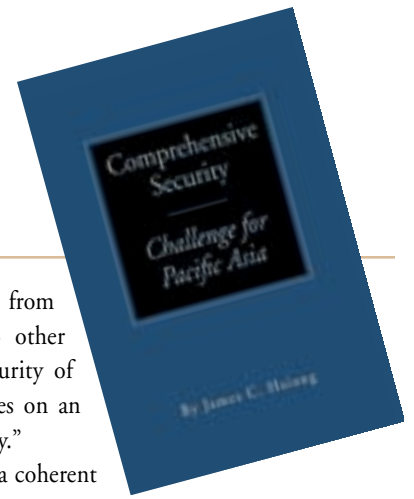




Comprehensive Security: Challenge for Pacific Asia

By James C. Hsiung



Security studies in the twenty-first century entail a paradigm shift from the traditional concerns of national defense (military security) to other dimensions, namely the economic, environmental, and human security of nations. After September 11, the traditional notion of security takes on an anti-terrorist connotation, giving a new salience to “homeland security.”

This study, by Dr. James C. Hsiung of New York University, is a coherent explication of comprehensive security in the above-named dimensions. It compares the conceptual implications of comprehensive security with those of both traditional security and its post-9/11 anti-terror variant, then turns to an in-depth discourse on the meanings of each of the three dimensions of comprehensive security as experienced in Pacific Asia.

Findings from the region’s experience have wider inferential value in other parts of the world. For example, the economic, environmental, and human dimensions of security are closely intertwined, as shown in the recent SARS attack. The virus’s spread underscored a source of environmental insecurity and posed a challenge to human security (as hundreds of individuals succumbed to the virus), with an estimated \$5-billion impact on the region’s economic security. This recalls the AIDS scourge or other epidemics in other regions that affected economic, environmental, and human security dimensions.

Another finding with wider relevance is that the tasks of protecting a nation’s comprehensive security today—such as in combating global warming (i.e., threats to environmental security), no less than in fighting the ravaging “casino effects” of globalized capital (a threat to economic security) or global terrorism (a threat to human security)—require multinational collaboration. The bottom line is that no nation’s self-help will be adequate for comprehensive security—not even a hyperpower like the United States, as September 11 and the subsequent global anti-terror campaign amply demonstrate.

Dr. James C. Hsiung is Professor of Politics at New York University, where he teaches international law, international politics theory, and international governance. His teaching and research interests include East Asian politics, Asian Pacific international relations, and Asian political culture. Among his interests are America’s strategic stakes in Asia Pacific. He is author and editor of 17 well-received books, including his *Twenty-First Century World Order and the Asia Pacific* (2001), *Anarchy and Order: The Interplay of Politics and Law in International Relations* (1997); and *Asia Pacific in the New World Politics* (1993).

During Hong Kong’s crucial transition period of 1997–1999, Dr. Hsiung was visiting Chair Professor and Head, Department of Politics and Sociology, at Lingnan University. He observed firsthand the former British colony’s return to China and completed an edited volume on various aspects of Hong Kong’s change to a Chinese special administrative region (SAR). *Hong Kong the Super Paradox* (St. Martin’s Press, 2000) claims to be the first such book in English bearing testimony to how the Hong Kong SAR managed to face challenges to its viability and to make its unique “one country, two systems” model work under Chinese sovereignty.

Born in mainland China and a graduate of National Taiwan University, he immigrated to America in 1958. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University, where he also taught. He is one of a very few Chinese-American academics who enjoy rapport with top Chinese leaders as well as academics in both Beijing and Taipei. He had a six-hour audience with Deng Xiaoping, China’s ultimate leader, in 1987. He is a former advisor to the Singaporean government on educational policy. His community-affairs credentials include advisory affiliations with a number of Chinese-American civic, business, and banking organizations (e.g., Chinese Import and Export Association of America, Jiangxi Landsmanschaft, Friends of Hong Kong and Macao Committee). He is a cofounder of the Chinese American Academic and Professional Society in New York. He doubles as an occasional consultant to businesses in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China proper.

Dr. Hsiung directs the Contemporary U.S.-Asia Research Institute, a New York-based think tank, and is a former executive editor of *Asian Affairs*, a learned journal published in Washington, D.C. He holds the title of Visiting Professor or Honorary Professor at a number of universities in China, including the Sun Yat-sen University (Canton), and at Lingnan University in Hong Kong. He is a consultant member of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.



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