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Contemporary China

Alan Hunter
and
John Sexton

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First published 1999 by
MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

ISBN 978-0-333-71003-6 ISBN 978-1-349-27441-3 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-27441-3

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and made from fully managed and sustained forest sources. Logging, pulping and manufacturing processes are expected to conform to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library.

Copy-edited and typeset by Povey-Edmondson
Tavistock and Rochdale, England

Published in the United States of America 1999 by
ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, INC.,
Scholarly and Reference Division,
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010

ISBN 978-0-312-22146-1 hardcover
ISBN 978-0-312-22147-8 paperback

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Preface and Acknowledgements

In line with the series style, references in the text have been kept to a minimum. Some of the issues raised are controversial, and there are many areas of disagreement among specialists about finer points of analysis. Moreover, statistical information about China should be treated with caution, although its accuracy is certainly improving. Given space constraints we are unable to report all divergent points of view, but in the 'Recommended Reading' section (p. 211) readers will find a range of works which provide a basis for further study.

Much of *Contemporary China* focuses on China in the late 1990s, although background information on modern history and politics is included. The economy in particular is changing so rapidly that we have used current data sources including the Internet, which now provides much information about China. We cover many trends up to spring 1998. Beyond that, China may be relatively stable for a few years, in which case most of the patterns and policies described here could remain in force. Or, it may enter a period of significant political and economic upheaval. If so, readers will have to provide their own updates, and may find the Internet a good first stop for news and views.

Chinese terms have been kept to a minimum. Where Chinese words and names are used, they are given in the transliteration system known as 'hanyu pinyin', with the exception of a very few proper names, like Hong Kong, for which a different international usage has been established. Many syllables in hanyu pinyin can be pronounced more or less as in English. Important exceptions are:

- 'c' followed by a vowel is pronounced like 'ts' as in 'rats' (so 'cai' is something like 'tsai');
- 'q' like 'ch' in 'cheese' ('qiu': 'chew');
- 'x' like 'sh' in 'ship' ('xu': 'shoe');
- 'z' like 'dz' in 'buds' ('ze': 'dze');
- 'zh' like 'j' in 'jam' ('zhou': 'Joe').

The Chinese currency is known by two terms, 'renminbi' and 'yuan': we have opted to use the former. As explained in Chapter 3, it is often difficult to make meaningful comparisons between Chinese and international prices.

The authors would like to thank Greg Benton for his encouragement and advice; Jane Bell, Joy Hunter, and Julian Szego for their helpful comments and criticism; and Johanne Goring for her assistance with the Bibliography.

ALAN HUNTER
JOHN SEXTON

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BCE	Before the Common Era (BC)
BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CE	Common Era (AD)
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CMC	Central Military Commission
CNN	Cable News Network
Comintern	Communist International
CPPCC	Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
CPSU	Communist Party of the Soviet Union
FDI	foreign direct investment
FSU	Former Soviet Union
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP	gross domestic product
GMD	Guomindang (Nationalist Party)
GNP	gross national product
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)
ICBM	Inter Continental Ballistic Missile
IDA	International Development Association
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MAC	Military Affairs Commission
MFN	Most Favoured Nation
MTV	MTV (Music Television) Network
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
NPC	National People's Congress

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NRA	National Revolutionary Army
PBC	People's Bank of China
PLA	People's Liberation Army
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PRC	People's Republic of China
ROC	Republic of China
SAR	Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong)
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
TVE	Township and Village Enterprise
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America
US	United States
USSR	Soviet Union
WTO	World Trade Organization

Note: The term 'the Party' is also used to refer to the Chinese Communist Party.

Note to map: Although numerous adjustments have been made to internal administrative boundaries over the centuries, many of modern China's provinces and provincial capitals are of ancient origin. There are currently twenty-three provinces (including the island of Taiwan over which China claims sovereignty), many of them the size of major European countries. The largest, Sichuan, has a population of 120 million. Equivalent in status to provinces are five 'autonomous regions' (Guangxi, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Tibet, and Xinjiang) and four municipalities (Beijing, Chongqing, Shanghai, and Tianjin). In July 1997, Hong Kong reverted to China and in 1999 the former Portuguese colony of Macao will follow. These territories will have the status of 'Special Administrative Regions' (SARs).

China's provinces and major cities