State and Economy in Contemporary China

Lecture Series
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Course Objectives
This series of lectures aims to provide you with a good understanding of the basic contours of China’s political and economic institutions; an awareness of some of the major political and economic issues in contemporary China; and some knowledge of the major sources, particularly English-language, for the study of contemporary Chinese politics and economics.

Course Programme

**Topic**

**Historical Background**
1 Mao’s Revolution

**China’s Politics**
2 China’s Political System
3 State and Society
4 China in World Politics

**China’s Economy**
5 The Chinese Economy in Transition
6 Assessing China's Development Record
7 The Open Door: Foreign Trade and Investment

**Dealing with China**
8 Business Culture in China
Textbooks
You are very strongly recommended to supplement the lectures with readings in the following recommended texts:

ONE (preferable Joseph) of


OR


And ONE (preferably Bramall) of


Bramall’s work, which underlies some of my lectures is characterised by a direct attempt to address the major issues. He is not in the mainstream of economic scholars, and you may disagree with him, but it is a powerfully written and stimulating work, more analytical and less descriptive than Naughton.

OR


I also refer to papers in three useful recent collections of articles by leading scholars:


For recent developments you might want to look at the China in the World Centre’s *Yearbook 2013: Civilising China*, freely downloadable from [http://www.thechinastory.org/yearbooks/yearbook-2013/](http://www.thechinastory.org/yearbooks/yearbook-2013/), though it does embody a particular (culture-centred) view that not everyone shares.

A very useful set of articles from the Carnegie Foundation can be found at [http://carnegieendowment.org/regions/?fa=list&id=251](http://carnegieendowment.org/regions/?fa=list&id=251). These are openly available online, and there are other resources on the website.

Equally, The Brookings Institution has a series of articles, blogs and videos on China issues, which can be found at [http://www.brookings.edu/research/topics/china](http://www.brookings.edu/research/topics/china)
Topics and Readings

Topic One

Mao’s Revolution: The Historical Background to Contemporary Chinese Politics

Lectures
1a: The Chinese revolution and the establishment of the Communist state
1b: Mao goes off the rails: The problems of Chinese Communism, 1957–1978

Reading

Note: Nearly all the readings listed here should be available in the University of Minho, as books, photocopies or publicly available on the internet. I list a few other works that were particularly important inputting together my lectures.

Further readings can be found in the handout of additional readings (for books) and by using the suggested search engines (for journal articles).

Teiwes, Fred “Mao Zedong in Power”, in Joseph, Politics in China, pp. 72–118 (or Dreyer, China’s Political System, pp. [23–62], 63–106)

Other:
Schoppa, R Keith, “From Empire to People’s Republic”, in Joseph, Politics in China, pp. 37–62

Publicly Available Websites and Web-based Materials

For works of Mao and other leaders see http://www.marxists.org/subject/china/index.htm
Stefan Landsberger’s poster collection, which I use extensively for the powerpoint slides, and more can be seen at http://chineseposters.net/
For the Cultural Revolution, see Website of the film Morning Sun, http://www.morningsun.org/

Issues to think about

In this first unit, we look at the Chinese revolution up to 1949, and the period from establishment of the PRC to the death of Mao. The period up to 1959 is generally seen (probably both inside and outside China) as a period of success – for Mao and for China. That after 1957 is generally conceptualised as a disaster.

• In what senses was the period 1949–1957 a successful one for the Chinese Communist Party?
What, if any, warnings were there of troubles to come?

- What do you think were the key elements of the “Soviet” model and of the Chinese system established in the 1950s? You will need to keep these in mind when we look at changes both in the Maoist period and in the reform period.

- Can we identify some key aspects of what might be called “late Maoism”? What are they? How far, if at all, did they involve abandoning the key features of the “Soviet model”? How far do they illuminate the “reality” of China during the Maoist period?

- Did the Cultural Revolution leave any positive legacy for China at all?

