**The China Journal**

**Volume 88, Issue 1, July 2022**

**1. Title: Securing Authoritarian Capitalism in the Digital Age: The Political Economy of Surveillance in China.**

**Authors: Huang, Jingyang; Tsai, Kellee S.**

**Abstract:** To develop a robust surveillance apparatus in the digital age, autocracies are compelled to rely on foreign suppliers or to allow domestic private entrepreneurs to enter a strategic industrial sector. The process through which China developed a surveillance state led by globally competitive security companies exemplifies this authoritarian capitalist dynamic. Initial liberalization enabled domestic firms to adapt foreign technology and eventually introduce innovations in digital surveillance. By the late 2000s, China had developed a vibrant and segmented security industry: homegrown surveillance giants with the most advanced technology dominated public procurement contracts and export markets, while smaller and medium-size enterprises were creating intrusive monitoring applications that go well beyond what the state had originally envisioned. Because China's surveillance state rests on strong public-private linkages, the assumed alliance between surveillance capitalists and a despotic state has generated external backlash from liberal democratic countries. Global supply chains involving sensitive technology have remained resilient, however.

**2. Title: Passive Political Legitimacy: How the Chinese Online Sphere Went from Challenging to Supporting the State within the Past Decade.**

**Authors: Zhang, Yinxian.**

**Abstract:** The Chinese government's rhetoric and policies have become increasingly assertive in recent years, leading some observers abroad to see China as a threat to democracy and the international order. However, less attention has been devoted to the attitudes that Chinese people themselves hold toward democracy. How does the Chinese public view democracy in light of transformations occurring in both the domestic and international environments? This article examines a novel data set of Chinese social media posts published between 2009 and 2021 in order to investigate changes in popular attitudes toward democracy. Results show that while China's online sphere was once dominated by liberal voices, expressions of doubt about liberal democracy have become more pronounced since 2013. While tightened state control over online speech has been an important factor in this outcome, people's exposure to unsatisfactory political realities in Western democracies has also played a significant role. Chinese people's idealized expectations vis-à-vis the promises of liberal democracy have been challenged by perceptions that democratic regimes have delivered subpar performances and engage in "double standards" when dealing with China. This disillusionment with democracy has translated into popular support for the Chinese government, bringing about what the article identifies as the passive political legitimacy of the Chinese regime.

**3.** **Title: Liberating Party Animals: Cultural Governance and "Life Release" Rituals in China.**

**Authors: McCarthy, Susan K.**

**Abstract:** This article analyzes Chinese government efforts to manage and co-opt fangsheng, or life release, the ritual practice of liberating animals. When conducted inappropriately, this popular practice can damage ecosystems and disrupt public order. Besides stiffening penalties for indiscriminate fangsheng, the government is also trying to change how people understand and carry out life release by deploying it for a range of policy purposes. Leading this effort are official fangsheng associations that organize events and promote best practices. Their endeavors are aimed at a broad set of goals, such as restoring aquatic ecosystems, stopping illegal fishing, and encouraging mass participation in the building of the "ecological civilization." Officials' embrace of life release as a cultural governance tool is facilitated by the ritual's grassroots character, polysemy, and power to generate what Émile Durkheim called "collective effervescence." If channeled and contained by agents of the Party-state, "authoritarian effervescence" may be a potent tool for stimulating popular enthusiasm for regime objectives. The case of fangsheng underscores the Party-state's continued reliance on ritual, symbol, and spectacle as modes of rule.

