

CHINA CROSSROADS

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Comparing American and Chinese Exceptionalism: Can They Coexist?

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Co-Founder and Host

The Sinica Podcast



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The U.S. and China are countries with deeply and widely held exceptionalist beliefs: that they're singled out for a special historical destiny that sets them apart from other nations. However, as Kaiser Kuo argues, they differ in at least one significant way: Where American exceptionalism tends to be universalist and, therefore, proselytizing, Chinese exceptionalism is more particularist and, so while it isn't hesitant to export just about anything else, its political system, its values, and its institutions — which it sees as unique to China — don't number among its exports. In this talk, Kuo discusses how China's rise has challenged key assumptions of American exceptionalism, explaining the outsize reaction in DC. He says that finding a way for American exceptionalism and its Chinese counterpart to coexist isn't just possible but necessary for a stable global future.

[Kaiser Kuo](#) is the Co-Founder and Host of the Sinica Podcast, a weekly discussion of current affairs in China that has run since 2010 – the most popular English-language podcast on current affairs in China. He was Head of Podcasts and Editor-at-Large for The China Project, and previously served as Director of International Communications for Baidu. In his over twenty years in China, his career ran the gamut from rock music to tech journalism to corporate communications. He is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and holds an M.A. from the University of Arizona. He lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

[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.