**Key Concepts etc**

Nationalism; nomenklatura; organised dependency; “strong state”; establishment intellectuals; Great Leap Forward; voluntarism; populism; continuing revolution; Cultural Revolution; Red Guards
Topic Two
China’s Political System

Lectures:
2a: The Chinese state during the reform period
2b: Change in the Chinese political system

Reading
Gilley, Bruce, “Deng Xiaoping and His Successors” in Joseph, Politics in China, pp. 119–147 and Li Cheng, “China’s Communist Party State: The Structure and Dynamics of Power”, in Joseph, Politics in China, pp. 192–223 (Note: the Gilley chapter takes a more chronological and leader-oriented approach, while Li’s chapter takes an approach closer to that of the lectures) (or Dreyer, China’s Political System, pp. 107–138)


Other:


Publicly available websites and web-based materials (see also "Keeping up to date" at the end of this guide)

For further guidance on Chinese politics, see Bill Joseph’s excellent site “China Politics Links”, at https://sites.google.com/a/wellesley.edu/china-politics-links/ In addition to printed sources, there is an extensive series of links to video lectures/seminars etc on China (obviously in English!)

“The Decision on Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Deepening Reforms in brief” (a far more detailed and interesting document than the formal communique) for the Third Plenum in November 2013 can be found at http://www.china.org.cn/china/third_plenary_session/2014-01/16/content_31212602.htm


Charter 08 can be found at http://www.nybooks.com/articles/22210


Tiananmen in 1989 has not played a large part in this course. There is a large amount of material on it. See for example the film Gate of Heavenly Peace and the associated website (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/gate/). In 2014, the South China Morning Post put together a scrapbook on the events; it can be found at http://multimedia.scmp.com/tiananmen/

Issues to think about

- What are the principal characteristics of the Chinese state? How does it differ from the states of developed countries, or of other developing countries?
- What is the significance of the idea of the “China Dream”?
- What factors might promote or impede the emergence of some form of democracy in China? Should one expect any Chinese democracy to take the same form as democracy in Anglo-American countries?
- On what basis has the Chinese leadership stabilised its position since the Beijing Massacre of 1989? What are the key challenges that they face at the beginning of the twenty-first century?
- Is China “cracking up”? Will the rule of the CCP come to an end in the near future?

Key Concepts etc

Hu Jintao; Wen Jiabao; Jiang Zemin; the Three Represents; the harmonious society; scientific development; princelings; populists; leadership succession; Chinese military spending; Xi Jinping; the China Dream; the New Left; mass line; Third Plenum (1978); Third Plenum (2013)
Topic Three
State and Society

Lectures
3a: State capacity in contemporary China
3b: China’s legal system

Reading

Other:


Clark, Donald, Murrell, Peter and Whiting, Susan (2008), “The role of law in China’s economic development”, pp. 375–428 in Rawski and Brandt eds China’s Great Economic Transformation


Publicly Available Websites and Web-based Materials

Dan Harris’s China Law Blog is also well worth following, both for this topic and for thinking about doing business in China. See http://www.chinalawblog.com/

Susan Finder at the US Supreme Court also has a very useful blog, http://supremepeoplescourtmonitor.com/

Minxin Pei, Jacques deLisle, Sharon Hom, “U.S. Engagement and Human Rights in China”,
The important decision of the Fourth Plenum (October 2014) can be found in English at http://law.genius.com/Central-committee-of-the-chinese-communist-party-decision-of-the-fourth-plenum-of-the-18th-ccp-central-committee-english-annotated

For a Chinese, but relatively independent and informative, source on current developments on Chinese law, see China Law Digest, http://www.chinalawdigest.com/

Chinese Law Resources on the Internet, http://law.wustl.edu/Chinalaw/intersou.html, provides an extensive list of internet resources on Chinese law, though many it includes are (high) fee-paying.

For a different view, see the Human Rights in China website, http://www.hrichina.org/en, which gives references to a wide range of material on legal reform etc.; this was a site founded by Chinese students and scholars after 1989.

For a recent article arguing that there are fundamental cultural differences between China and the EU in their conceptions of human rights, see Duncan Freeman, “Europe, China and the expectations for human rights”, BICCS Asia paper 5.1, at http://www.academia.edu/227759/Europe_China_and_the_expectations_for_human_rights


Issues to think about

• Do concepts of human rights have universal validity? Or are there valid differences according to culture, or according to other variables?

