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978-1-107-09063-7 - Training the Party: Party Adaptation and Elite Training in Reform-era China

Charlotte P. Lee

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Training the Party

Charlotte Lee considers organizational changes taking place within the contemporary Chinese Communist Party (CCP), examining the party's renewed emphasis on an understudied but core set of organizations: party-managed training academies or "party schools." This national network of organizations enables party authorities to exert political control over the knowledge, skills, and careers of officials. Drawing on in-depth field research and novel datasets, Lee finds that the party school system has not been immune to broader market-based reforms but instead has incorporated many of the same strategies as actors in China's hybrid, state-led private sector. In the search for revenue and status, schools have updated training content and become more entrepreneurial as they compete and collaborate with domestic and international actors. This book draws attention to surprising dynamism located within the party in political organizations thought immune to change, and to the transformative effect of the market on China's political system.

CHARLOTTE LEE is Associate Director of the China Program at Stanford University's Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center. Prior to joining the Stanford China Program, she taught courses in Chinese politics, comparative politics, and international relations at Hamilton College and the United States Air Force Academy. Her research focuses on the institutions of authoritarian regimes, public bureaucracies, organizations, and contemporary Chinese politics. She holds a doctorate in political science from Stanford University and a Bachelor of Arts in political economy and Asian studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107090637

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First published 2015

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Lee, Charlotte P., 1969–

Training the party : party adaptation and elite training in reform-era China / Charlotte P. Lee.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-09063-7

1. Zhongguo gong chan dang. 2. China – Politics and government – 1949

I. Title.

JQ1519.A5C349 2015

324.251'075–dc23

2015004121

ISBN 978-1-107-09063-7 Hardback

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Acknowledgments

When I began this project ten years ago, I had little idea that the road would be so delightfully peopled with teachers and friends, both old and new, who would bring much insight to the undertaking. Along the way, I have become indebted to many individuals on both sides of the Pacific, and each has contributed to my research and thinking in ways that are difficult to measure. I am grateful for the generosity of ideas and spirit that many mentors, friends, and family have bestowed on me during these years.

This book first took shape as my dissertation at Stanford University, and it acquired its present form during my time in the Government Department at Hamilton College, in the Department of Political Science at the US Air Force Academy, and at the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford. Heartfelt thanks go first to Jean Oi. Her formidable skills in the field and in the classroom will continue to shape my approach to the study of China. I also could not have completed this project without the encouragement of two other readers at Stanford, Beatriz Magaloni and Mike McFaul. Beatriz challenged me always with her questioning and thinking about how the China case fits into our understanding of authoritarian systems. I am grateful for Mike's big questions and his ability to support my work while handling calls from the "situation room." Special thanks go to Andy Walder, for pushing my research in new directions, and Alice Miller, who has taught me volumes about the intricacies of elite politics in China. Joe Fewsmith sharpened the project by facilitating discussions with thoughtful audiences. I thank David Shambaugh for his generosity with documentary sources.

The process of writing this book was also due in no small part to the support of my colleagues at Stanford, Hamilton, USAFA, and beyond. Thanks go to Yuen Yuen Ang, Xiaobin He, Xiaojun Li, and Kay Shimizu for reviewing drafts and advising on data analysis. Special thanks also to scholars from "across the Bay," Leslie Wang and Rachel Stern, for including me in their China circles and providing invaluable guidance.

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xii Acknowledgments

I am fortunate to be surrounded by so many talented China researchers, and I draw much inspiration from them.

My deep thanks and appreciation go to each of my many friends and acquaintances in China. They remain anonymous here, but without their time and insights this book would not have been possible. I am grateful to have met so many Chinese teachers, officials, and students who were willing to share their experiences and, in so doing, illuminate some of the challenges and solutions devised within their complex political system. I thank in particular Professors Chen, Fan, Hu, Mu, Xiang, Yu, and Yuan for their energetic guidance throughout my fieldwork. In a field where the data collection challenges are daunting, I am grateful for the research assistance of Kiki, Chelsea, Haihui, Shaorong, Xiaoya, Luke, and Zhaofen.

My research would not have been possible without financial and administrative support from many organizations. The National Science Foundation, US Department of Defense Minerva Initiative, and Hamilton College all supported my research at various stages. At Stanford University, I remain grateful to the faculty and staffs of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, and Center for East Asian Studies. At Cambridge University Press, I am thankful for the care with which my editor, Lucy Rhymer, her assistant, Fleur Jones, and a terrific copyediting team shepherded my project through the review and publication process. I also thank two anonymous reviewers for their careful reading of the manuscript, which improved the book in many ways.

Finally, I am deeply grateful to many personal friends and family members for their boundless generosity and support. The entire “village” has kept me well nourished all these years. I remain especially grateful to my parents, Jean and Ken, and my brothers, Eric and Kennon, who have been a part of my explorations of China from the very beginning. I thank my husband, Nik, and daughter, Lesara, without whose humor, patience, and love this project would be much diminished.