



CHINA

an international journal

volume 7, number 1
March 2009

EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE
National University of Singapore

*published by NUS Press
& World Scientific*

contents

research

Xi Jinping's Rise and Political Implications

The way in which China is selecting its top leaders is perhaps changing, reflecting some new socio-cultural trends in current Chinese elite politics. Xi Jinping has at least three things going for him: his princeling background, his clean reputation and his pro-business performance. However, before 2012 he has yet to pass several other tests before possibly stepping into Hu Jintao's shoes, especially those concerned with diplomatic affairs.

by ZHENG Yongnian and CHEN Gang 1

Seeking Channels for Engagement: Media Use and Political Communication by China's Rising Middle Class

As the main beneficiaries of the economic reforms, members of China's middle class are primarily preoccupied with maintaining their status. Participation in politics is not high on their agenda. The mass media in China has become apolitical, largely to cater to the middle class' consumer and popular culture. It is in fact weakening the political and civic interests of the middle class, reducing their motive for direct political participation or interaction with the government.

by WANG Xin 31

Principal Agent Theory and Private Property Rights in China's Economic Reform

China's economic reforms have been studied using all manner of paradigms and theories. Some fit well, while others do not. It is argued that the principal agent theory is not suitable for analysing state-owned enterprises as by definition the principals must be able to make the decisions and own the property rights. Misconceptions abound concerning the nature of property rights and the township and village enterprises.

by YUNG Ping 57

The Rise of China and India: Geo-political Narratives from the Singapore Perspective

As China and India evolve into superpowers, what is the reaction of Singapore? The thoughts of three strategic thinkers are compared: Michael Leifer, Kishore Mahbubani and Tommy Koh. Though differing in their perspectives, they concur that Singapore's long-term survival is dependent on its being a proactive and sociable member of a regional order, be it with a core that is accommodationist, civilisationally-oriented or idealistically pragmatic.

by LIM Tai Wei 81

comments and notes

The “Good Neighbour Policy” in the Context of China’s Foreign Relations
China’s push for regional integration is an attempt to increase its influence throughout its neighbourhood and exhort other states to adopt its state-centric “New International Order” model of conducting foreign relations. The Chinese leadership will look for opportunities for co-management of world and Asia-Pacific economic, financial, security and diplomatic affairs.

by Chien-peng CHUNG 107

China and Monetary Integration in East Asia

The Asian currency crisis of 1997 eroded the credibility of unilateral fixed exchange rates and renewed calls for greater monetary integration and regional exchange rate stability. China is dominating the regional economy. Creation of a single Asian currency will take time. The first step should be expansion of the Chiang Mai Swap Agreement to deal with emergency situations. The next steps might be a common basket peg followed by establishment of an Asian monetary unit currency basket.

by LIU Zi and CHEN Jinxia 124

The Changing Comparative Advantages and Structure of China’s Service Exports

China’s service exports have been developing rapidly. However, based on a revealed symmetry comparative advantage index and a modified revealed comparative advantage index, China’s services as a whole still have comparative disadvantage and represent a small share of total merchandise and service exports. There is much that China can do to improve its service exports.

by HE Shu-Quan 144

Naxi Students’ National Identity Construction and Schooling: A Case Study of Lijiang No. 1 Senior Secondary School

Students in China are encouraged to commit themselves to China’s social, economic and political development. Naxi students reflect rationally about the relationship between the nation and their ethnic group. They accept the Han culture and ethnic unity that are promoted by the school but also assert their own national identity. Some are critical of what is taught in school, stating that it does not truly reflect reality.

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compiled by TENG Siow Song and LIM Chee Kia

Documents: April 2008 to September 2008 186

compiled by TENG Siow Song and LIM Chee Kia

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To promote both academic and policy-oriented research on East Asian development, particularly the political, economic and social development of contemporary China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), and its growing economic integration with the world and the political and security implications for the region.