Chinese Nationalism under the New Leadership

Since the first rise of nationalist discourses (China can say No!) in 1996, Chinese society witnessed constant proliferation of anti-Western, anti-Japanese and self-confident nationalism through Sino-Japanese textbook controversy, Tibet crisis, Olympic fever, “Angry China,” and recent conflicts over Diaoyudao (Senkaku) islands. I suggest that Chinese nationalism is extremely versatile because of its duality, historical claims as a nation state against the West and historical claims as an empire against her neighbors. If the new leadership of Xi Jinping fails to solve domestic socio-economic problems via macro-economic policies and international territorial disputes via diplomatic measures, nationalism will be continuously sought after by CCP as the source of political legitimacy.