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Elements in Politics and Society in East Asia

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THE STATE AND CAPITALISM IN CHINA

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The State and Capitalism in China

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Abstract: China's contemporary political economy features an emboldened role for the state as owner and regulator, and with markets expected to act in the service of party-state goals. How has the relationship between the state and different types of firms evolved?

This Element situates China's reform-era political economy in comparative analytic perspective with attention to adaptations of its model over time. Just as other types of economies have generated internal dynamics and external reactions that undermine initial arrangements, so too has China's political economy. While China's state has always played a core role in development, prioritization of growth has shifted to a variant of state capitalism best described as "party-state capitalism," which emphasizes risk management and leadership by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Rather than reflecting long-held intentions of the CCP, the transition to party-state capitalism emerged from reactions to perceived threats and problems, some domestic and some external. These adaptations are refracted in the contemporary crises of global capitalism. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Keywords: China, political economy, state capitalism, government-business relations, global capitalism

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