• If there are differences between cultures, what might those differences be? How might such differences affect the conduct of Sino-foreign relations?

• What interests are involved in promoting an “Asian” perspective on human rights? Do those interests necessarily affect the validity of the concept?

• How strong is the Chinese state? What can it do? What can’t it do?

Key Concepts etc

State capacity; reach of the state; Falungong; one-child policy; mediation in China; death penalty; civil liberties; intellectual property rights; labour law; work safety regulation; law and economy
Topic Four
China in World Politics

Lectures
4a: China in the Post-Cold War Global System
4b: China’s Relations with the European Union

Reading

Other


Publicly Available Websites and Web-based Materials


The EU journal *China Analysis* (http://www.centresasia.eu/publications/china-analysis-journal) offers an outsiders’ view of how leading figures in China view their domestic politics and economy and the country’s regional and international relations.

Swaine, Michael, “China’s Assertive Behavior”, *China Leadership Monitor*, winter 2011 at
Lieberthal, Kenneth, “Climate Change and China's Global Responsibilities”,

Fox, John and François Godement (2009), “A power audit of EU-China relations”, available online at http://ecfr.3cdn.net/532cd91d0b5c9699ad_ozm6b9bz4.pdf (a view from Europe highly critical of EU policy)

A useful mid-range website can be found at http://thediplomat.com/, which has up to date coverage an analysis of foreign affairs developments in the Asia-Pacific.

Official Chinese views can be found at http://www.china.org.cn/

For slightly less official views, you might look at Foreign Affairs Journal through http://www.cpifa.org/en/q/listQuarterly.do

The Chinese Journal of International Politics is at least partly available free online at http://cijn.oxfordjournals.org/content/by/year

For the US point of view see the State Department site at http://www.state.gov/p/eap/ci/ch/

See also “The United States Policy towards China: A Dossier” on the website of the US Embassy in Belgium (don’t ask me why!), http://www.usembassy.be/dossier/china-united-states-policy-toward-china-dossier


A 2013 “Infoguide presentation” from the Council on Foreign Relations on China’s maritime territorial disputes can be found at: http://www.cfr.org/asia-and-pacific/chinas-maritime-disputes/p31345

A newsletter including both US and Chinese views can be found at http://www.chinausfocus.com/

For the official EU site on EU policy towards China see http://eeas.europa.eu/china/index_en.htm; this includes most of the key documents from the European side. For EU China strategic dialogues, see http://strategiwp.europa.eu/pays/eu-china/


For a journal (since 2009), EU-China Observer, see https://www.coleurope.eu/website/study/eu-international-relations-and-diplomacy-studies/research-activities/eu-china-observer

An important 2014 EU report on difficulties for foreign companies in China can be found at: http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2014/august/tradoc_152739.08.10.pdf

A major and very detailed (434 pages) new position paper by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China for 2013-2014 can be found through http://www.european-chamber.com.cn/en/european-chamber-publications (you have to register but it is free). You might want to look at the general Chamber site as well: http://www.european-chamber.com.cn/view/home
Carnegie Europe has a number of articles by informed observers, for instance one by Shi Zhiqin at http://carnegieeurope.eu/#/slide_3181_china-and-europe-deepening-comprehensive-partnership. There is some, but not total, overlap with the main Carnegie site.


The European Council on Foreign Relations at http://www.ecfr.eu/content/programmes/C11/ (for a European perspective on economic and foreign relations issues relating to China)


For the Chinese side, see http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/mfa_news/gjhdq_665435/3265_665445/; this site has a lot of information on it, but I find it less easy to use than the European one, but for the April 2014 policy paper see http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjdt_665385/wjzcs/t1143406.shtml

For Japan-related issues see the very informative online journal, Japan Focus, http://www.japanfocus.org/. For example, the brief article by Gavan McCormack (which is relatively sympathetic to China) about the dispute over the Senkakus, see “Small Islands – Big Problem: Senkaku/Diaoyu and the Weight of History and Geography in China-Japan Relations”, http://www.japanfocus.org/-Gavan-McCormack/3464

Issues to think about

- What have been the key turning points in the way China related to the outside world after 1949?
- What are the major issues as between the United States and China? How far are these issues likely to cause serious tensions in the future?
- What prospects are there for a peaceful resolution of the status of Taiwan?
- What are the implications and prospects for China’s new assertiveness in foreign relations?
- How justified are China’s maritime claims to the South China Sea and the Senkakus?
- Did China play a responsible role at Copenhagen? Did anyone?
- Does the European Union matter to China?

