

PREFACE

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Entering the 21st Century, there have been growing concerns over the rise of China in international society. This is because China has accomplished remarkable economic growth for more than 25 years and has come to be regarded as one of the world's major powers. For more than a quarter of a century of policies of reform and open door, China seems to be forming its own unique model of development or transition in politics, economy and society, as has been seen in the past. However, despite this remarkable progress, the results of the reforms seem to cause many serious difficulties not only within but also beyond the economic sphere. Thus, it seems to be more urgent that the world inquire about China's future.

Regarding the economic aspect, for example, there has been large-scale industrial agglomeration in the Zhuhai Delta in Guangdong, Shanghai, and other coastal provinces, into which there has been an inflow of foreign capital from the United States, Europe, and Japan. The overall industrial structure has been modified from a labor-intensive industry to a capital/technology-intensive industry; as a result, China appears to have become a black hole for foreign direct investment. This phenomenon could not be explained by the theories of "Goose Development" and comparative advantage.

With regard to politics, democratic elections in which residents vote directly have been gradually carried out in basic units in urban as well as rural areas. Although the Communist Party's dictatorship has been maintained, democratization within the Party has been promoted in terms of procedure. Further, with regard to social aspects, the past system of "Danwei (Unit)" has begun to collapse, the mobilization of the labor force has been accelerated, and new human relationships will be forged in the workplace.

In summary, we understand that China is now in the process of restructuring all its systems, including the Party, state, and society, after instituting reform and open door policies; this understanding provided the title of this book. In order to examine China's future, it is essential that China scholars attempt to create a new framework or model to explain such a sizeable structural transformation or transition in Chinese politics, economy, and society. It is for this purpose that our joint research project began in 2002.

In the first place, our joint project was characterized by interdisciplinary study with international cooperation. Japanese China scholars seem inclined to associate only with other Japanese scholars and write only in Japanese; thus, they do not have frequent contact with advanced foreign scholars such as those from the United States and Europe. These passive inclinations must be overcome, and the new findings and views of China scholars and related researchers abroad must be absorbed

by conducting joint studies with active international China scholars as well as writing papers and arguing in English. The English version of the result of our joint study is to be published, and the present volume is the result of three years of our joint research.

In the second place, our joint study emphasized the viewpoint of international comparison, which has been considerably lacking in Japanese studies on China. All our members attempted to examine the Chinese characteristics of political development or social transformation from an international viewpoint.

However, our attempt became more than just an “interdisciplinary study,” in which scholars with different disciplines and fields conducted their own research on their own independent subjects. Our project aimed to be a study in which two different disciplines and fields become interrelated. In this joint project, for example, economists attempted to enter the political sphere in order to formulate a political economy model, and sociologists attempted to enter the economic sphere in order to conduct an economic-statistical analysis of social class transformation.

The fact is that this kind of collaborative study has seldom been conducted in Japan’s past studies on China. As a result, many good scholarly achievements by Japan’s China scholarship on contemporary China have seldom been paid less attention in international China studies. In contrast, a variety of achievements have been accumulated in the field of Western China studies. One of the best examples is the joint study on the reform of China’s state-owned enterprises, in which Prof. Rawski, a member of our joint project, participated (Gary Jefferson and Inderjit Singh (eds.), *Enterprise Reform in China*, [Oxford University Press]).

As mentioned above, our joint project emphasized interdisciplinary and international cooperation. In concrete terms, this project studied the method that the World Bank adopted in writing the World Development Report. In this method, the report was completed while many external comments and criticisms were invited. All the members of our joint study selected topics that were related to structural change or transformation and stemmed from the reform and open door policies introduced since 1978. They were expected to address the topic from the standpoint of not only their own discipline and field but also from those beyond. They were also requested to conduct joint research and engage with foreign scholars whose fields of study were similar to theirs.

During the four years spanning 2002 to 2005, in addition to frequently exchanging views over e-mail, members of our collaborative project have convened annually in Japan or abroad to discuss the progress of their research. These discussions and exchanges have been reflected in this book.

We hope that this book will be widely read among China scholars not only in Japan but also abroad and that it will contribute to an understanding of China’s future.

Producing a book with authors not only from Japan but also Europe and the

Unite States is not easy work. For final editing of the completed draft, we owe much thanks to Ms. Saeko Takishita at the Oriental Library (Toyo Bunko), Assistant Professor Tomoki Kamo and Mr. Subaru Yamakage of Keio University for their assistance in proof reading and editing.

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