

CHINA CROSSROADS

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How Weak States Can Benefit from the Multipolar Order and the Rise of China

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The rise of China, the resurgence of Russia, and the EU operating as a unitary actor represents a shift to a multipolar order that replaces the previous unipolar order. Small states can maximize benefits by adopting a strategy of non-alignment and focusing on core national interests. This means being strategic with all major powers and even exploiting their competition. The speaker will make this point with discussion of African states like Djibouti which have successfully applied this approach.

[Philip Giurlando](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of China Studies at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU). He is author of [Eurozone Politics](#) (2015) and Editor of [Populist Foreign Policy](#) (2023). He is engaged in several kinds of ongoing research activities. One examines the kinds of foreign policies adopted by populist governments. Another is France's foreign policy particularly in relation to its partners in the Eurozone and to its former African colonies. Finally, he has an enduring theoretical interest in the nature and causes of inter-state hierarchies. Philip has regularly appeared in the media to discuss European political and financial issues, particularly CTV News in Canada. Philip holds a PhD in Comparative and International Politics from Queen's University.

[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.