

Glasshouse Forum

PRESS RELEASE

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HAS CHINA FOUND A WAY OF ITS OWN? – FILM FROM AN INTELLECTUAL SUMMIT

It is now 20 years since Francis Fukuyama launched his renowned theory regarding the end of history. Liberal democracy on a capitalistic foundation had defeated its rivals. Those who did not adopt this system would be irrevocably left behind.

The country that most clearly contradicts this hypothesis is China. It has seen unparalleled economic development at the same time as the regime has retained its grip on society and the economy. Powerful voices in the Chinese debate say that China should not attempt to emulate the West, but should find a way of its own.

Can we now speak of a Chinese model, an authoritarian capitalism, which perhaps can even inspire others, in particular now when the crisis that has emanated from the USA drives many people to a critical view of the West?

Glasshouse Forum assembled prominent academics from China and the West at Maison Louis Carré outside Paris on 23-24 February 2009 to an intellectual summit on the theme “Is there a China model?” In the video documentation which Glasshouse Forum has produced in cooperation with the production company Edinim, we can follow the occasionally tense debate, moderated by Gideon Rachman of the *Financial Times*, on the issue of whether there is such a model and whether the rest of the world, including the West, might have something to learn from it.

It is significant that no one at the meeting subscribed to Fukuyama’s theory on the end of history. No one saw any signs of China adopting liberal democracy. It was also evident that the Chinese participants considered China to have good prospects to overcome the global economic crisis.

This documentation gives fascinating and thought-provoking insights into what may become the political landscape of the future.

Participants in the film: **Gideon Rachman**, Chief foreign affairs columnist, *Financial Times*, moderator; **Timothy Garton Ash**, Professor, Oxford University; **Daniel A. Bell**, Professor, Tsinghua University in Beijing; **Zhiyuan Cui**, Professor, Tsinghua University in Beijing; **Azar Gat**, Professor, Tel Aviv University; **Simon Long**, Asia editor, *The Economist*; **Vivienne Shue**, Professor, Oxford University, **Shaoguang Wang**, Professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong; **Feng Zhang**, PhD student, LSE, and The Foreign Policy Centre, London; **Wei-Wei Zhang**, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Asian Studies, Geneva and Professor, Fudan University, Shanghai; and **Yongnian Zheng**, Professor, National University of Singapore.

Obtaining the film

For a DVD copy, contact info@glasshouseforum.org, or Johanna Laurin, Head of Glasshouse Forum, tel: +46-(0)8-723 31 83.

For downloadable files and streaming, visit glasshouseforum.org

Glasshouse Forum brings together concerned capitalists and researchers from different disciplines and provides an arena for critical reflection on the merits and problems of capitalism. Glasshouse Forum is research-oriented and interdisciplinary. It is politically independent and takes a pluralistic approach. It does not engage in lobbying activities, or make policy recommendations. Glasshouse Forum is dedicated to deepening the debate about capitalism through various forms of meetings, seminars and publications.