Key Concepts etc

“leaning to one side”; Sino-Soviet Split; Nixon’s visit to China; WTO; Human Rights in foreign policy; China Can Say No; strategic triangle; hegemonism; end of cold war; China and climate change; EU trade with China; protectionism; assertive nationalism; South China Sea; Diaoyutai; Taiwan independence
Topic Five
The Chinese Economy in Transition

Lectures:
5a: Socialism and the Planned Economy under Mao

Reading:

Other:
Naughton, Barry (2008), “A political economy of China’s economic transition”, pp. 91–135 in Rawski and Brandt, eds, China’s Great Economic Transformation

Publicly Available Websites and Web-based Materials
In addition to the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics (http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/, see next topic), two major sources of revised statistics of China’s economy since 1949 (and in one case back to the year 1) are:
The post 1949 statistics originally developed by the late Angus Maddison have been updated at http://www.conference-board.org/data/economydatabase/

Issues to think about
What are the shortcomings of economic planning in running an economy? Is it even a possible way of running an economy?
Did the period of Maoist economic development leave any positive legacies at all?
What do we mean by "reform without losers"? How were the Chinese reformers able for a period to implement reform without losers?
Why did the reform programme start in the rural areas?
'China's development record between 1978 and 1992 demonstrates the superiority of market socialism over capitalism.' Discuss.

Key Concepts etc
capitalism; socialism; transition; reform; gradualism; the “big bang”; the Four Modernizations; township and village enterprises; “reform without losers”; decollectivization
Topic Six
Assessing China's Development Record

Lectures:
6a: Chinese capitalism since 1996
6b: Development outcomes

Readings


Other:
A good and sophisticated overview can be found in Carsten Holz, “China’s economic growth 1978–2025: what we know today about China’s economic growth tomorrow”, *SOSC Working Papers*, [http://repository.ust.hk/dspace/handle/1783.1/2474](http://repository.ust.hk/dspace/handle/1783.1/2474)


Whyte, Martin King (2010) “Do Chinese citizens want the government to do more to promote equality”, pp. 129–159 in Gries and Rosen, *Chinese Politics*


and Liu, China’s Deep Reform (Wang is one of the leading “new left” thinkers among Chinese intellectuals, though he is currently in Hong Kong).


Publicly Available Websites and Web-based Materials

A series of articles/ recordings on China’s economy can be found at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, “Commentary and Analysis on China’s Economy”, at http://www.carnegieendowment.org/topic/?fa=1287&fltr={!raw%20f=taxonomyTag}::104:251:China (some of the articles are by Michael Pettis, whose work (also to be found at http://www.economywatch.com/user/155/) is always worth reading (he is known for relatively pessimistic views of the Chinese economy).


Much more extensive statistical information (with all the reservations about Chinese statistics, but still the source most scholars use) can be found through the website of the National Bureau of Statistics, http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/ (English version; the Chinese version, http://www.stats.gov.cn/, is fuller, with more information; I fear there is no Portuguese version!). Within this site, the standard national statistics can be found in the Statistical Yearbook of China http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/StatisticalData/AnnualData/ The Yearbooks are published in September of the given year, with statistics for the previous year; however they often only appear on the website in spring the next year. A database access to much of the same information can be found at http://data.stats.gov.cn/. For 2014 figures, see the annual Statistical Communiqué at http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/201502/t20150228_687439.html (Chinese version also available).

Statistics created by international bodies can be found at:


http://hdr.undp.org/en/data in English is the best way to access the data.

