how china became capitalist

How China Became Capitalist: The Remarkable Transformation of an Economic Giant

how china became capitalist is a fascinating story of dramatic shifts, bold reforms, and pragmatic policies that reshaped one of the world’s most populous nations. For decades, China was synonymous with communism, state control, and planned economy. Yet, today, it stands as a powerhouse of global capitalism, boasting a vibrant market economy, bustling private enterprises, and an influential role in international trade. Understanding this transformation offers insights into economic development, political strategy, and the blending of ideology with practicality.

The Roots of China’s Economic System

Before diving into how China became capitalist, it’s essential to grasp where it started. After the establishment of the People’s Republic of China in 1949 under Mao Zedong, the country adopted a strict communist model. The government owned almost all means of production, agriculture was collectivized, and foreign trade was minimal. This centrally planned economy aimed to eliminate class distinctions and accelerate industrial growth but often resulted in inefficiencies, shortages, and stagnation.

The Mao Era and Its Economic Challenges

During Mao’s leadership, China focused on self-reliance and ideological purity rather than market efficiency. Campaigns like the Great Leap Forward (1958-1962) attempted rapid industrialization but led to widespread famine and economic hardship. The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) further disrupted education, governance, and economic activity. By the late 1970s, China’s economy was struggling, and it became clear that the old model wasn’t delivering prosperity for its people.

The Turning Point: Deng Xiaoping’s Reforms

The story of how China became capitalist truly begins with Deng Xiaoping, who emerged as the architect of China’s economic opening after Mao’s death in 1976. Deng was a pragmatic leader who believed that economic development was key to strengthening China, even if it meant deviating from orthodox communist principles.

“Socialism with Chinese Characteristics”

Deng introduced the concept of “socialism with Chinese characteristics,” which allowed for a mixed economy combining state control with market mechanisms. This pragmatic approach recognized that capitalism, or at least market-driven growth, could coexist with the Communist Party’s political dominance.

Key Economic Reforms

Some of the major reforms that set China on the path to capitalism included:

- **Agricultural De-collectivization:** The Household Responsibility System replaced collective farming, allowing families to keep surplus produce and incentivizing productivity.
- **Special Economic Zones (SEZs):** Zones like Shenzhen were created to attract foreign investment, experiment with market practices, and export goods.
- **Encouragement of Private Business:** Private entrepreneurship was gradually legalized, and private enterprises started to flourish.
- **State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) Reforms:** SOEs were given more autonomy, forced to compete, and some underwent partial privatization.
- **Opening to Foreign Trade and Investment:** China joined global markets and welcomed foreign capital, technology, and expertise.

The Role of Market Liberalization and Global Integration

How China became capitalist is tightly linked to its integration into the global economy. As China opened its doors, it became a manufacturing hub, exporting vast quantities of goods worldwide. The reforms unleashed entrepreneurial energy and attracted billions in foreign direct investment (FDI).

Joining the World Trade Organization (WTO)

China’s accession to the WTO in 2001 marked a milestone, signaling its commitment to international trade rules and further liberalization. This move accelerated economic growth, modernized industries, and integrated China into global supply chains.

The Rise of Private Enterprises and the Middle Class

By the early 21st century, private companies had become a significant force in China's economy, contributing to innovation, employment, and wealth creation. Alongside this, an emerging middle class with increasing purchasing power transformed domestic consumption patterns and fostered a more consumer-driven economy.

The Complex Blend: State Capitalism and Political Control

Despite adopting capitalist economic principles, China remains politically controlled by the Communist Party. This unique model is often described as "state capitalism." The government continues to play a dominant role in strategic sectors and exerts significant influence over the economy.

State-Owned Enterprises in a Capitalist Framework

While private enterprises thrive, SOEs still dominate critical industries like energy, telecommunications, and finance. These companies operate with capitalist incentives but align closely with government objectives, blending market efficiency with state oversight.

Economic Pragmatism Over Ideology

China's leadership prioritizes economic growth and social stability over strict ideological adherence. This pragmatism explains the coexistence of authoritarian politics with market-driven economics—a hybrid that challenges traditional definitions of capitalism.

Lessons from China's Capitalist Transformation

The journey of how China became capitalist offers several lessons for developing economies and policymakers worldwide.

