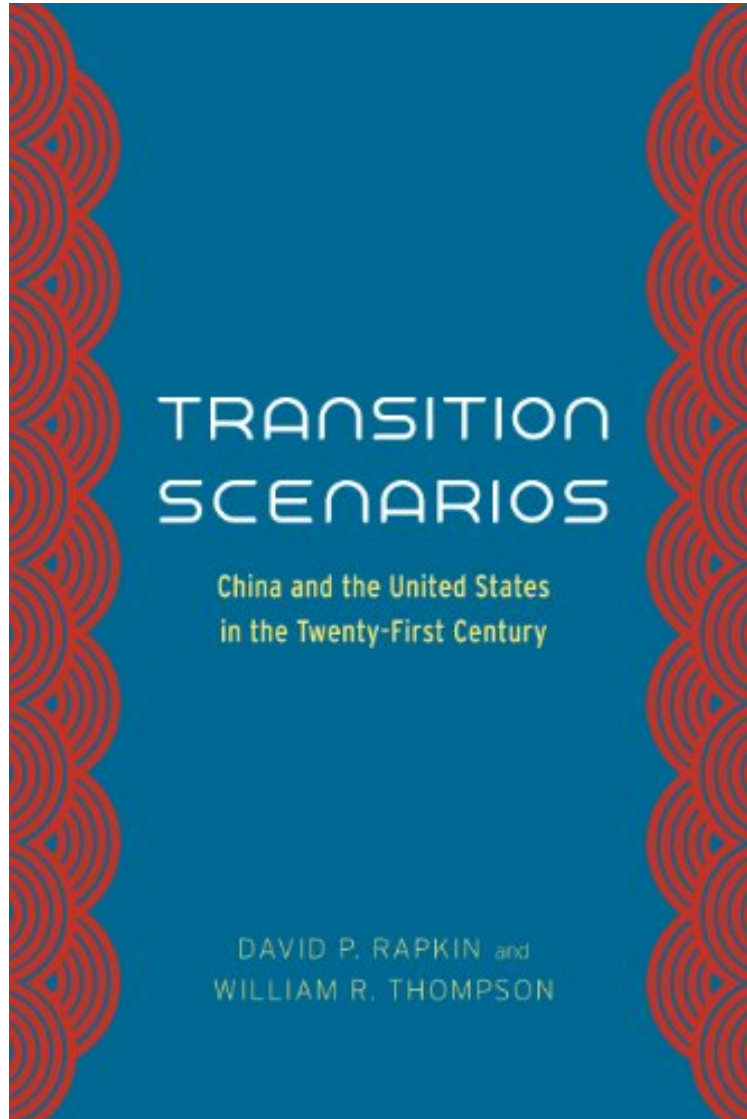


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# Transition Scenarios: China and the United States in the Twenty-First Century

*David P. Rapkin, William R. Thompson*

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China's rising status in the global economy alongside recent economic stagnation in Europe and the United

States has led to considerable speculation that we are in the early stages of a transition in power relations. Commentators have tended to treat this transitional period as a novelty, but history is in fact replete with such systemic transitions—sometimes with perilous results. Can we predict the future by using the past? And, if so, what might history teach us?

While there is no shortage of books concerned with US-China relations and the potential for conflict with China's rise, *Transition Scenarios* is the first to systematically employ a scenario building or "forward reasoning" methodology—and it does so carefully and to great effect, advancing a growing literature in the field of international relations.