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Chinese assertiveness and the rise of Xi Jinping: ideational mobilization, elite contestation, and the struggle over regional order

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Friso M.S. Stevens was born in 1985 in the Betuwe, the Netherlands. After majoring in economics and society during his pre-university (VWO) secondary education, Friso enrolled in a Bachelor's program in Dutch and European law at the Vrije Universiteit (VU) in Amsterdam in 2005. He then went on to pursue two master's degrees at the same institution: one program in international and criminal law and one interdisciplinary program in international security studies, obtaining them in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Half of the former program was completed at the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law in Chicago in 2010, where he specialized in the law of war, while in the course of the second he conducted foreign policy research at the VU's Political Science Department as well as at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington, D.C. Next, Friso moved to Beijing to explore the Chinese side of the Sino-American security relationship he wrote his second graduate thesis on. From 2015 to 2017, Friso spent two years at Peking University's School of International Studies studying the intricacies of Chinese elite politics and the domestic drivers of Chinese foreign policy; his Beijing thesis on Chinese assertiveness would become the foundation of his Leiden doctoral dissertation. Among honors received was the generous support provided through the Sino-Dutch Bilateral Exchange Scholarship and Prince Bernhard Culture Fund Fellowship. Alongside the Ph.D. track he embarked on at the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs in The Hague in 2017, Friso taught qualitative research courses at the VU from 2017 to 2020. Some of the work he completed during that time has been published in *The Pacific Review*, *Asian Security*, and *Asian Perspective*. From CSIS, where he was a Pacific Forum Young Leader, Friso made his way to The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies in 2020, where he is a Subject Matter Expert for China and East Asian affairs. In the fall of 2021, Friso commenced a postdoctoral program in Florence at the European University Institute as a Max Weber Fellow at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies.

