The Research…

After the collapse of communism, China has gone through tremendous economical reform, and very actively opening her trading doors to the world…

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1. Simensen, Jarle

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Thomas, Daniel C. (Daniel Charles)
*Human Rights Ideas, the Demise of Communism, and the End of the Cold War* [View in PDF]
*Journal of Cold War Studies* - Volume 7, Number 2, Spring 2005, pp. 110-141 – Article

Kopstein, Jeffrey
*Geographic Diffusion and the Transformation of the Postcommunist World* [View in PDF]
*World Politics* - Volume 53, Number 1, October 2000, pp. 1-37 - Article
China’s Changing of the Guard

CONTRADICTORY TRENDS AND CONFUSING SIGNALS

Minxin Pei
economic globalization. But unlike the majority of developing countries that appear to have reaped only meager benefits from globalization while paying a steep price (Argentina being the best example), China (along with India) seems to have avoided globalization’s main pitfalls. For one, China has taken advantage of trends in free trade and capital flow to develop competitive manufacturing capabilities aimed at world markets, and has leveraged its pro-investor policies and market size to attract heavy foreign direct investment (FDI). Moreover, the Chinese leadership has retained its ability to intervene in the marketplace and, consequently, avoided the catastrophic mistakes made by developing countries that have fully embraced neoliberalism. \(^1\)

Politically, China’s experience over the last two decades also stands out. Its transition from orthodox (Chinese) communism began roughly at the same time as the early phase of the “third wave” of democratization in the developing world. The leadership’s commitment to one-party rule and its ambivalence toward democracy has meanwhile been notable for its explicitness, but also for its tenacity. Unlike most third-wave countries that pursued economic reform in order to consolidate democratic rule, the CCP did not attempt to conceal its intention of using economic reform in order to strengthen and perpetuate its own political monopoly. To be sure, the Party has embraced several leading global political trends, such as legal reform and the decentralization of power. But these institutional reforms have not substantively altered the defining characteristics of the CCP or led to any real democratic changes.

The resilience of the regime was demonstrated repeatedly as the Party weathered a series of internal and external challenges to its survival. Its near-death experience at Tiananmen Square in the spring of 1989 and its shock at the fall of communist regimes in the former Soviet bloc