**4. Title: Chinese Courts' New Plea Leniency System: Scrutinizing the Efficacy of Mandatory Defense Counsel.**

**Authors: Li, Enshen.**

**Abstract:** In 2016, China instituted an "Admission of Guilt and Acceptance of Punishment" (plea leniency) system to formalize the legal system's approach to guilty pleas in criminal proceedings. To legitimize this new justice scheme, it decreed that every accused must be provided with access to legal representation to safeguard the voluntariness and accuracy of the plea. This article examines this mandatory defense counsel assistance and questions the extent to which Chinese lawyers comply with the legislative goal. Based on interviews with 34 lawyers who have served as defense attorneys in Shanghai, it is found that lawyers in plea leniency cases are essentially confined to three peripheral roles—"explainer," "persuader," and "observer." Instead of conducting earnest work in plea negotiations and legal counseling, Chinese lawyers often "collegially" cooperate with criminal justice agencies (gongjianfa 公检法) to urge the accused to admit they are guilty. The findings indicate that the state's paramount concern for efficiency inherently marginalizes counsel's bargaining position. Pragmatic considerations also influence the defense counsel's conduct: a desire to maintain a beneficial relationship with legal authorities and unwillingness to challenge the generally accusatory, draconian, and conviction-centered nature of Chinese criminal proceedings. Overall, plea leniency catalyzes a further emasculated role for lawyers, who function primarily as a mechanical constituent of the country's increasingly monotonous assembly-line version of criminal justice.

**5. Title: Educational Migration and Rural Decline in China.**

**Authors: Wang, Dan; Teng, Yuan.**

**Abstract:** China has witnessed considerable rural educational migration in the last decade. Many rural families have been sending their children to nearby urban schools, accompanied by an adult family member who relocates to live with the child in the urban setting. Drawing on 128 in-depth interviews and 814 questionnaires with rural parents/guardians of primary-school students, plus more than 100 teachers, villagers, and officials in one county, this study investigates this widespread type of educational migration and the adverse consequences on the social and economic development of villages.

**以下是书评：**

**6. Title: Citizens and the State in Authoritarian Regimes: Comparing China and Russia**

**Authors: Bernstein, Thomas P.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Citizens and the State in Authoritarian Regimes: Comparing China and Russia” by Karrie Koesel and Valerie Bunce.

**7. Title: Minjian: The Rise of China’s Grassroots Intellectuals**

**Authors: Creemers, Rogier.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Minjian: The Rise of China’s Grassroots Intellectuals” by Sebastian Veg.

**8. Title: China’s New Red Guards: The Return of Radicalism and the Rebirth of Mao Zedong**

**Authors: Els van Dongen.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “China’s New Red Guards: The Return of Radicalism and the Rebirth of Mao Zedong” by Jude Blanchette.

**9. Title: Realistic Revolution: Contesting Chinese History, Culture, and Politics after 1989**

**Authors: Guo, Yingjie.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Realistic Revolution: Contesting Chinese History, Culture, and Politics after 1989” by Els van Dongen.

**10. Title: China and Europe on the New Silk Road: Connecting Universities across Eurasia.**

**Authors: Hayhoe, Ruth.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “China and Europe on the New Silk Road: Connecting Universities Across Eurasia” by Marijk van der Wende and William C. Kirby.

**11. Title: Red Creative: Culture and Modernity in China.**

**Authors: Wang, June.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Red Creative: Culture and Modernity in China” by Justin O'Connor and Xin Gu.

**12. Title: Queer Media in China.**

**Authors: Zhao, Jamie J.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Queer Media in China” by Hongwei Bao.

**13. Title: Sino-Enchantment: The Fantastic in Contemporary Chinese Cinemas.**

**Authors: Berry, Chris.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Sino-Enchantment: The Fantastic in Contemporary Chinese Cinemas” by Kenneth Chan and Andrew Stuckley.

**14. Title: Access to Justice for the Chinese Consumer: Handling Consumer Disputes in Contemporary China.**

**Authors: Godwin, Andrew.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Access to Justice for the Chinese Consumer: Handling Consumer Disputes in Contemporary China” by Ling Zhou.

**15. Title: Certifying China: The Rise and Limits of Transnational Sustainability Governance in Emerging Economies**

**Authors: Chan, Gerald.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Certifying China: The Rise and Limits of Transnational Sustainability Governance in Emerging Economies” by Yixian Sun.

**16. Title: China’s Environmental Foreign Relations**

**Authors: Li, Yifei.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “China’s Environmental Foreign Relations” by Heidi Wang-Kaeding.

**17. Title: The Great Smog of China: A Short Event History of Air Pollution**

**Authors: Eaton, Sarah.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “The Great Smog of China: A Short Event History of Air Pollution” by Anna L. Ahlers, Mette Halskov Hansen, and Rune Svarverud.