International comparisons can be accessed through the above, or at http://www.conference-board.org/data/economydatabase/

There is a useful set of maps, tables and other data at China Profile: Facts, Figures, Analyses – a website developed by Gerhard K Heilig, at http://www.china-profile.com/

**Sustainability**


A very influential documentary about China’s air pollution released in February 2015 can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbK4KeD2ajI&feature=youtu.be (if you want a version with English subtitles, see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6X2uwlQGQM#t=45) There is a question of why it was not censored. If you do watch this there is a “factcheck” at http://epi.yale.edu/the-metric/infographic-setting-record-straight-under-dome

**Questions to think about**

- What are the key changes that can justify designating China as “capitalist” from the mid 1990s?
- Has China’s record before/after 1978 been better in conventional (GDP) terms or when judged by the Human Development Index?
- Is wealth making Chinese people happier? If not, why not?
- How far is China’s growth sustainable? What implications has that for China’s political and economic future?
- How far have China’s environmental problems been caused by the Communist regime, and how far are they more deeply rooted in history?
- Does China’s huge population pose impossible problems?

**Key Concepts, etc**

Internal migration; state owned enterprises; global economic crisis; human development index; gini coefficient; Engel's law; strengths and weaknesses of Chinese statistics; relative and absolute poverty; life expectancy; stimulus package; consumption and investment in China’s economy; air pollution; water shortage.
Topic Seven
The Open Door: Foreign Trade and Investment

Lectures:
7a: The growth of foreign trade and investment
7b: Have foreign trade and investment been crucial for China’s economic growth?

Reading

Other:

Publicly Available Websites and Web-based Materials
The OECD website http://www.oecd.org/ also contains important information (Some of the more recent material is only available at a charge). See also the OECD’s China page at http://www.oecd.org/china/ and the statistical profile at http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/country-statistical-profile-china_csp-chn-table-en

Issues to think about

- Have developments in the world economy since 1978 significantly affected Chinese economic growth?
- How has membership of the World Trade Organization affected the Chinese economy?
- How important have foreign trade and investment been to the Chinese economy, and what implications does that have for China’s future development path?
- What are the problems and limits of the “export-led growth” model and what are the implications of these for China’s future?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the theory of comparative advantage, and how far does that help us understand China’s development?
- What are the pros and cons of globalization for China, Europe and the world?

Key Concepts etc

comparative advantage; foreign direct investment (FDI); special economic zones; purchasing power parity; China’s trade balance; China’s overseas investment; coastal vs inland provinces; export-led growth; processing trade; globalization and income inequality
Topic Eight
Business Culture in China

Lectures
8a: Chinese culture and the business enterprise
8b: Trust and contracts

Readings
Björkstén, Johan and Hägglund, Anders (2010), How to Manage a Successful Business in China, Singapore: World Scientific. [Good practical advice from two Swedish businesspeople, one relatively junior when he started, one more senior].

Other

Publicly Available Websites and Web-based Materials
A very useful source of comparative data for doing business worldwide is the World Bank’s, “Doing Business: Measuring Business Regulations”, see http://www.doingbusiness.org/
Jack Perkowski’s website has interesting updates on the Chinese economic and business scene: http://managingthedragon.com/
Dan Harris’s “China Law Blog” is also useful, http://www.chinalawblog.com/
There are many online resources on the practical aspects of doing business in China (try a Google search “doing business in China”), e.g. http://credilaeduloan.blogspot.co.uk/2010/08/100-essential-resources-for-doing.html
For some information on Portuguese (though in relation to Brazil), see the website (and through that the newsletter http://www.cebc.org.br/pt-br/publicacoes-e-informes/china-brasil-update) of the Brazil-China Business Council at http://www.cebc.org.br/en
The 2014 EU report on difficulties for foreign businesses in China is obviously also relevant, see: http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2014/august/tradoc_152739.08.pdf
**Questions to think about**

- What are the key differences between ways of doing business in China and the West? In what direction are things changing?
- How do we explain the fact that the World Bank ranks China as no. 18 in the world in terms of enforcing contracts, whereas most books by practitioners raise this as a major problem?
- Is the importance of personal connections and trust exaggerated in the case of China? Is it underestimated in the case of the West?
- How can we understand differences in business practices in the West, for instance as between northern and southern Europe? How does that reflect on our understanding of Chinese ways of doing business?