- **Gradualism Works:** China’s incremental reforms avoided shocks and allowed adaptation over time.
- **Flexibility in Ideology:** Embracing market principles without abandoning political control proved a delicate but effective balance.
- **Investment in Infrastructure and Education:** These laid the foundation for sustained growth and technological advancement.
- **Global Engagement:** Openness to trade and foreign investment fueled modernization and competitiveness.
- **Focus on Stability:** Maintaining social and political stability helped avoid disruptions during rapid change.

Continuing Evolution and Challenges Ahead

China’s capitalist model is still evolving. Issues such as income inequality, environmental degradation, and market distortions pose challenges. Moreover, balancing state control with private sector dynamism remains a continuous policy puzzle.

Nevertheless, China’s experience underscores that capitalism is not a one-size-fits-all system. Its hybrid approach—blending authoritarian governance with market economics—has reshaped global economic dynamics and inspired a reevaluation of development paths.

Exploring how China became capitalist reveals a story of adaptation, innovation, and the pursuit of prosperity that defies simple categorization. It’s a testament to the power of pragmatic leadership and the transformative potential of market-oriented reforms, even within a politically controlled framework.

Frequently Asked Questions

How did China transition from a communist to a capitalist economy?

China transitioned from a communist to a more capitalist economy through economic reforms initiated in 1978 under Deng Xiaoping. These reforms included opening up to foreign investment, introducing market mechanisms, and allowing private entrepreneurship while maintaining political control by the Communist Party.

What were the key policies that enabled China's shift towards capitalism?

Key policies included the Household Responsibility System in agriculture, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to attract foreign investment, decentralization of economic decision-making, and encouragement of private businesses, all of which fostered market-oriented growth within a socialist framework.

Why did China adopt capitalist economic practices despite being a communist country?

China adopted capitalist economic practices to stimulate economic growth, increase productivity, and improve living standards after years of stagnation under strict central planning. The leadership saw market reforms as a pragmatic approach to modernize the economy while maintaining political control.

What role did Deng Xiaoping play in China's move towards capitalism?

Deng Xiaoping was the architect of China's economic reforms starting in 1978. He promoted the idea of 'Socialism with Chinese characteristics,' which allowed market mechanisms and private enterprise to coexist with socialism, thus paving the way for China's capitalist-style economic development.

How has China's capitalist economy impacted its global economic status?

China's capitalist-oriented reforms have transformed it into the world's second-largest economy, making it a major global trade partner and manufacturing hub. The market-driven growth has lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty and positioned China as a key player in international economics and geopolitics.

Additional Resources

How China Became Capitalist: An In-Depth Exploration of Economic Transformation

how china became capitalist is a question that invites a complex and nuanced exploration of one of the most significant economic transformations in modern history. From a rigidly planned economy under Mao Zedong to the world’s second-largest economy with capitalist features, China’s journey defies simplistic narratives. This article delves into the historical, political, and economic factors that enabled China to adopt capitalist mechanisms while maintaining its unique political framework.

Historical Context: From Maoist Command Economy to Reform Era

The roots of China’s transition to capitalism trace back to the establishment of the People’s Republic of China in 1949. Initially, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) implemented a centrally planned economy modeled on the Soviet Union’s command system. Under Mao’s leadership, private enterprise was virtually eliminated, and the state controlled all means of production. This model prioritized industrialization and collectivization but resulted in inefficiencies and catastrophic events such as the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution.

By the late 1970s, China faced severe economic stagnation. In 1978, Deng Xiaoping emerged as the architect of reform, initiating a series of policies that gradually introduced market principles into the Chinese economy. This marked the beginning of how China became capitalist in practice, despite retaining a nominally socialist political ideology.

The Reform and Opening-Up Policy: Catalyst for Capitalist Transition

Deng Xiaoping’s “Reform and Opening-Up” policy was pivotal in the country’s economic liberalization. It allowed for:

- **Decollectivization of Agriculture:** The Household Responsibility System replaced collective farming, boosting productivity and rural incomes.
- **Establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs):** Regions like Shenzhen were designated to attract foreign investment and experiment with capitalist business practices.
- **Encouragement of Private Enterprises:** Private businesses were legalized, expanding the private sector’s role in the economy.
- **Opening to Foreign Trade and Investment:** China integrated into the global economy, becoming a manufacturing hub.