**18.** **Title: China Goes Green: Coercive Environmentalism for a Troubled Planet**

**Authors: Wu, Fengshi.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “China Goes Green: Coercive Environmentalism for a Troubled Planet” by Yifei Li, and Judith Shapiro.

**19. Title: Chinese Environmental Contention: Linking Up against Waste Incineration**

**Authors: Teets, Jessica C.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Chinese Environmental Contention: Linking Up against Waste Incineration” by Maria Bondes.

**20. Title: The Politics of People: Protest Cultures in China**

**Authors: Chen, Xi.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “The Politics of People: Protest Cultures in China” by Shih-Ding Liu.

**21. Title: The Chinese Communist Youth League: Juniority and Responsiveness in a Party Youth Organization**

**Authors: Graziani, Sofia.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “The Chinese Communist Youth League: Juniority and Responsiveness in a Party Youth Organization” by Konstantinos D. Tsimonis.

**22. Title: Policing China: Street-Level Cops in the Shadow of Protest**

**Authors: Li, Enshen.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Policing China: Street-Level Cops in the Shadow of Protest” by Suzanne E. Scoggins.

**23. Title: Chinese Netizens’ Opinions on Death Sentences: An Empirical Examination**

**Authors: Moulin Xiong.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Chinese Netizens’ Opinions on Death Sentences: An Empirical Examination” by Bin Liang, and Jianhong Liu.

**24. Title: The Chinese Internet: The Online Public Sphere, Power Relations, and Political Communication**

**Authors: Benney, Jonathan.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “The Chinese Internet: The Online Public Sphere, Power Relations, and Political Communication” by Qingning Wang.

**25. Title: The People’s Health: Health Intervention and Delivery in Mao’s China, 1949–1983**

**Authors: Core, Rachel.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “The People’s Health: Health Intervention and Delivery in Mao’s China, 1949–1983” by Xun Zhou.

**26. Title: China and the Cholera Pandemic: Restructuring Society under Mao**

**Authors: Yu, Sarah.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “China and the Cholera Pandemic: Restructuring Society under Mao” by Xiaoping Fang.

**27. Title: The Wuhan Lockdown**

**Authors: Zou, Dongxin.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “The Wuhan Lockdown” by Guobin Yang.

**28. Title: Workers and Change in China: Resistance, Repression, Responsiveness**

**Authors: Li, Chunyun.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Workers and Change in China: Resistance, Repression, Responsiveness” by Manfred Elfstrom.

**29. Title: Embodying Middle-Class Gender Aspirations: Perspectives from China’s Privileged Young Women**

**Authors: Huang, Xin.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Embodying Middle-Class Gender Aspirations: Perspectives from China’s Privileged Young Women” by Kailing Xie.

**30. Title: Divorce in China: Institutional Constraints and Gendered Outcomes**

**Authors:** **Li, Ke.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Divorce in China: Institutional Constraints and Gendered Outcomes” by Xin He.

**31. Title: Modernization as Lived Experiences: Three Generations of Young Men and Women in China**

**Authors: Clark, Paul.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Modernization as Lived Experiences: Three Generations of Young Men and Women in China” by Fengshu Liu.

**32. Title: The Inconvenient Generation: Migrant Youth Coming of Age on Shanghai’s Edge**

**Authors: Goodburn, Charlotte.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “The Inconvenient Generation: Migrant Youth Coming of Age on Shanghai’s Edge” by Minhua Ling.

**33. Title: Discourses of Race and Rising China**

**Authors: Carrico, Kevin.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Discourses of Race and Rising China” by Cheng Yinghong.

**34. Title: Ethnicity and Inequality in China**

**Authors: Hayes, Anna.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Ethnicity and Inequality in China” by Björn A. Gustafsson, Reza Hasmath, and Sai Ding.

**35. Title: Land of Strangers: The Civilizing Project in Qing Central Asia**

**Authors: Freeman, Joshua L.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Land of Strangers: The Civilizing Project in Qing Central Asia” by Eric Schluessel.

**36. Title: Catching Up to America: Culture, Institutions, and the Rise of China**

**Authors: Chan, Steve.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Catching Up to America: Culture, Institutions, and the Rise of China” by Tian Zhu.

