In recent years, the Bush administration has shifted U.S. military and diplomatic assets to focus more on emerging powers such as China and India, argues political scientist Daniel Drezner. This effort has encompassed intensified strategic dialogue with leaders from those nations and U.S. support for increased involvement of such powers in international institutions. Washington hopes to create a new concert of great powers that will collectively manage the international system in a cooperative manner. The obstacles to this vision include resistance from European countries, who stand to lose clout in the global reorganization, and from nationalists in the United States, China, and India.
Discussion Questions

1) Why does Drezner suggest that international institutions are likely to be ineffectual unless they mirror the underlying international distribution of national power?

2) Can China be induced to become a “responsible stakeholder” in the existing international order? Or will China’s rise inevitably disrupt that order?

3) Is the European Union strong enough to exercise veto power over any major restructuring of international institutions that threatens to dilute European influence?

4) What do you think the great power rankings will look like half a century from now, and why?

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