



JOSEPH TORIGIAN



PRESTIGE,
MANIPULATION,
AND COERCION

ELITE POWER STRUGGLES IN
THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA
AFTER STALIN AND MAO



BOOK INFO: <https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300254235/prestige-manipulation-and-coercion/>



Book Talk by Joseph Torigian

PRESTIGE, MANIPULATION, AND COERCION:
ELITE POWER STRUGGLES IN THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA AFTER STALIN AND MAO

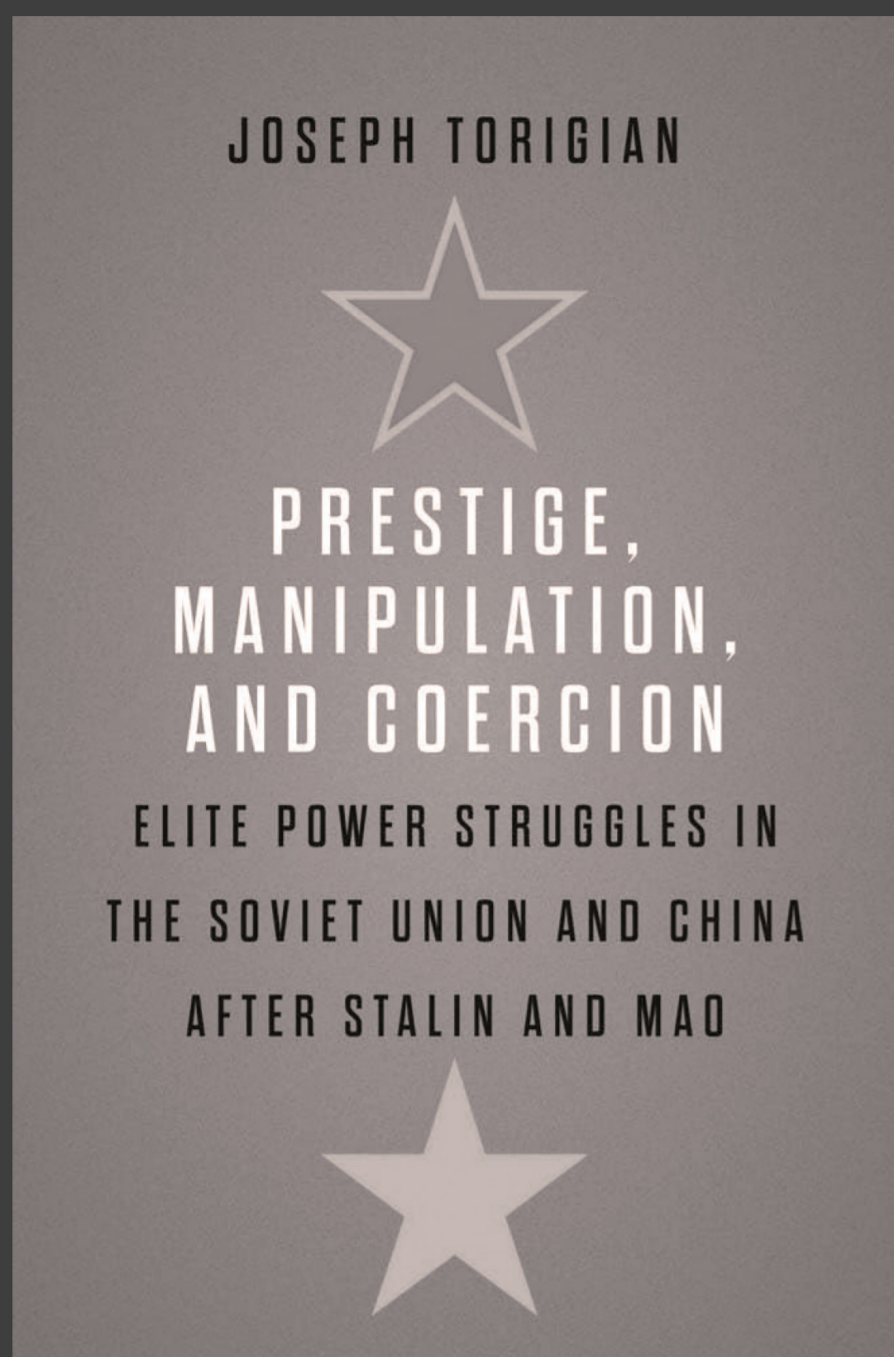
2. July 2024
Tue

13:00 ~ 14:30 JST

Seminar Room (No.213),
2nd Floor, Inamori Foundation Memorial Building

SPEAKER: JOSEPH TORIGIAN Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution, an assistant professor at the School of International Service at American University in Washington

DISCUSSANT: TOMOKO TAKAHASHI Assistant Professor at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University



SUMMARY OF THE BOOK

The political successions in the Soviet Union and China after Stalin and Mao, respectively, are often explained as triumphs of inner-party democracy, leading to a victory of “reformers” over “conservatives” or “radicals.” In traditional thinking, Leninist institutions provide competitors a mechanism for debating policy and making promises, stipulate rules for leadership selection, and prevent the military and secret police from playing a coercive role. Here, Joseph Torigian argues that the post-cult of personality power struggles in history’s two greatest Leninist regimes were instead shaped by the politics of personal prestige, historical antagonisms, backhanded political maneuvering, and violence. Mining newly discovered material from Russia and China, Torigian challenges the established historiography and suggests a new way of thinking about the nature of power in authoritarian regimes.

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SPEAKER JOSEPH TORIGIAN

Joseph Torigian is a Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution, an assistant professor at the School of International Service at American University in Washington (associate professor beginning September 1, 2024), a Global Fellow in the Wilson Center’s History and Public Policy Program, and a Center Associate of the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan. Previously, he was a Visiting Fellow at the China in the World Program at Australian National University, a Stanton Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton-Harvard’s China and the World Program, a Postdoctoral (and Predoctoral) Fellow at Stanford’s Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), a Predoctoral Fellow at George Washington University’s Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, an IREX scholar affiliated with the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, and a Fulbright Scholar at Fudan University in Shanghai. His first book, *Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion: Elite Power Struggles in the Soviet Union and China after Stalin and Mao* was released with Yale University Press, and he has a forthcoming biography on Xi Jinping’s father with Stanford University Press. He studies Chinese and Russian politics and foreign policy.



DISCUSSANT TOMOKO TAKAHASHI

Tomoko Takahashi is an Assistant Professor at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University. In the field of International Relations, she studies international institutions from the perspective of states, and especially focuses on China and the Global South. She holds a PhD from the University of Tokyo.