These reforms gradually dismantled the command economy framework and introduced market competition, price mechanisms, and profit incentives — hallmark features of capitalism.

Gradualism: A Unique Path to Capitalism

Unlike rapid market liberalizations seen in the former Soviet bloc, China's approach was characterized by gradualism and pragmatism. The CCP maintained political control while cautiously implementing economic reforms, avoiding the social and political chaos that accompanied shock therapy in other countries. This dual-track system allowed state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and private businesses to coexist, creating a hybrid economic model.

The Role of State-Owned Enterprises and Market Forces

One of the defining features of China's capitalism is the coexistence of strong state control alongside vibrant market forces. SOEs remain significant players in sectors like energy, telecommunications, and finance. However, the private sector has grown exponentially, contributing over 60% of GDP and generating the majority of urban employment.

This unique blend challenges traditional definitions of capitalism. The Chinese state continues to intervene strategically in the economy, guiding investment and controlling key industries while allowing entrepreneurship and competition in other areas. This model is often described as "socialism with Chinese characteristics," blending capitalist economic practices with authoritarian governance.

Impact on Global Trade and Investment

China's capitalist transformation profoundly reshaped global trade. Its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 symbolized deeper integration into the global capitalist system. The country became the "world's factory," leveraging low labor costs and efficient supply chains to attract multinational corporations.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) played a crucial role in transferring technology and managerial expertise. As China's domestic market expanded, its firms began investing abroad, signaling the rise of a new type of capitalist player on the global stage.

Economic Outcomes: Growth, Inequality, and Challenges

The results of China's shift toward capitalism are striking. From 1980 to 2020, China's GDP grew at an average annual rate exceeding 9%, lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty. The burgeoning middle class, urbanization, and technological advancements are direct outcomes of capitalist-oriented reforms.

However, rapid growth has generated significant challenges:

- **Inequality:** Income disparities have widened, especially between urban and rural areas.
- **Environmental Degradation:** Industrialization led to pollution and resource depletion.
- **Financial Risks:** The intertwining of state control and market speculation creates vulnerabilities in the banking sector.
- **Political Tensions:** Balancing capitalist economic interests with authoritarian political control remains a delicate act.

These complexities illustrate that China’s capitalism is neither a simple embrace of free-market liberalism nor a rejection of state influence.

Comparisons with Western Capitalism

China’s capitalist trajectory differs from Western models in several respects:

- **State Role:** Unlike laissez-faire capitalism, the Chinese government plays an active role in guiding economic development.
- **Political System:** Capitalism operates within a one-party authoritarian system rather than a pluralistic democracy.
- **Market Reforms:** The phased and experimental approach contrasts with rapid deregulation typical in the West.

This hybrid model has led analysts to coin terms like “state capitalism” or “market Leninism” to describe China’s economic system.

How China Became Capitalist: A Continuing

Evolution

China’s capitalist transformation is ongoing and dynamic. Recent initiatives like “dual circulation” emphasize boosting domestic consumption while continuing engagement with global markets. The rise of tech giants, innovation hubs, and private entrepreneurship further consolidate capitalist traits.

Nevertheless, the CCP’s commitment to maintaining control over political power and strategic sectors signals that China’s capitalism will remain distinct from Western liberal capitalism. The country’s experience underscores that capitalism is not a monolithic system but can take diverse forms depending on historical, cultural, and political contexts.

Understanding how China became capitalist requires appreciating the interplay between reformist pragmatism, ideological flexibility, and the quest for economic modernization. This transformation has not only reshaped China but also challenged conventional wisdom about capitalism’s relationship with political governance and development.

How China Became Capitalist

how china became capitalist: *How China Became Capitalist* R. Coase, N. Wang, 2016-04-30 How China Became Capitalist details the extraordinary, and often unanticipated, journey that China has taken over the past thirty five years in transforming itself from a closed agrarian socialist economy to an indomitable economic force in the international arena. The authors revitalise the debate around the rise of the Chinese economy through the use of primary sources, persuasively arguing that the reforms implemented by the Chinese leaders did not represent a concerted attempt to create a capitalist economy, and that it was 'marginal revolutions' that introduced the market and entrepreneurship back to China. Lessons from the West were guided by the traditional Chinese principle of 'seeking truth from facts'. By turning to capitalism, China re-embraced her own cultural roots. How China Became Capitalist challenges received wisdom about the future of the Chinese economy, warning that while China has enormous potential for further growth, the future is clouded by the government's monopoly of ideas and power. Coase and Wang argue that the development of a market for ideas which has a long and revered tradition in China would be integral in bringing about the Chinese dream of social harmony.

