Has China become just another capitalist country in a socialist cloak? Will the Chinese Communist Party’s rule survive the next ten years of modernization and globalization? Frank N. Pieke investigates these conundrums in this fascinating account of how government officials are trained for placement in the Chinese Communist Party. Through in-depth interviews and a survey of staff members and aspiring trainees, he shows that while the Chinese Communist Party has undergone a radical transformation since the revolutionary years under Mao, it is still incumbent upon cadres, who are selected through a highly rigorous process, to be ideologically and politically committed to the party. It is the lessons learned through their teachers that shape the political and economic decisions they will make in power. The book offers unique insights into the structure and the ideological culture of the Chinese government, and how it has reinvented itself over the last three decades as a neo-socialist state.

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Contents

List of illustrations vi

Preface vii

1 Socialism, capitalism and the anthropology of neo-socialist rule 1

2 Cadres, cadre training and party schools 26

3 Cadre training and education in the twenty-first century 56

4 Life and work at party schools 81

5 Marketization and centralization of cadre education and training 114

6 Cadre training, cadre careers and the changing composition of China’s political elite 141

7 Conclusions: cadre training and the future of party rule 180

Appendix 1 List of interviewees 196

Appendix 2 Student questionnaire survey 201

Appendix 3 Glossary of Chinese terms 206

References 210

Index 222
Illustrations

PHOTOGRAPHS
Photo 1.1 Professor Duan Eryu and the author in front of the entrance of the Yunnan Provincial Party School page 22
Photo 4.1 Inside the Yunnan Provincial Party School 82
Photo 4.2 Student dormitory at the Yunnan Provincial Party School 83
Photo 4.3 Getting ready for lunch at the Yunnan Provincial Party School 84
Photo 5.1 Entrance of the Qujing Party School 134
Photo 5.2 Classroom at the party school of Honghe Prefecture 135

FIGURES
Figure 6.1 Odds of rank mobility by gender, age and education 152
Figure 6.2 Crossover of units by age and gender 155

MAPS
Map 1 The People's Republic of China viii
Map 2 Yunnan Province ix
Preface

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Map 2 Yunnan Province