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To Govern China

How, practically speaking, is the Chinese polity – as immense and fissured as it has now become – being governed today? Some analysts highlight signs of “progress” in the direction of a more liberal, open, and responsive government, whereas others dwell instead on the many remaining “obstacles” to a transition to democracy. Drawing together cutting-edge research from an international panel of experts, the essays in this volume argue that both approaches rely upon starkly drawn distinctions between democratic and non-democratic regime types, concentrating too narrowly on institutions as opposed to practices. The current focus on adaptive and resilient authoritarianism – a neo-institutionalist concept – fails to capture and accommodate processes of political change in contemporary China. In its place, the authors offer a more open-ended, fluid approach that privileges nimbleness, mutability, and an openness to institutional invention and procedural change, both proactive and reactive, illuminating the repertoires and practices of governing in China today.

Vivienne Shue is Professor Emeritus of Contemporary China Studies at the University of Oxford, and is an Associate of the University’s China Centre.

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To Govern China

Evolving Practices of Power

Edited by

Vivienne Shue

University of Oxford

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We dedicate this volume to *all* of our students.
May the Force be with you.

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