how china became capitalist: How China Became Capitalist R. Coase, N. Wang, 2012-03-20 How China Became Capitalist details the extraordinary, and often unanticipated, journey that China has taken over the past thirty five years in transforming itself from a closed agrarian socialist economy to an indomitable economic force in the international arena. The authors revitalise the debate around the rise of the Chinese economy through the use of primary sources, persuasively arguing that the reforms implemented by the Chinese leaders did not represent a concerted attempt to create a capitalist economy, and that it was 'marginal revolutions' that introduced the market and entrepreneurship back to China. Lessons from the West were guided by the traditional Chinese principle of 'seeking truth from facts'. By turning to capitalism, China re-embraced her own cultural roots. How China Became Capitalist challenges received wisdom about the future of the Chinese economy, warning that while China has enormous potential for further growth, the future is clouded by the government's monopoly of ideas and power. Coase and Wang argue that the development of a market for ideas which has a long and revered tradition in China would be integral in bringing about the Chinese dream of social harmony.

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how china became capitalist: China’s Economic Transformation Into Capitalism In 1990s Caroline Mutuku, 2018-07-05 Essay from the year 2018 in the subject Business economics - Economic Policy, grade: 1.6, , language: English, abstract: The history of the transformation of China from socialist to a capitalist economy remains a tale to most economic analysts, yet reality has it that the country has come out of the woods to harness its economic dividend. It is interesting to narrate the trends of leadership change in China which has made it one of the world’s fast developing economies. No one would have imagined China could break free from the cords of socialism and join the capitalist global economy. This is why Coase and Wang remarks, “No one foresaw that the “socialist modernization” that the post-Mao Chinese government launched would in 30 years turn into what scholars today have called China’s great economic transformation”. Surprisingly, this transformation has already occurred, and this phenomenon is attributable to a series of economic reforms that have occurred over the last three decades. It is argued that China became capitalist in 1990s; the controversy over China’s transformation lies on the border between socialism and capitalism. This controversy is reflected whenever policymakers attempt to answer the question, “Did China become capitalist in 1990s?” Therefore, this paper will provide a comprehensive overview of the transformation of China into a free market economy. It will evaluate how socialist modernization in the mid 1970s led to the attainment of capitalist characteristics in 1990s.

how china became capitalist: *Lessons from Past Heroes* Phumlani M Majozi, 2023-10-16 What can be learned from black South Africans who achieved success before South Africa became a democracy in 1994? What are the challenges they faced, and how did they overcome them? And, today, how have South Africans benefited from the country's democratic system of governance? These are the questions Phumlani M. Majozi explores and attempts to answer in Lessons from Past Heroes. He traces black people's success and political activity back to the early 1900s; successful men and women who spearheaded the struggle against the segregationist, colonialist government and devoted their lives to advancing the interests of their communities. Phumlani explores the careers, challenges, and successes of people such as Pixley ka Isaka Seme, John Langalibalele Dube, Sol Plaatje and Josiah Tshangana Gumede. During the apartheid years, South Africa produced black men and women who overcame the odds to succeed in their fields of business, entertainment, science, and politics. They excelled in the face of an oppressive government system, and their stories should inspire every South African today. After exploring the history of South Africa, Phumlani delves into the present and the future; evaluating the challenges South Africans face and proposes solutions that can speed up their economic progress. He argues that much of South Africa's history has portrayed the majority as victims of the minority, and that the inspirational stories of those people who overcame adversity are not being told widely enough. These stories must be told to inspire future generations. If black South Africans could succeed in the pre-1994 era, what can stop them today? The answer is nothing, Phumlani writes. Phumlani M. Majozi is a business and macroeconomics analyst, writer and commentator on economic, political and global issues. He is a Senior Fellow at African Liberty and sits on the boards of four organisations: Chartered Institute of Business Accountants (CIBA), South African Institute of Race Relations (IRR), Social Research Foundation (SRF) and Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA).

