She makes the case that China is “strong abroad but fragile at home,” prompting her concern that internal developments could upset China's peaceful rise and bring about unplanned wars in Asia. In This Review. China: Fragile Superpower: How China's Internal Politics Could Derail Its Peaceful Rise. China: Fragile Superpower: How China's Internal Politics Could Derail Its Peaceful Rise. By Susan L. Shirk. 336 pp, Oxford University Press, 2007. Purchase. Shirk combines the highest standards of academic scholarship with government experience as the State Department official responsible for U.S. relations with China during the Clinton administration. China: Fragile Superpower should change our assessment of China’s leadership, which is a lot less stable than many of us thought.”—Washington Post Book World. "In her extremely convincing book, she shows that there is another emotional side which, driven by unresolved internal tensions, could still push China into a military confrontation."—Financial Times. “Shirk’s depth of knowledge about China - including personal acquaintance with many of its leaders - makes this book a valuable read.”—Christian Science Monitor. "Now more than ever we need a realis Her current research focuses on China’s foreign policy and its relations with international society. Acknowledgements.† The authors of the recently published book Unhappy China take this logic to the extreme, exploiting Chinese nationalistic feelings. In their view, since China has already risen as a superpower, it must be recognised as such and act accordingly.† “Susan L. Shirk, China: Fragile Superpower â€“ How China’s Internal Politics Could Derail Its Peaceful Rise (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007). 9. China’s foreign policy debates.