

Cambridge Elements =

Cambridge Elements in International Economics
edited by
Kenneth A. Reinert
George Mason University

THE RMB IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Yin-Wong Cheung University of California







Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009236423

DOI: 10.1017/9781009236461

© Yin-Wong Cheung 2022

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2022

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

ISBN 978-1-009-23642-3 Paperback ISSN 2753-9326 (online) ISSN 2753-9318 (print)

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.



The RMB in the Global Economy

Cambridge Elements in International Economics

DOI: 10.1017/9781009236461 First published online: October 2022

> Yin-Wong Cheung University of California

Author for correspondence: Yin-Wong Cheung, cheung@ucsc.edu

Abstract: This Element discusses the global role of the RMB. After recapitulating its economic and trade growth experiences, we recount China's evolving exchange rate policy in the post-reform era, review the debate over whether the RMB is overvalued or undervalued, present China's policies to globalize the RMB, describe offshore RMB trading, assess the current global status of the RMB, and discuss geopolitical tensions in the last few years. Since 2009, the process of globalizing RMB has not been smooth sailing and has progressed quite unevenly over time. Despite the strong performance in the early 2010s, the RMB is underrepresented in the global market and its global role does not match China's economic might. The path of RMB internationalization is affected by both China's economic performance and geopolitical factors.

Keywords: offshore RMB trading, global FX trading, global reserves, geopolitics, RMB valuation

© Yin-Wong Cheung 2022

ISBNs: 9781009236423 (PB), 9781009236461 (OC) ISSNs: 2753-9326 (online), 2753-9318 (print)



Contents

| 1 | Introduction | 1 |
|---|--------------------------|----|
| 2 | Background | 2 |
| 3 | RMB Misalignment | 14 |
| 4 | RMB Internationalization | 19 |
| 5 | Current Status | 33 |
| 6 | Geopolitics | 43 |
| 7 | Concluding Remarks | 49 |
| | | |
| | Appendix | 53 |
| | References | 60 |