



## *Rethinking Chinese Politics*

Understanding Chinese politics has become more important than ever. Some argue that China's political system is "institutionalized" or that "win-all/lose-all" struggles are a thing of the past, but, Joseph Fewsmith argues, as in all Leninist systems, political power is difficult to pass on from one leader to the next. Indeed, each new leader must deploy whatever resources he has to gain control over critical positions and thus consolidate power. Fewsmith traces four decades of elite politics from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping, showing how each leader has built power (or not). He shows how the structure of politics in China has set the stage for intense and sometimes violent intra-elite struggles, shaping a hierarchy in which one person tends to dominate, and, ironically, providing for periods of stability between intervals of contention.

JOSEPH FEWSMITH is Professor of International Relations and Political Science, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University.

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JOSEPH FEWSMITH  
*Boston University*



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*In memory of  
Roderick MacFarquhar, Ezra F. Vogel, and  
Rudolf G. Wagner  
Friends, Mentors, and Sources of Inspiration*

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## *Abbreviations*

ACFTU	All-China Federation of Trade Unions
CAC	Central Advisory Commission
CASS	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CDIC	Central Discipline Inspection Commission
CMC	Central Military Commission
CPPCC	Chinese People's Political Consultative Congress
CPSU	Communist Party of the Soviet Union
CYL	Communist Youth League
DIC	discipline inspection commission
GMD	Guomindang
GPD	General Political Department
MOS	Ministry of Supervision
NDRC	National Development and Reform Commission
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NPC	National People's Congress
PAP	People's Action Party
PB	Politburo
PBSC	Politburo Standing Committee
PCA	Permanent Court of Arbitration
PLA	People's Liberation Army
PRC	People's Republic of China
PRI	Institutional Revolutionary Party
SOE	state-owned enterprise
TVEs	township and village enterprises
WTO	World Trade Organization