how china became capitalist: *Bourgeois Equality* Deirdre Nansen McCloskey, 2020-03-04 How standards of living have skyrocketed since 1800, and the political philosophy that made it possible: Persuasive...richly detailed and erudite.— Financial Times There's little doubt that most humans today are better off than their forebears. Stunningly so, the economist and historian Deirdre McCloskey argues in this concluding volume of her trilogy celebrating the oft-derided virtues of the bourgeoisie. The poorest of humanity, McCloskey shows, will soon be joining the comparative riches of Japan and Sweden and Botswana. Why? Most economists—from Adam Smith and Karl Marx to

Thomas Piketty—say the Great Enrichment since 1800 came from accumulated capital. McCloskey disagrees, fiercely. Our riches, she argues, were made not by piling brick on brick, bank balance on bank balance, but by piling idea on idea. Capital was necessary, but in the same way that oxygen is necessary for a fire. Nor were institutions the drivers: the World Bank orthodoxy of add institutions and stir hasn't worked. McCloskey builds a powerful case for the initiating role of ideas—ideas for electric motors and free elections, of course, but more deeply the bizarre and liberal ideas of equal liberty and dignity for ordinary folk. Liberalism arose from theological and political revolutions in northwest Europe, yielding a unique respect for betterment and its practitioners, and upending ancient hierarchies. Commoners were encouraged to have a go, and the bourgeoisie took up the Bourgeois Deal, and we were all enriched. Few economists or historians write like McCloskey—her ability to invest the facts of economic history with the urgency of a novel, or of a leading case at law, is unmatched. She summarizes modern economics and modern economic history with verve and lucidity, yet sees through to the really big scientific conclusion. Not matter, but ideas. Big books don't come any more ambitious, or captivating, than Bourgeois Equality.

how china became capitalist: Varieties of Capitalism in History, Transition and Emergence Martha Prevezer, 2017-03-27 Economics tends to teach that developed countries have good institutions while developing countries do not, and that this is the factor that constrains the latter's growth. However, the picture is far messier than this explanation suggests. Building on the varieties of capitalism framework, this book brings together the tools of institutional economics with historical analyses of institutional evolution of different kinds of property rights and legal systems, protected by different kinds of state, giving rise to distinct corporate governance structures. It constructs institutional development histories across leading liberal capitalisms in Britain and the United States, compared with continental capitalisms in France and Germany, and contemporary transitional capitalisms in China and Tanzania. This volume is innovative in combining both historical and economic insights, and in combining developed country with developing country institutional emergence, dispelling the prevailing sense of complacency about the inevitability of the path of institutional development for the developed areas of the world and the paths that developing countries are likely to follow. This volume will be of great importance to those who study international economics, development economics and international business.

how china became capitalist: China as a Global Clean Energy Champion Philip Andrews-Speed, Sufang Zhang, 2019-01-07 This book assesses China’s reputation as a global clean energy champion, and applies institutional and public policy theories to explain how the country has achieved so much and why there continue to be so many unintended consequences and constraints to progress. It considers the extent to which the government has successfully boosted the manufacture and deployment of low-carbon electricity generating infrastructure, cleaned up thermal power generation, and enhanced energy efficiency, dramatically constraining China’s rising carbon dioxide emissions, but also examines the substantial political and financial capital required to reinforce the predominantly administrative policy instruments and the mix of special interests and poor coordination that are endemic to the energy sector. Arguing that the current approach seems to be encountering ever diminishing returns, the book considers whether ongoing sector reforms and the new national emissions trading scheme can reinvigorate the nation’s clean energy trajectory.

how china became capitalist: Handbook Event Market China Helmut Schwägermann, Peter Mayer, Yi Ding, 2015-12-14 China’s event market is full of dynamic and exciting developments, innovation, new players and novel ideas, but at the same time of certain shortcomings. This new and huge market is drawing increasing attention from the event industry worldwide. The aim of this handbook is to analyse the Chinese event market, reflect on emerging trends, scrutinise the key players and identify the implica-tions for the education of future professionals in this industry. This handbook is the first of its kind on the Chinese event market written in English. It is a collection of 27articles written by 39 authors from China, Germany, Malaysia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. The contributions embrace a mix of theoretical and practical reflections, written by academics/lecturers and practitioners alike. The focus lies on business events, such as trade fairs, conventions and corporate events. Some very specifically describe a certain trend or development; others focus on overall trends. The handbook is divided into four chapters. Following an introductory chapter on the event market, the second chapter focuses on the event market in China from a global perspective. The third chapter reflects on management aspects in China's event industry. The fourth and final chapter addresses the issue of educating professionals for the event industry.

