevitably raises questions about the respective fortunes of both countries. This paper assesses the relative standing of the US and China by placing their relationship in historical context. I suggest that China's accession to the WTO marked the highpoint of US influence and ascendancy. Since then, China's position has been steadily improving, something that the recent emergence of its first sovereign wealth fund and its subsequent role in bailing out distressed US financial institutions has dramatically highlighted. If China's form of 'state capitalism' continues to become more influential it will have major consequences for not only the US, but for the extant geopolitical order more generally.

Thursday 15th May 2008

12:30 pm

Senate Room

All Welcome

Mark Beeson is Professor of International Politics in the Department of Political & International Studies at the University of Birmingham. His most recent publications include *Securing Southeast Asia: The Politics of Security Sector Reform*, (with Alex Bellamy, Routledge 2008), *Regionalism, Globalization and East Asia: Politics, Security and Economic Development* (Palgrave 2007), and the edited volume, *Bush and Asia: America's Evolving Relations with East Asia* (Routledge 2006). He has recently completed a new book for Routledge's 'Global Institutions' series, entitled *Institutions of the Asia-Pacific: ASEAN, APEC and Beyond*, to be published in 2008.