

United Fronts and the Second World War



1937年8月国共两党在南京谈判。黄琪翔与夫人郭秀仪同国共两党谈判代表在南京黄宅庭院合影。右起：朱德、周恩来、黄琪翔、郭秀仪、叶剑英、张群

Professor Hans van de Ven
(FAMES, University of Cambridge)

2pm, 2 March (Thursday), 2023 (in-person seminar)

Room LG18 (Faculty of Law, Sidgwick Site)

Abstract

This talk places the Nationalist-Communist united front in China in an international context, not just that of international communism as directed by Moscow but also of left-wing movements in Europe, India, and Indonesia. One result of the failure of united front movements around the world was that the Soviet Union withdrew from Asia and Europe, leaving China to face Japan alone and the UK and France to fight Germany initially without Soviet support. Because European governments failed to support them, the united fronts also strengthened anti-imperialist movements in European empires.

Speaker

Hans van de Ven earned his BA in Sinology at Leiden University and a Ph.D. in History and East Asian Studies at Harvard University. He has spent his whole professional academic career at the University of Cambridge. He has written on the Chinese Communist Party, China's Second World War, and the Chinese Maritime Customs Service. Currently he spends four months of every academic year as Visiting Chair Professor at Peking University.