


Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13274-0 - Knowing China: A Twenty-First-Century Guide

Frank N. Pieke

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Knowing China

Contemporary China appears both deceptively familiar and inexplicably different. China is a cauldron of forms of entrepreneurship, social organization, ways of life and governance that are at once new and unique, recognizably Chinese and generically modern. In analysing and interpreting these developments, Frank Pieke adopts a China-centric perspective to move beyond Western preoccupations, desires or fears. Each chapter starts with a key question about China, showing that such questions and assumptions are often based on a misunderstanding or misconstruction of what China is today. Frank Pieke explores twenty-first-century China as a unique kind of neo-socialist society, combining features of state socialism, neo-liberal governance, capitalism and rapid globalization. Understanding this society not only helps us to know China better but takes us beyond the old dichotomies of West versus East, developed versus developing, tradition versus modernity, democracy versus dictatorship and capitalism versus socialism.

FRANK N. PIEKE is chair professor in modern China studies at Leiden University. Pieke's current research revolves around foreign migration to China and the changing role of the Chinese Communist Party. His books include *The Good Communist: Elite Training and State Building in Today's China* (2009) and *Transnational Chinese: Fujianese Migrants in Europe* (2004).

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13274-0 - Knowing China: A Twenty-First-Century Guide

Frank N. Pieke

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13274-0 - Knowing China: A Twenty-First-Century Guide

Frank N. Pieke

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Knowing China

A Twenty-First-Century Guide

FRANK N. PIEKE

Leiden University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13274-0 - Knowing China: A Twenty-First-Century Guide

Frank N. Pieke

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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/9781107587618

© Frank N. Pieke 2016

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.

First published 2016

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

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

ISBN 978-1-107-13274-0 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-58761-8 Paperback

Cambridge University Press 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.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13274-0 - Knowing China: A Twenty-First-Century Guide

Frank N. Pieke

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

For Klaas and René, who each made me half the man I am

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13274-0 - Knowing China: A Twenty-First-Century Guide

Frank N. Pieke

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	page ix
<i>Main Events in China, 1976–2015</i>	x
1 Introduction: Knowing China	1
2 Why the Communist Party Will Not Fall from Power	15
3 China’s Economy Will Continue to Grow, but Not Forever	50
4 Freedom without Universal Human Rights	84
5 From Empire to Nation, or Why Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang Will Not Be Given Independence	121
6 Not Just a Chinese Century	144
7 Conclusion: The Communist Party and China’s Future	171
<i>Further Reading</i>	178
<i>References</i>	196
<i>Index</i>	216

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-13274-0 - Knowing China: A Twenty-First-Century Guide
Frank N. Pieke
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13274-0 - Knowing China: A Twenty-First-Century Guide

Frank N. Pieke

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

As a student of contemporary China, I have long noticed the reluctance among my fellow China specialists to wield a broad brush. I have also become increasingly convinced of the necessity to do so. General discussions about contemporary China are often woefully ignorant of the vast store of specialist knowledge. Specialists themselves focus on a particular slice of Chinese reality and, with few exceptions, are reluctant to enter debates even within China studies that take them beyond their core expertise. This book is an attempt to fill this gap. Writing a book for both lay and specialist audiences at once comes with an obvious risk: you may find that you reach none of them. I certainly hope that I have avoided this pitfall and that both general readers and China specialists will take away useful knowledge or insights from this book. If they don't, I apologize, but at least I tried.

This book would never have seen the light of day without the support of many among my colleagues, friends and family. I would in particular like to thank those who have read and commented on parts of the manuscript: Alka Shah, Bill Callahan, Eric Thun, André Gerrits, Barend ter Haar, David Parkin, three anonymous reviewers and my editor, Lucy Rhymer, at Cambridge University Press. It goes without saying that I alone bear final responsibility for any remaining errors in this book.

Main Events in China, 1976–2015

- 1976 Death of Zhou Enlai and Mao Zedong
 Tian'anmen Incident
 Fall of Deng Xiaoping
 Tangshan earthquake
 Fall of Maoist 'Gang of Four'
 Official end of the Cultural Revolution
- 1977 Rehabilitation of Deng Xiaoping
- 1978 Third Plenum of the Eleventh Central Committee of the
 Chinese Communist Party (CCP)
 Start of the reforms
- 1989 People's movement at Tian'anmen Square in Beijing and
 other cities in China
 Fall of Zhao Ziyang
 Jiang Zemin becomes CCP general secretary
- 1992 Deng Xiaoping's Southern Tour and start of the second
 phase of the reforms
- 2001 China's accession to the World Trade Organization
- 2002 Hu Jintao becomes general secretary at the CCP's Sixteenth
 Party Congress
- 2008 Beijing Olympics
 Wenchuan earthquake
- 2010 Shanghai Expo
 Liu Xiaobo awarded Nobel Peace Prize
- 2012 Xi Jinping becomes general secretary at the CCP's
 Eighteenth Party Congress
- 2013 Bo Xilai sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of
 corruption