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978-0-521-88235-4 - Decentralized Authoritarianism in China: The Communist Party's Control of Local Elites in the Post-Mao Era

Pierre F. Landry

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Decentralized Authoritarianism in China

China, like many authoritarian regimes, struggles with the tension between the need to foster economic development by empowering local officials and the regime's imperative to control them politically. Pierre F. Landry explores how the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) manages local officials in order to meet these goals and perpetuate an unusually decentralized authoritarian regime.

Using unique data collected at the municipal, county, and village levels, Landry examines in detail how the promotion mechanisms for local cadres have allowed the CCP to reward officials for the development of their localities without weakening political control. His research shows that the CCP's personnel management system is a key factor in explaining China's enduring authoritarianism and proves convincingly that decentralization and authoritarianism can work hand in hand.

Pierre F. Landry is Associate Professor of Political Science at Yale University and a Research Fellow with the Research Center for Contemporary China at Peking University. He is an alumnus of the Hopkins-Nanjing program and taught in the Yale-Peking University joint undergraduate program in 2007. His research interests focus on Chinese politics, comparative local government, and quantitative comparative political analysis. His recent articles have appeared in *Political Analysis* and *The China Quarterly*.

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*The Communist Party's Control of Local Elites
in the Post-Mao Era*

PIERRE F. LANDRY

Yale University



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Abbreviations

CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CLC	county-level city
COD	Central Organization Department
CYL	Communist Youth League
DIC	Discipline Inspection Commission
JES	Jiangsu Elite Study
LPC	local people's congress
MCA	Ministry of Civil Affairs
MO	mass organization
NPC	National People's Congress
OD	Organization Department
PBS	(Communist) Party branch secretary
PLA	People's Liberation Army
PPC	provincial people's congress
PPPCC	provincial people's political consultative conference
PRC	People's Republic of China
RMB	Renminbi
SEZ	special economic zone
<i>Subei</i>	Chinese abbreviation for Northern Jiangsu
<i>Sunan</i>	Chinese abbreviation for Southern Jiangsu
TPC	township people's congress
TVE	township and village enterprise
VC	village committee
VCC	village committee chairman

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