how china became capitalist: China's Economic Development Cai Fang, 2022-10-20 Cai Fang is one of China's most distinguished economists. This book elucidates the worldwide significance of China's economic development over the past 70 years from the perspectives of economic history and growth theory. The Chinese economy has undergone an unprecedented period of growth and development since the reform and opening-up in the late 1970s; a process which the hallmarks of neoclassic economic theory have often proved inadequate to explain. Examining the Chinese economy in the light of Chinese history and the development of the world economy as a whole, the book charts the milestones and critical reforms of China's economic development, providing insights into unique attributes as well as more generic patterns. The discussion covers multiple hot topics in the field, including the so-called Great Divergence, dual-sector economic development, real-world experience of the reform and opening-up, rural reform, urbanization, economic reform, poverty reduction, the latter day slowdown of China's economic growth, and Chinaï¯s role in and response to globalization, global supply domination and other headwinds. The book will be a must-read for students, scholars and general readers interested in the Chinese economy, economic development, political economy, and development economics.

how china became capitalist: East Asian Development Model Shiping Hua, Ruihua Hu, 2014-12-17 Given the impressive growth in East Asia after World War II, initially led by Japan, the region's development models have been scrutinized since the 1980s. The shared Confucian cultural heritage, strong government guidance, and export led economies were often cited as contributors to the impressive growth. However, major changes have taken place in Asia on and around the turn of the century: Japan experienced two decades of economic slow-down, while World Bank figures reveal that China is poised to become the largest economy in the world in 2014, overtaking the United States. Bearing this in mind, is it even possible to formulate an East Asian development model in the context of a shifting twenty-first century? And if so, what is it? This book addresses this issue by looking at the economic, political and cultural perspectives of China, Japan and South Korea, focusing on dynamism and potential consensus regarding an East Asian development model. The chapters offer a historical background to the East Asian development model, as well as in-depth case studies of each of the countries concerned to show that whilst the East Asian development model does have distinct characteristics as compared with other areas, and other countries may draw some insights from the East Asian experience, it is not a panacea that fits all circumstances and fits all times. This book will be welcomed by students and scholars of Asian economics, Asian politics, international political economy and development studies.

how china became capitalist: Historical Dictionary of the Chinese Economy Lawrence R. Sullivan, 2017-11-08 The Historical Dictionary of the Chinese Economy covers the world's second largest macro economy. Extensive attention throughout the volume is given to the historical development of the Chinese economy since the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949. Included is a review of developments during the period of central economic planning adopted from the Soviet Union (1953-1978) and in-depth information and analysis on the various policies and fundamental changes brought about in China by the inauguration of economic reforms from 1978-1979 through 2016. This book contains a chronology, an introduction, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has over 400 cross-referenced entries on critical sectors of the economy including automobiles, banking and finance, national currency, economic regulation, trade and investment, and important industries such as agriculture, computers and electronics, iron and steel, real estate, and shipping.. This book is an excellent resource for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about China’s economy.

how china became capitalist: Knowing China Frank N. Pieke, 2016-07-28 Contemporary China appears both deceptively familiar and inexplicably different. China is a cauldron of forms of entrepreneurship, social organization, ways of life and governance that are at once new and unique, recognizably Chinese and generically modern. In analyzing and interpreting these developments, Frank N. Pieke adopts a China-centric perspective to move beyond western preoccupations, desires, or fears. Each chapter starts with a key question about China, showing that such questions and assumptions are often based on a misunderstanding or misconstruction of what China is today. Pieke explores twenty-first-century China as a unique kind of neo-socialist society, combining features of state socialism, neoliberal governance, capitalism and rapid globalization. Understanding this society not only helps us to know China better, but takes us beyond the old dichotomies of West versus East, developed versus developing, tradition versus modernity, democracy versus dictatorship, and capitalism versus socialism.

