Becoming Activists in Global China

*Becoming Activists in Global China* is the first purely sociological study of the religious movement Falun Gong and its resistance to the Chinese state. The literature on Chinese protest has intensively studied the 1989 democracy movement while largely ignoring opposition by the Falun Gong, even though the latter has been more enduring. This comparative study explains why the Falun Gong protest took off in diaspora and the democracy movement did not. Using multiple methods, *Becoming Activists in Global China* explains how Falun Gong’s roots in proselytizing and its ethic of volunteerism provided the launch pad for its political mobilization. Simultaneously, diaspora democracy activists adopted practices that effectively discouraged grassroots participation. The study also shows how the policy goal of eliminating Falun Gong helped shape today’s security-focused Chinese state. Explaining the Falun Gong’s two decades of protest illuminates a suppressed piece of Chinese contemporary history and advances our knowledge of how religious and political movements intersect.

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Becoming Activists in Global China

Social Movements in the Chinese Diaspora

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# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of Figures</th>
<th>page viii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of Tables</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## PART I THINKING COMPARATIVELY

1. Protest Made in Global China  
   - Falun Gong as a Modern Social Movement  
   - Can a Religious Movement Be a “Social Movement”?  
   - Variations in Social Movement-ness  
   - 15

2. Comparing Falun Gong and Minyun as Movements  
   - Minyun and Falun Gong: Resurgent Traditions after Mao  
   - Global China as Contentious Context  
   - Money Matters and Other Conventional Explanations  
   - 30

3. The Forgotten Importance of Falun Gong  
   - Falun Gong and the Rise of the Chinese Security State  
   - Falun Gong and Hong Kong’s Article 23  
   - 43

## PART II THE CASES

4. Falun Gong: Qigong Fad, New Religion, Protest Movement  
   - Falun Gong as Qigong Fad  
   - Falun Gong as New Religion  
   - 61
Contents

Falun Gong as Protest Movement 70
Conclusion 74

5 Falun Gong’s History of “Stepping Forward” 75
   A Certified Master 75
   1996–1999: Contention and Accumulated Bargains 77
   April 1999: The Turning Point 80
   Repression and Resistance in China 82
   Repercussions for the Religious Movement 86
   Resistance in Diaspora 92
   The De-politicizing Turn 95
   Conclusion 101

6 Overseas Minyun: Democracy through Bureaucracy, Factionalism, and Asylum Brokering 102
   Diaspora 1989 versus Diaspora 1999 103
   A Brief History of Overseas Minyun 105
   A Transnational Trigger for the 1989 Student Movement 109
   Minyun Organizational Form 111
   Factionalism 112
   Asylum Brokering 115
   Comparative Implications 117

PART III MAKING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN DIASPORA

7 Publics, Proselytizing, and Protest: Tactical Repertoires Compared 123
   Studying Tactical Repertoires: Research Design and Sources 125
   Coding Repertoires 129
   Findings 133
   Comparing the Minyun and Falun Gong Tactical Repertoires 139
   Repertoires, Publics, and the Social Movement 141
   Minyun’s Collective Action in China 143
   Falun Gong’s Collective Action in China 148

8 Clarifying Truth and Saving Souls 152
   What Is “Political” Anyway? 154
   From Redemption to Public Activism 155
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>vii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saving Souls</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics and Soteriology in Activism</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Conclusion</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Moments in Diaspora Protest</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Implications</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Remarks</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix: Research Design, Methods, and Sources</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnographic Fieldwork</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minghui Website</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protest Event Trends</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figures

1 Falun Gong activists in Hong Kong use their bodies to spell *zhengfa* (正法) in July 2015
2 Estimates of migrants from mainland China by destination (excluding Hong Kong and Macao)
3 So-called “truth currency” (*zhexiangbi*)
4 Overseas Falun Gong conferences, 1995–2003
5 Dragon Springs, June 2016
6 Chinese foreign students in the USA by academic year
7 Minyun event counts
8 In-print Minyun and Online Minyun compared
9 Minyun and Falun Gong protest repertoire compared
10 Counts by week of Minghui activist postings that include *jiudu* (救度) in the title
**Tables**

1. Geographic distribution of protest actions as a percentage of source data
2. Most common In-print Minyun collective actions
3. Most common Online Minyun collective actions
4. Most common Falun Gong collective actions
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