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978-0-521-09820-5 - Authority Participation and Cultural Change in China

Edited by Stuart R. Schram

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AUTHORITY, PARTICIPATION AND
CULTURAL CHANGE IN CHINA

ESSAYS BY A EUROPEAN STUDY GROUP

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ESSAYS BY A EUROPEAN STUDY GROUP

Edited and with an introduction by

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With contributions by

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PREFACE

The activities which culminated in the production of this volume took place during the last two years of my tenure as Head of the Contemporary China Institute; editorial work has gone forward subsequently with the encouragement and support of the present Head of the Institute, Christopher Howe. At a preliminary meeting in London in April 1971, attended by approximately twenty scholars from France, Germany, Holland and the United Kingdom, plans were drawn up for the organization of a European Study Group on China after the Cultural Revolution. Preliminary drafts of papers on various aspects of China today were discussed at meetings of this 'core group' of authors and discussants held in Hamburg in February 1972, and in Leiden in May. Revised versions were then presented at a week-long conference at Urchfont Manor, near Devizes, in Wiltshire, England, in September 1972, with the participation of an additional ten specialists from countries in Europe and North America. At this final gathering, a total of nine countries were represented.

Not all of the members of the Study Group wrote papers, and not all of the papers which were produced could be revised for inclusion in this book. All those who attended the sessions did, nevertheless, contribute substantially to the success of the enterprise, not only by enriching the discussions at the time, but by putting forward ideas which have helped the authors represented here to revise and improve their articles. The debts thus incurred are so numerous and varied that it would be invidious to single out any of them here. One name must, however, be mentioned: that of Erik von Groeling. Dr von Groeling's paper, 'The Impact of Power Politics on Party Building: the CCP 1969-72', gave rise to lively and fruitful discussions at Urchfont. In the light of these, he had drawn up, late in 1972, plans for extensive revision and updating, which he unfortunately did not live to carry out. He died in hospital on 10 January 1973, at the age

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PREFACE

of 32. All of us who attended the meetings in which he participated will remember him for his keen and lively intelligence, and for his friendly and modest demeanour.

As this project draws to a conclusion, our thanks must go first of all to the Stiftung Volkswagenwerk, which provided the totality of the funds for travel, subsistence and entertainment incurred in the course of the four meetings of the Study Group. This sum was part of a larger grant to the School of Oriental and African Studies, in behalf of the Contemporary China Institute, for the development of contacts and cooperation on a European basis among students of contemporary China. There is no doubt that it has effectively served this end.

I also wish to express my own personal appreciation to Averill Norton, Viola Shaw, and Janet Wilson, secretaries to the Institute, for working long and hard to produce transcripts of the Urchfont discussions, and to type and re-type manuscripts. I am grateful to David Wilson for the assistance of his deft and vigorous editorial hand in preparing the final manuscript of the volume, and to Christopher Howe and Denis Twitchett, who read the draft at an earlier stage. My own contribution was unfortunately not completed in time to be discussed at Urchfont. Thus, while I must thank all the participants for the stimulus I derived from the proceedings, none of them are in any way responsible for failing to point out the shortcomings of the introductory essay.

STUART R. SCHRAM

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NOTE TO THE 1975 REPRINT

These essays are being reissued substantially in the form in which they were first sent to the printer in the spring of 1973. Some typographical errors have been corrected, and a few small substantive changes have been made in order to place events in a truer perspective, but no information has been incorporated regarding developments of the past two years. Thus the book retains its character as an attempt to describe and analyse certain aspects of Chinese society at the moment when they first began to take shape after the Cultural Revolution. In the opinion of the authors, much of this description remains valid and relevant, but the reader must be warned that the significance of one key symbol has changed: early in 1973, Lin Piao was re-classified as a rightist instead of a leftist. His name, which occurs frequently in these pages, should therefore be understood to evoke ultra-leftism, as it did in 1972, and not Confucian reaction.

S.R.S.