Wealth into Power
The Communist Party’s Embrace of China’s Private Sector

In Wealth into Power, Bruce J. Dickson challenges the notion that economic development is leading to political change in China or that China’s private entrepreneurs are helping to promote democratization. Instead, they have become partners with the ruling Chinese Communist Party to promote economic growth while maintaining the political status quo. Dickson’s research illuminates the Communist Party’s strategy for incorporating China’s capitalists into the political system and shows how the shared interests, personal ties, and common views of the party and the private sector are creating a form of “crony communism.” Rather than being potential agents of change, China’s entrepreneurs may prove to be a key source of support for the party’s agenda. Based on years of research and original survey data, this book will be of interest to all those interested in China’s political future and the relationship between economic wealth and political power.

Bruce J. Dickson received his PhD from the University of Michigan in 1994. He has been a professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University since 1993, where he served as director of the Sigur Center for Asian Studies and the Asian Studies Program from 1998 to 2001 and as the director of graduate studies in the Political Science department from 2004 to 2006. He is the author of Red Capitalists in China: The Party, Private Entrepreneurs, and Prospects for Political Change (2003) and Democratization in China and Taiwan: The Adaptability of Leninist Parties (1997), as well as numerous articles.
Wealth into Power

The Communist Party’s Embrace of China’s Private Sector

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Acknowledgments

When I first began to study the political impact of China’s private entrepreneurs, I never imagined I would still be at it more than ten years later. My main interest has been the evolution of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), in particular its ability to adapt to the social and economic reforms under way in China. The relationship between the CCP and the private sector has proven to be a valuable window on that larger issue, and this is the second book I have written on that research question. Without advice and encouragement from a variety of people over the years, this research would not have been possible.

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