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Zheng Yongnian is professor and director of East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore. He is editor of *Series on Contemporary China* (World Scientific Publishing) and editor of *China Policy Series* (Routledge). He is also the Editor of *China: An International Journal* and *East Asian Policy*.

He has studied both China's transformation and its external relations. His papers have appeared in journals such as *Comparative Political Studies*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Third World Quarterly* and *China Quarterly*. He is the author of numerous books, including *The Chinese Communist Party as Organizational Emperor*, *Technological Empowerment*, *De Facto Federalism in China*, *Discovering Chinese Nationalism in China* and *Globalization and State Transformation in China*, and coeditor of 12 books on China's domestic development and international relations including the latest volumes *China and the New International Order* (2008) and *China and International Relations: The Chinese View and the Contribution of Wang Gungwu* (2010).

Besides his research work, professor Zheng has also been an academic activist. He served as a consultant to United Nation Development Programme on China's rural development and democracy. In addition, he has been a columnist for *Xinbao* (Hong Kong) and *Zaobao* (Singapore) for many years, writing numerous commentaries on China's domestic and international affairs.

Professor Zheng received his BA and MA degrees from Beijing University, and his PhD at Princeton University. He was a recipient of Social Science Research Council-MacArthur Foundation Fellowship (1995-1997) and John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship (2003-2004). He was professor and founding research director of the China Policy Institute, the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom (2005-2008).

Presentation: *America's Strategic Misjudgment and Miscalculation in the South China Sea Issue*

US action and reaction to the South China Sea issue have indicated that the Americans have misjudged the issue and miscalculated its strategy in the region. America now perceives China as its rival, not a partner, and begins to 'contain' China by working closely with its allies and claimant states which have territorial disputes with China in the region. A misjudged strategy will be costly to America.

On China's part, it continues to insist on a peaceful resolution to the South China Sea territorial disputes. Despite high pressure from the US, China has shown unwavering strength. US intervention in the South China Sea issue has cost it dearly in most dimensions. For China, what it needs is patience. It does not have an imperial mission. While it does not welcome the US's provocative military action, it does not have any intention to fight an aimless war with the US either. As one of the oldest civilizations in the world, it draws valuable lessons from its past: that the decline of a great power is not because of the challenges from another rising power, but because of its own misjudgment and miscalculation.