how china became capitalist: *Making China Modern* Klaus Mühlhahn, 2019-01-14 “Thoughtful, probing...a worthy successor to the famous histories of Fairbank and Spence [that] will be read by all students and scholars of modern China.” —William C. Kirby, coauthor of Can China Lead? It is tempting to attribute the rise of China to Deng Xiaoping and to recent changes in economic policy. But China has a long history of creative adaptation. In the eighteenth century, the Qing Empire dominated a third of the world’s population. Then, as the Opium Wars and the Taiping Rebellion ripped the country apart, China found itself verging on free fall. More recently, after Mao, China managed a surprising recovery, rapidly undergoing profound economic and social change. A dynamic story of crisis and recovery, failure and triumph, Making China Modern explores the versatility and resourcefulness that guaranteed China’s survival, powered its rise, and will determine its future. “Chronicles reforms, revolutions, and wars through the lens of institutions, often rebutting Western impressions.” —New Yorker “A remarkable accomplishment. Unlike an earlier generation of scholarship, Making China Modern does not treat China’s contemporary transformation as a postscript. It accepts China as a major and active player in the world, places China at the center of an interconnected and global network of engagement, links domestic politics to international dynamics, and seeks to approach China on its own terms.” —Wen-hsin Yeh, author of Shanghai Splendor

how china became capitalist: *How Trade with China Threatens Western Institutions* Robert Gmeiner, 2021-07-12 This book evaluates the institutional environments of China and the United States, and the West more broadly, and how they affect their trading relationship, with specific emphasis on intellectual property theft and other allegations of unfair competition. The economic and political characteristics of the two countries affect the balance of power in their trading relationship, with ramifications far beyond jobs and output. The major theme is China’s ability to free ride on Western institutions through intellectual property theft and extortion. This free riding is far more than just infringing patents and reaping profits; it creates a combination of incentives for political pressures in the West that diminish the free market and liberal Western values. The result is the classic result of free riding – underprovision, or degeneration, of the Western institutions that made the West prosperous and free. At the same time, China’s economic might, military prowess, and global soft power increase, often with deleterious effects for freedom and free markets. This book is distinctive because it integrates public choice ideas about economic institutions, state action, and strategic behavior into international trade. It also takes account of the economic characteristics of China and the West and explains why they present a situation that is fundamentally different from other trade disputes. Institutions and political influence are central to this book’s analysis of trade, which can be more dangerous and more disguised than the welfare gains from trade. Providing a concise and lucid distillation of pressing issues, this book is critical reading for scholars studying trade with China and its effects on both global and Western innovation, economic output, soft power, and freedom more broadly.

how china became capitalist: *Social Relations and Political Development in China* Zhengxu

Wang, Dragan Pavlićević, 2020-10-29 As China enters its proclaimed 'New Era' under President Xi Jinping, this book examines changes and continuity in social relations and political development, investigating new developments against the backdrop of continuations of long-term trends and previous policies. What has remained outside many scholarly discussions is a larger backdrop of continuity, into which the policies of Xi Jinping's administration are inserted to further shape social, economic and political trajectories in contemporary China. Presented as a volume of methodologically diverse studies exploring some of the key aspects of social and political development in contemporary China, its authors examine the structural factors that continue to exert influence on China's trajectory – in the 'New Era', as before – at the deeper and subtler levels. This is the first publication of its kind to focus on how continuity and change interplay under Xi; it enables readers to appreciate both genuine novelties and the enduring, long-term trends, as well as to estimate future trends in the proclaimed 'New Era' and beyond. Social Relations and Political Development in China will be of significant interest to students and scholars of Chinese studies, political science and sociology.

how china became capitalist: Educating Migrant Children in China Chengqi Cao, 2024-08-27 This book explores social citizenship through the lens of investigating local compulsory education policy targeting migrant children in Beijing and Guangzhou. Deploying a multi-case methodology, this book illustrates how these two local governments respond to central decisions on compulsory education for migrant children, the implementation models they employ and the impact of this unique practice on social citizenship boundary redefinition through single- and cross-case analysis. It helps readers understand the evolution of compulsory education policy and its effects on access to schooling for migrant children and clearly illustrates this policy's implications for social citizenship. Revealing the important relationship between the central and lower levels of government in China, this book will appeal to students and scholars of education, social policy, as well as those with an interest in Chinese culture and society.

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