**Key concepts etc.**

Family firm; kinship and Chinese management; guanxi; contracts in Chinese culture; dependency; paternalism; mediation; arbitration
Finding Material on China

If you want follow up issues raised in this course and go beyond the limited amount of readings listed here, I provide a few suggestions about how you might take it further. The “Additional Reading” provided with this course lists some of the influential books on the various topics, but there are many ways of getting beyond that, for instance accessing journal articles, where a lot of new ideas and recent developments are covered.

The Oxford Bibliographies: Chinese Studies is an extremely useful and high quality set of articles across the whole range of Chinese Studies, though viewing the full articles requires a subscription. Covers books, journal articles, book chapters and other types of material. See http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/obo/page/chinese-studies.

The most general way of searching is to use a web search engine. The one most widely used by academics is Google or preferably GoogleScholar. You should go to https://www.google.pt/, and in the search box type the words you are looking for. If you just type 'China' you will get a massive number of hits and that is of little use. But if you are a little more specific – for example, you might type in 'China + rural + industry' – the more useful the search becomes. Of course a lot of the hits will take you to useless sites but usually you will find some interesting materials. As long as you bear in mind that much web material is not refereed and therefore often needs to be treated with caution, these sorts of search will help you a great deal. You will often find 'Working Papers' useful; these are usually first drafts of articles which will be submitted later to journals. Google Scholar http://scholar.google.pt/ in Portugal) mostly targets published academic journal articles or books.

There are also more specific databases of bibliographical information on journal articles etc on the web. Some of these that are available online (though by subscription) are:

- The Bibliography of Asian Studies http://bmc.lib.umich.edu/bas which is probably the most complete, especially as it includes book chapters as well as journal articles (but not books), but it is not as easy to use as some of the others;
- Social Sciences Citation Index (this should be available through Web of Science on the University of Minho library site)

All of these generate lists of journal articles through keyword, title or author searches. Each has its own peculiarities, so make sure you use the help functions.


Journals

An excellent journal that is publicly available (though with a lag before articles are freely available) is China Perspectives, which is a very useful source of up-to-date articles often by leading academics on the current situation in China. For any of you who find French easier than English, it is also available in French (in fact the French version is the original one). See http://chinaperspectives.revues.org/index.html (English) and http://perspectiveschinoises.revues.org/ (French)
The main journals in the field do in general require subscriptions, but most of them are available, at least for the older issues, in JSTOR, which the University of Minho has access to. Note the web addresses below do not give free access to full text. At most they will provide tables of contents. The major journals include:

*China Journal* (previously Australian Journal of Chinese Affairs) – regarded by some as the top contemporary China journal. [http://www.jstor.org/journals/13249347.html](http://www.jstor.org/journals/13249347.html)

*China Quarterly* (note that there are a number of special issues on topics relevant to this module). Available online through JSTOR up to 2007 [http://www.jstor.org/journals/03057410.html](http://www.jstor.org/journals/03057410.html) and from 2001 through [http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=CQY](http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=CQY)

*Journal of Contemporary China*, [http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cjcc20/current#.UnkveRCkO4o](http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cjcc20/current#.UnkveRCkO4o)

*Modern China*, [http://www.jstor.org/journals/00977004.html](http://www.jstor.org/journals/00977004.html), [http://mcx.sagepub.com/](http://mcx.sagepub.com/)

*China Information* [http://cin.sagepub.com/](http://cin.sagepub.com/)


Many of the Economics and Development journals also carry articles on China, and many of these can be accessed electronically. Two journals which often carry material on China are:


**Other Reference Works**

David Pong, ed, *Encyclopedia of Modern China* is the best and most up to date general reference.

*Brill’s Encyclopedia of China* is a slightly briefer alternative.


For an extensive archive of original materials on Chinese communism, particularly the writings of the major leaders see [http://www.marxists.org/subject/china/index.htm](http://www.marxists.org/subject/china/index.htm)

*Cambridge History of China*, vols 12–15 deal with twentieth century China. Volume 15 brings the story to the beginning of the reform period

*China Business*, – more practical and business-oriented

**Statistical Reference Works**

The most important of these is the *Statistical Yearbook of China*. Recent issues are bilingual. It is available on the website run by China’s National Bureau of Statistics (previously referred to as the State Statistical Bureau) at [http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/](http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/). There are a large number of other yearbooks, nearly all in Chinese. See also: *The Republic of China Yearbook*

Also useful is the annual National Bureau of Statistics *Communique*, which gives details of


The Asian Development Bank http://beta.adb.org/ also has useful material.

