

**Huhua Cao & Jeremy Paltiel (eds), *Facing China as New Global Power Domestic and International Dynamics from a Multidisciplinary Angle* (New York, London, Heidelberg, & Singapore: Springer, 2016), 279.**

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Today, China matters. The emerging China is no longer the old China. It is rising to unprecedented level that draws the attention of businessmen, academics, and strategists alike. China has become a new subject of inquiry among different disciplines and new publications are appearing every day. Within this paradigm, *Facing China as New Global Power Domestic and International Dynamics from a Multidisciplinary Angle*, edited by Huhua Cao & Jeremy Paltiel, adds new scholarship on the rise of China as a global power and answers important questions in a logical manner.

Contributors to the book have eloquently discussed various discourses related to China's growing power. This includes corporatist representation via People's Congress and State-Society interaction, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and community-based social development, approach to land rights, soft power, identity, and literary reflection in a globalised order. There is a focus on the Sino-Canadian relations and the authors have discussed various aspects of the relationship between the two countries. Chapters on China's relations with India and Mali are also revealing.

Jing Qian attempts to see how China's authoritarian regime deals with the issue of interest representation in an increasingly pluralistic society, and what is the role of the People's Congress in this struggle. By representing diverse interests of social sectors in a corporatist style, the People's Congress acts as an intermediary between the State and the society. The author's examination of this arrangement reveals that many of the tensions in this relationship are still taking place at the local level.

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Leslie Shieh in her thesis says that the profit organisations in China also reflect the welfare of the society in the post-reform era. Kamyar Razavi has examined the application of property rights law in Chongqing. He highlights the clash between State pre-eminence and the realities of global capitalism and explains the relationship between property ownership and economic development. He brings about a number of contradictions, which exist between the private property-oriented legislation and the continuing dominance of the State's socialist ideology.

Many interesting and noteworthy observations have been made by contributors on Sino-Canadian relations. Eric Lefrançois analyses the detailed history of Canada's relations with China since 1949. The relationship between both the states was marginalised because of the former's unwillingness to recognise China following the Canadian stance as adopted by the United States until 1970. Canada recognised China in 1973 following the visit of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Canada's policy toward China had remained stable since then. The author is of the opinion that Canada should maintain positive relations with China because of its recent economic ascendance. Jeremy Paltiel advises the Canadian decision-makers to ensure a positive trajectory of the future Sino-Canadian relations as China rises as a great power in the future.

Minxing Zhao discusses the major obstacle to human rights and death penalty in the Sino-Canadian relations that impedes criminal justice and cooperation, and Canada's subsequent refusal to extradite Chinese fugitives on its soil - a major concerns in their bilateral relations. This is also a serious issue as China has launched anti-graft campaign to end corruption and the Canadian Government should cooperate with China. The author says that "although China has made some changes to its death penalty law which move China some distance toward international legal standards, it would not be an easy task to predict whether and to what extent these reform endeavours will be beneficial to strengthening bilateral ties in criminal justice cooperation." (p. 120).

Similarly, Charles-Louis Labrecque also critically analyses light on the broader issue of human rights in tracing out the Sino-Canadian relations since 1970, which is a major source of contention in view of the Canadian foreign policy. The author has identified five shifts in the area

of human rights during 1970-2015 as affected by changes of governments in Canada (p. 141). Hongxia Shan focuses on the experience of the Chinese diaspora in Canada, concentrating specifically on the reality of Chinese immigrant engineers to the way in which they communicate, socialise, and solve problems in order to adapt to the Canadian work environment.

Matthew Skogstad-Stubbs describes China's urban transition making Shanghai Expo 2010 as a case in the development of Shanghai as a global city. The author says that the city of Shanghai has grown as a global capital during 1990-2010 under good governance, particularly when the city won the bid to host Expo of every single country on earth in 2010 (pp. 163 & 168). Adam MacDonald lays focus on three core principles of China's emerging foreign policy: access to economic and political resources; assurance of China's intentions as peaceful; and acceptance of China as an emerging power. He also looks at the question of whether China is a *status-quo* or a revisionist power.

Ajay Parasram analyses the Sino-Indian confrontation to depict how these two emerging powers are locked in a competition. He looks at how China and India view each other in the South and South East Asian regional spaces and the Bay of Bengal (p. 198). His bias can easily be seen when he writes "Pakistan has been the most notorious South Asian state to align itself militarily with China, and is related geographically and strategically to core issues of bilateral contention between the hegemons" (pp. 201-2). The fact remains that India has serious bilateral issues with China related to border demarcation, Tibet and the Bay of Bengal. Pakistan, it must be pointed out, has nothing to do with these issues.

Matthew Gaudreau concludes that China's rice projects in Mali are drawing attention to the importance and complexities of Chinese cooperation for a successful international development programme in the future. The author also looks at China's policy toward the Sub-Saharan Africa and its increasing influence in that continent. To meet food-shortage, China has offered eighteen rice plantation projects in African countries and has emerged as a significant donor (p. 219). Jennifer Junwa Lau critically reviews the Chinese-Canadian identity in Toronto's Chinatown. The Chinese community in Toronto has clearly evolved (p.

241) and the author compares the identity of the Chinese-Canadian with native Canadians and finds obvious differences. Finally, Min Yang throws light on Chinese literary modernism (*Menglong*) in the post-Mao era during 1978-1983. The author argues that it is unclear whether literary modernism was self-aware or misunderstood romanticism. He says that the literally modernism (in China) was constructed within the context of social and political discourses (p. 253), while simultaneously influenced by Western thoughts.

In short, the study under review is a good compendium of research references and sources and contributors have constructed their arguments in a logical and not stereotypical manner. Arguments, contents, references, and the chronology of the Sino-Canadian relations offers illuminating insight to the reader. The book covers multiple areas of interests on modern China and would be of keen interest to the scholars of Chinese studies.