AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY & THE ANCIENT HISTORIAN
THE CASE OF THUCYDIDES

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Working at the intersection of International Relations, Foreign Policy, and Greek Thought, Prof. Jaffe draws on his original interpretation of Thucydides’ account of the causes of war to explore arguments surrounding the Thucydides Trap, or the strong claim about the ‘inevitability’ of conflict between the United States and China. Contrary to those who appropriate Thucydides as the original power transition theorist, Jaffe argues that the Thucydidean account in fact involves second image claims, which alter the character of the necessity (or ‘inevitability’) of conflict between rising powers and ruling ones.

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