Finally, this is all in Chinese, so probably not for everyday use. But if you are researching a project and are looking for Chinese material, the website http://www.reformdata.org/index.html has got an immense amount of material. I haven’t looked at it all, but it certainly includes: key documents, memoirs and reminiscences, photographs, detailed year by year chronologies, statistics, etc. Obviously it is more or less official, and has to be read and used in that context. But it has a lot of good material.

Keeping up to date

General and political news

Bill Joseph has set up a China politics site that might help you in keeping up to date. See http://www.wellesley.edu/Polisci/wj/chinesepolitics/ [This is getting richer all the time, and introduces you to a wider range of sources than does this Outline]

In addition, the most useful English-language sites for news include:

*China Digital Times* http://chinadigitaltimes.net/ – this is a Chinese news service, based in the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley, collecting news from other sources.


*China Daily* http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn/

China News Digest (mostly in Chinese; the English section seems to be less up to date): http://my.cnd.org/ (this also has archives e.g. on the Cultural Revolution and on 1989, though they are mostly in Chinese)

*Taipei Times* http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/

China Media Project (Hong Kong University), http://cmp.hku.hk/

You may also wish to look at some of the ‘official’ websites. One of the most general is http://www.china.org.cn/ (in Spanish http://spanish.china.org.cn/). This has links to a wide range of periodicals and newspapers. For Taiwan see http://www.ey.gov.tw/en/default.aspx

There is a range of other unofficial sites, which include material often by leading academics, which will be useful in this unit, for example:
China Leadership Monitor, http://www.hoover.org/publications/china-leadership-monitor; note, this comes from the Hoover Institution, which has the reputation for being right-wing, though not all the authors necessary hold the same views.

China Brief, http://www.jamestown.org/programs/chinabrief/; from the Jamestown Foundation, which also has a history of involvement by right-wing cold-warriors linked to the Reagan and Bush administrations. Again, this does not mean that all the authors follow the same line (or that, if they did, that line is necessarily wrong!). More frequent and shorter articles, closer to news. Many articles by ex Hongkong journalist Willy Lam.

The Carnegie Foundation publishes a range of short papers by leading observers that are mostly worth reading. See http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=viewProject

For analyses from the Brookings Institution, see http://www.brookings.edu/research/topics/china

Another useful site, covering both internal Chinese developments and China-US relations is http://chinaelectionsblog.net/ It includes some guidance on what to read from someone who was a leading historian of modern China and then head of the US-China Business Council. Also in Chinese.

See also the Wall Street Journal’s, China Real Time Report at http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/

An informative source of news is Bill Bishop’s Sinocism, which provides links to a lot of original journalistic sources, and some translations of articles by Chinese intellectuals: https://sinocism.com/

A useful Australian source is East Asia Forum, produced by the Australian National University, (this includes some articles on Chinese politics and economics, see http://www.eastasiaforum.org/category/countries/china/).

A more culturally-oriented Australian site, which includes very useful profiles of leading Chinese intellectuals, as well as translations from Chinese sources and many other useful items, is The China Story, http://www.thechinastory.org/ (intellectual profiles at http://www.thechinastory.org/thinking-china/key-intellectuals/).

http://www.chinapolitik.de/3.html (mostly in German, but some useful articles in English)

A useful blog can be found at http://blog.lareviewofbooks.org/chinablog

A very useful series of short interviews of major scholars and their recommendations of (five) books can be found at http://thebrowser.com/topics/china.

A useful series of blogs mostly focussing on contemporary politics can be found at http://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/chinapolicyinstitute/

Economic News

Caijing, one of the leading Chinese financial journals http://english.caijing.com.cn/ (there are also links to more extended versions of the articles in Chinese; the site has recently changed to a partly fee basis)

China Centre for Economic Research: http://en.ccer.edu.cn/ (this is more academic, with longer academic papers, some of which are freely available)