**37. Title: Governing and Ruling: The Political Logic of Taxation in China**

**Authors: Qian, Jiwei.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Governing and Ruling: The Political Logic of Taxation in China” by Changdong Zhang.

**38. Title:** **China in the Asian Financial Crisis,**

**Authors: Hofman, Bert.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “China in the Asian Financial Crisis” by Peter Nolan.

**39. Title: The Long Game: China’s Grand Strategy to Displace American Order**

**Authors: Fewsmith, Joseph.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “The Long Game: China’s Grand Strategy to Displace American Order” by Rush Doshi.

**40. Title: China and the World**

**Authors: Foot, Rosemary.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “China and the World” by David Shambaugh.

**41. Title: The World According to China**

**Authors: Yue Chan, Edward Sing.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “The World According to China” by Elizabeth C. Economy.

**42. Title: Protecting China’s Interests Overseas: Securitization and Foreign Policy**

**Authors: He, Kai.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Protecting China’s Interests Overseas: Securitization and Foreign Policy” by Andrea Ghiselli.

**43. Title: China’s Global Quest for Resources: Energy, Food, and Water**

**Authors: Chun-Kai Leung.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “China’s Global Quest for Resources: Energy, Food, and Water” by Fengshi Wu, and Hongzhou Zhang.

**44. Title: China’s Political Worldview and Chinese Exceptionalism: International Order and Global Leadership**

**Authors: Fung, Courtney J.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “China’s Political Worldview and Chinese Exceptionalism: International Order and Global Leadership” by Benjamin Tze Ern Ho.

**45. Title: China’s Strategic Arsenal: Worldview, Doctrine, and Systems**

**Authors: Zhang, Jian.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “China’s Strategic Arsenal: Worldview, Doctrine, and Systems” by James M. Smith, and Paul J. Bolt.

**46. Title: Rethinking Sino-Japanese Alienation: History Problems and Historical Opportunities**

**Authors: Welch, David A.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Rethinking Sino-Japanese Alienation: History Problems and Historical Opportunities” by Barry Buzan, and Evelyn Goh.

**47. Title: The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India**

**Authors: Desai, Suyash.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India” by Vijay Gokhale.

**48. Title: Coevolutionary Pragmatism: Approaches and Impacts of China-Africa Economic Cooperation**

**Authors: Yueh, Linda.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Coevolutionary Pragmatism: Approaches and Impacts of China-Africa Economic Cooperation” by Xiaoyang Tang.

**49. Title: China and Africa: The New Era**

**Authors: Johnston, Lauren A.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “China and Africa: The New Era” by Daniel Large.

**50. Title: China-Africa and an Economic Transformation**

**Authors: Tang, Xiaoyang.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “China-Africa and an Economic Transformation” by Arkebe Oqubay, and Justin Yifu Lin.

**51. Title: The Chinese Communist Party: A Century in Ten Lives**

**Authors: Weigelin-Schwiedrzik, Susanne.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “The Chinese Communist Party: A Century in Ten Lives” by Timothy Cheek, Klaus Mühlhahn, and Hans van der Ven.

**52. Title: Through the storm—the PLA in the Cultural Revolution**

**Authors: Dong Guoqiang.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Through the storm—the PLA in the Cultural Revolution” by Yu Ruxin.

**53. Title: The Making of the Modern Chinese State, 1600–1950**

**Authors: Fitzgerald, John.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “The Making of the Modern Chinese State, 1600–1950” by Huaiyin Li.

**54. Title: Going to the Countryside: The Rural in the Modern Chinese Cultural Imagination, 1915–1965**

**Authors: Chang-tai, Hung.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Going to the Countryside: The Rural in the Modern Chinese Cultural Imagination, 1915–1965” by Yu Zhang.

**55. Title: Chinese Asianism, 1894–1945**

**Authors: Murthy, Viren.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Chinese Asianism, 1894–1945” by Craig A. Smith.

**56. Title: Meeting Place: Encounters across Cultures in Hong Kong, 1841–1984**

**Authors: Tai-lok Lui.**

**Abstract:** The article reviews the book “Meeting Place: Encounters across Cultures in Hong Kong, 1841–1984” by Elizabeth Sinn, and Christopher Munn.