

CHINA CROSSROADS

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The COVID-19 Pandemic and China's International Order Building: An Epochal Moment?

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China's putative international order building efforts to date have faltered, in part due to an inability to create meaningful friendships with prominent international powers. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has allowed China to play a key humanitarian role in heavily-afflicted countries and, through this, may help it forge meaningful friendships which can be used as the foundation of its international order building.

[Nicholas Ross Smith](#) is an Associate Professor of International Studies at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China. His research is primarily concerned with great power competition in international politics and is the author of two books, one on EU-Russia competition (Edward Elgar, 2016) and one on US-Russia competition (Palgrave, 2020), as well as numerous articles published in journals including *The Journal of Politics*, *International Relations*, and *International Politics*. His lecture today is based on research co-written with [Tracey Fallon](#), who is an Assistant Professor of China Studies also at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China. Her research interests are in the convergences between culture and politics of contemporary China. Currently, her research primarily concerns the concept of friendship in Chinese political and identity discourses.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.