

Global Citizenship Public Lecture

The **Chinese Model** and the **Global Crisis**

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Abstract

With the global financial crisis continuing to reverberate around the globe, there is increasing interest in whether China's recent developmental experience might provide a "model" that others could follow. Yet just as the idea of a China model is gaining greater attention from within China and without, the long term viability of this "model" is being openly questioned; perhaps most carefully and critically from amongst some of China's own political elites.

This presentation aims to explain these apparent divergent perspectives by considering how China responded to the global crisis and how others responded to China's response — the idea that what the China model actually consists of and means is often shaped by what the viewer wants to see. It also considers the importance of the creation and promotion of a new idea of what China is and what China stands for as an actor in international relations. It argues that the "Chinese model" is best thought of as an example of what can be done, rather than a blueprint for others to emulate — the latest in a relatively long history of strong state-led development going back to the nineteenth century. Notwithstanding the speed and the initial success of China's response to the global crisis, the long-term sustainability of both the trajectory of economic growth and the relationship between elites and masses have again been brought into sharper focus.