

**RELEASE  
IN FULL**

---

**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 3, 2009 12:49 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: for S -- a stunning fact

---

**From:** Slaughter, Anne-Marie  
**To:** Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Huma  
**Cc:** Steinberg, James B  
**Sent:** Thu Dec 03 12:48:23 2009  
**Subject:** for S -- a stunning fact

The Quadrennial “America’s Place in the World” survey conducted both generally among the American public and among Council on Foreign Relations members found that “a plurality of the (American) public now says that China, not the United States, is the world’s leading economic power. Currently, 44% of the public says China is the world’s leading economic power, while just 27% name the United States. As recently as the beginning of last year, 41% said the U.S. was the top economic power while 30% said China.” On the brighter side, “Despite widespread anxiety over the economy, public support for free trade agreements has increased since 2008. A modest plurality now sees free trade agreements as good for the U.S.; in April 2008, a plurality said such agreements were bad for the country.” The two sentiments may well be related, of course.

Anne-Marie Slaughter  
Director of Policy Planning  
U.S. Department of State  
(202) 647-2972