

***The China Quarterly* at 60: A Special Anniversary Issue:**

Founded in 1960, *The China Quarterly* is on the eve of entering its seventh decade of publishing world-class research on China. We are marking this milestone with a free-to-access virtual special issue containing some of the most influential articles over the past six decades measured by citations. As with any such enterprise, selection inevitably requires exclusion especially as we have chosen papers from each decade. However, by focusing on impact, this collection will serve as a beacon to the work of all past, present and indeed future authors published in *The China Quarterly*.

The virtual special issue is made up of 12 articles arranged chronologically. As a rough guide to this short introductory note, I have categorised the papers – post selection – into four broad and loosely interlinked themes: political control, governance and cadre management; the state, pluralisation and civil society; stratification and inequality; and personal ties and *guanxi*.

The first theme remains profoundly relevant given the ongoing stability of the Chinese Communist Party's rule. We learn from [Thomas B. Bernstein's](#) (1967) examination of the 1955–56 Collectivisation Campaign that well-established political control in China's villages allowed the space for a focus on economic control of agriculture in contrast to the Soviet Collectivisation Campaigns of 1929–30. More than thirty years later, the Party is focused on market orientation and cadre management reform. [Melanie Manion's](#) (1985) forensic examination of the January 1983 version of *Dang de zuzhi gongzuo wenda* (党组织工作问答, "Questions and Answers on Party Organizational Work") finds contrary forces at play that combine to undermine cadre management reform. On the other hand, [Maria Edin's](#) (1985) research on township cadre management suggests that heaven is not so high, and the emperor is not so far away after all, and that any failure in cadre management reform is the outcome of the centre's competing priorities. Control and monitoring over local leaders have increased. Fast forward to the early 2010s and the political control of the Party remains firm, prompting "optimistic claims about Beijing's authoritarian advantage" especially concerning China's environmental commitments. [Sarah Eaton and Genia Kostka](#) (2014) argue that the potential advantage is undermined by the frequent rotation of local leaders' who have insufficient time to see projects through.

The capacity of the CCP to manage transition and remain in power, contrary to some expectations, has generated scholarly inquiry. Authoritarian one-party rule has demonstrated adaptability as a process of "political pluralization" has crowded the policy-making field and "policy entrepreneurs" have entered the fray ([Andrew Mertha](#) 2009). [Jessica C. Teets](#) (2013) argued that the inclusion of new actors from an expanding civil society amounted to "a growing convergence on a new model of state–society relationship." To what extent this model of "consultative authoritarianism" was an outcome of [Jean C. Oi's](#) (1995) "state corporatism" in which "altered fiscal flows and property rights" guided and even drove the transition to corporate growth is worth reflecting upon given the dramatic increase in Party control over civil society since 2015.

Writing in an era when the Zeitgeist was far from getting gloriously rich, [Martin King Whyte](#) (1975) mapped evidence of inequality in Maoist China in which egalitarianism had become a dominant narrative. Although rural incomes averaged half of urban residents', there were also significant differences across rural incomes. Whyte found that the Party's main preoccupation was avoiding the emergence of "differentiated lifestyles" and concomitant social conflict. These were just a decade away anyway as the reform era unleashed a reserve army of rural migrants who formed what some scholars have called China's new working class. And yet, as [Kam Wing Chang and Li Zhang](#) (1999) argue in their article on processes and changes in the *hukou* system, this administrative barrier to the relative privileges of urban citizenship was unlikely to disappear soon. Despite further *hukou* reform, it remains the key institution affecting rural–urban migration today.

Finally, we turn to personal relations, friendship and *guanxi*. [Ezra Vogel](#) (1965) argues that the Party had successfully moved the goalposts of personal relationships from the graded and particularistic ties of "friendship" to the universalistic morality and apparently level playing field of "comradeship." Precisely twenty years later, [Thomas B. Gold](#) (1985) asks if the reach of the Party was as deep and granular as Vogel implies, and points to evidence of ritualistic behaviours as a form of superficial compliance. In Gold's opinion, comradeship's days may be numbered in the face of the entrepreneurialism unleashed by economic reform. [J. Bruce Jacobs](#) (1979) brings data on carefully cultivated particularistic ties of *guanxi* from a rural township in Taiwan to develop a "preliminary" model of Chinese particularistic ties as a guide to the study of "cultural influences in politics."

First and foremost, I hope that the influential and widely cited articles in this virtual special issue serve as inspiration for further research – not, of course, restricted to the themes described above. Second, and perhaps equally important given the horrid year we have collectively been through, I hope they provide as much intellectual stimulation to journal readers as they have done to me.

Tim Pringle
Editor

From Friendship to Comradeship: The Change in Personal Relations in Communist China

Ezra Vogel

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741000048463>

Leadership and Mass Mobilisation in the Soviet and Chinese Collectivisation Campaigns of 1929–30 and 1955–56 A Comparison

Thomas P. Bernstein

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741000028691>

Inequality and Stratification in China

Martin King Whyte

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741000007566>

A Preliminary Model of Particularistic Ties in Chinese Political Alliances: *Kan-ch'ing* and *Kuan-hsi* in a Rural Taiwanese Township

J. Bruce Jacobs

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741000040467>

After Comradeship: Personal Relations in China Since the Cultural Revolution

Thomas B. Gold

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S030574100003335X>

The Cadre Management System, Post-Mao: The Appointment, Promotion, Transfer and Removal of Party and State Leaders

Melanie Manion

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S030574100002991X>

The Role of the Local State in China's Transitional Economy

Jean C. Oi

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741000004768>

The Hukou System and Rural–Urban Migration in China: Processes and Changes

Kam Wing Chan and Li Zhang

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741000001351>

“Fragmented Authoritarianism 2.0”: Political Pluralization in the Chinese Policy Process

Andrew Mertha

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741009990592>

State Capacity and Local Agent Control in China: CCP Cadre Management from a Township Perspective

Maria Edin

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0009443903000044>

Let Many Civil Societies Bloom: The Rise of Consultative Authoritarianism in China

Jessica C. Teets

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741012001269>

Authoritarian Environmentalism Undermined? Local Leaders' Time Horizons and Environmental Policy Implementation in China

Sarah Eaton and Genia Kostka

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741014000356>