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978-0-521-55409-1 - The Third Revolution in the Chinese Countryside

Ross Garnaut, Guo Shutian and Ma Guonan

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The first revolution in the Chinese countryside was the land reform implemented in the 'liberated areas' and extended throughout China after the proclamation of the People's Republic of China in 1949. This was important in the consolidation of the Communist Party's political power.

The second revolution was the decollectivisation of agriculture and the shift to the household responsibility system as a basis for agricultural production. The phenomenal increase in Chinese agricultural output from 1978 to 1984 resulted partly from the new system of production and with a resulting explosion of farm incomes.

The second revolution in the Chinese countryside from the late 1970s set the scene for the third revolution: the freeing of markets for farm products and the linking of domestic markets and international markets. The third revolution is still in progress and this book explores its beginnings.

Initially, the book covers the issues of poverty in China and feeding the population. The second section describes the agricultural markets in China and the price reform of agricultural products. The next two parts discuss international and regional issues of China's agricultural economy. Finally, there are contributions on what institutional changes have been associated with the third agricultural revolution. The contributions are from a team of experts on the Chinese economy from inside and outside China led by Professor Garnaut.

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# The third revolution in the Chinese countryside

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**Symbols**

..	not available
-	zero
n.a.	not applicable
.	insignificant

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## Preface

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Reform and development in the Chinese countryside contains some of the most important and interesting economic and political challenges of modern times. This book brings together the results of recent research into reform and development in the Chinese countryside.

There has been a major Australian research effort into the Chinese reforms and economy in recent years, at The Australian National University and the University of Adelaide. Scholars of these two Universities have worked closely together. The rural economy had been one of the foci of research, including recently within a major project sponsored by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. Important contributions have been made to the research by Chinese Ph.D. students, several of whom have now been appointed to the staff of the two Universities. The Australian contributions to this book are part of the output and continuing research effort and collaboration in and between the two Universities.

The rural economy has been a major focus of research in a wide range of institutions within China throughout the reform period. Guo Shutian, Secretary General of the Policy Research Institute of China's Ministry of Agriculture, has brought together recent work from a number of the most highly reputed Chinese agricultural economists from the key rural research institutions in China.

The editors are grateful to The Australian National University and Policy Research Institute of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture for providing the base for this collaborative effort.

The idea of a book grew out of a conference on China's Reform and Economic Growth hosted by The Australian National University's Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, which owed much to the organisational skills of Carol Kavanagh, Hilda Heidemanns, Sonya Bodger and Jesmin Fernando. A grant from the Ford Foundation facilitated international participation in the conference.

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Canberra and Beijing  
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