China’s inflection point and the CCP’s fundamental dilemma

A Leninist state loath to give up power, the Chinese Communist Party regime also must yield to market efficiencies. But no good balance has been struck yet.

Meanwhile, the US-China trade war and identity politics in Hong Kong and Taiwan add up to a dangerous mix.

Bilahari Kausikan

The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted China’s strengths and weaknesses.

What are the country’s political will and capability to reconfigure its (very) unequal distribution of power? Which other country can play the world’s second largest economy’s role in its own backyard?

Who are those darkhorse investors that the Chinese system cannot attract?

Why were such dramatic measures and such a massive effort necessary in the first place?

It is not about the efficacy of the structures and institutions in place. It is about how they can be mobilised and managed. It is about the prudence of the Chinese leadership.

China corrupted and weakened itself with a few missteps but is now upstream as a developed and competitive country.

China has been fastidious about the policies it has pursued. President Xi Jinping has stressed the need for the world to change to a more modern, open and liberal world.

The global economy has never been more open in history. The Chinese system cannot be isolated.

China’s performance has been unimpeachable. Its response has been timely. The Chinese leadership has been challenged by a new crisis.

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