



# Michael Swaine

Senior Associate, Asia Program  
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the US

Michael Swaine is a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and one of the most prominent American analysts in Chinese security studies. Formerly a senior policy analyst at the RAND Corporation, Swaine is a specialist in Chinese defense and foreign policy, US-China relations, and East Asian international relations.

He has authored and edited more than a dozen books and monographs and many journal articles and book chapters in these areas, directs several security-related projects with Chinese partners, and advises the US government on Asian security issues. He received his doctorate in government from Harvard University.

## **Presentation: *Managing the East China Sea and South China Sea Disputes***

China is increasing its ability and willingness to react strongly to perceived challenges to its sovereignty claims, thereby altering the status quo in the Western Pacific. Yet the country is not clarifying the nature of its claims and the limits of its assertiveness. Simultaneously, the United States sees itself as having a unique and essential security role in preventing aggression in the region, an “interference” that China rejects. Consequently, many US officials view Chinese actions as an attempt to push the United States out of Asia. This dynamic increases the potential for escalation. While the establishment of a balance of power in the Western Pacific will take many years to achieve, in the meantime, stabilization of regional maritime disputes is necessary. Therefore, a stable overall US/Japan – China balance of power in the Western Pacific should form the basis for the long-term handling of the ECS and SCS disputes. In order to achieve such an interim stabilization of these disputes, a series of short- and medium-term Confidence-Building Mechanisms (CBMs) and Crisis Management Mechanisms (CMMs) are necessary, including such measures as the establishment of official crisis risk reduction centers, crisis forecasting, prediction, and prevention, crisis communication channels, and crisis exercises.