University of Macau Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Department of Government and Public Administration

SEMINAR

DOES MODERNIZATION THEORY PREDICT A DEMOCRATIC CHINA?

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Michael Roskin was a newspaperman and foreign-service officer before earning a Ph.D. at American University in Washington. After his first Fulbright at the University of Toulouse in France, Roskin came to Lycoming College in Pennsylvania in 1972 and has been teaching political science there ever since. In 1991-94 he was a visiting professor at the U.S. Army War College. Roskin has authored several political-science textbooks on Introduction to Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations. He is currently a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Macau, Department of Government and Public Administration.

Abstract

Rooted in Hegel, developed by Lipset, and proclaimed by Henry Rowen, modernization theory argues that as a country reaches middle-income levels it becomes ready for democracy. Taiwan, South Korea, and Brazil are examples. But will this optimistic transition apply to China? There are reasons for doubt.

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