

AIA Book Club: Sunday, January 31st

Book Club Selection is James Kynge, China Shakes the World: A Titan's Rise and Troubled Future – and the Challenge for America. (Mariner Books, 2007).

What is China today? Where is it heading? What challenges does it face? What does its rapid rise bode for the United States and the Western World? These are the questions that James Kynge raises in this fascinating book. Kynge, a former Beijing bureau chief for the *Financial Times*, takes the title for his study of China today from Napoleon warning: “Let China sleep, for when she wakes, she will shake the world.” Kynge demonstrates that Napoleon was right; this huge country, with enormous productive capacity, ever growing demand for resources, technology, and a seemingly limitless quest for markets is indeed transforming the global economy and with it world power balances. At the same time, Kynge shows that China is a nation that faces enormous difficulties: a serious resource crunch, land shortages, ecological constraints and a rigid political system and massive corruption. China has, in the words of Mao, “stood up.” But she cannot stand alone; she will need to forge partnerships, not create rivalries with Europe and America. How she will attempt this and the response of the West are a key aspect of this serious and provocative work.