



China since Tiananmen: The Politics of Transition (Cambridge Modern China Series)

By Joseph Fewsmith

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China Since Tiananmen is the first book to evaluate the intellectual and political trends and to assess how China has changed since the Tiananmen Incident in 1989. Fewsmith looks at intellectual trends to capture the way China's elite has assessed the social, political, economic, and intellectual trends of the past decade. Similarly, he examines the conduct of elite politics to see how the political system has, and has not, evolved over the past decade. Fewsmith puts the rise of neo-conservatism and nationalism into historical context, evaluating the changes of the past decade to the changes after the May Fourth Movement of 1919. This more comprehensive and realistic assessment of the forces that drive China today is of critical importance to anyone trying to understand Sino-U.S. relations, for those relations are themselves intrinsic to the story of China's evolution. Joseph Fewsmith is Professor of International Relations at Boston University and Director of the East Asian Interdisciplinary Studies Program. He is the author of *Elite Politics in Contemporary China* (M.E. Sharpe, 2001) and *The Dilemmas of Reform in China: Political Conflict and Economic Debate* (M.E. Sharpe, 1994). He has written extensively on contemporary politics in China, with articles appearing in such journals as *Asian Survey*, *Current History*, *The Journal of Contemporary China*, *Problems of Communism*, *Modern China*, and *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. He is the editor of *The Chinese Economy* and serves on the editorial board of *The Journal of Contemporary China*.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The U.S. view of China remains heavily influenced by the suppression of protest there in 1989: a monolithic and ruthless Communist Party versus pro-democracy and Western-oriented intellectuals. Yet in the intervening years, shows Fewsmith, a Boston University international relations professor, things have changed and become much more complex, in the party, among intellectuals and between the two. Party conflict continues to revolve around questions of state ownership versus the free market, but there is also debate about the effects of reforms regarding regional inequality, corruption and Chinese autonomy in an increasingly globalized world. These concerns also inform intellectual debate, and while many intellectuals still hold to the need for Western-style democracy, others are not so sure. One school of thought argues that a strong state and institutional stability must be China's primary concerns. Another contends that China must find its own path to development, which includes safeguarding many of the Maoist era notions of collectivism, and must beware of U.S. attempts to control Chinese policy and even Chinese ways of thinking. A strong nationalistic streak has also emerged in much intellectual thought that at times, as during the U.S. bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade in 2001, ties into popular nationalistic sentiments and presents a strong challenge to the party's continued efforts at economic modernization. Fewsmith's examination of the intellectual climate in China, and how the party tries to control and coopt China's intellectuals, while more for the specialist, is intellectual inquiry of the highest order and a revealing and surprising glimpse of a society deeply questioning just where it is going. (Sept. 20)

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From Library Journal

This lucid, perceptive, and balanced account of Chinese elite politics and the public debates of the 1990s demonstrates that China is now in a new stage of politics and thought. After briefly surveying the views of China watchers in the West, Fewsmith (international relations, Boston Univ.) addresses the initial critique from Party conservatives of economic reform and globalization that formed the background to the trauma of 1989. Deng Xiaoping's 1992 moves to revive economic reform then led to an openness of policy debate without precedent in Leninist systems and to new paradigms for China. Chinese intellectuals since Confucius have been more often oriented to the state than to church or business, and the 1990s saw an explosive reemergence of semiofficial think tanks, journals, and publishers with inside ties. Fewsmith gives a clear overview of the contending new theories of liberals, postmodernists, nationalists, neostatists, and neoconservatives. President and Communist Party secretary Jiang Zemin and future Chinese leaders are constrained by these new forces, especially a well-articulated popular nationalism, making Fewsmith's book important for those trying to understand China today. Highly recommended. Charles W. Hayford,

Northwestern Univ., Evanston, IL

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Review

"There is no better guide to the new pluralism in China than this excellent study." Brad Glosserman, Director of Research Pacific Forum CSIS, Honolulu

"Overall, the book is remarkably interesting to read. It is intriguing to read a book that just a little over 10 years ago would not have been available to readers in the West." Military Review

"China Since Tiananmen is an excellent book, a must-read for anyone attempting to understand the last

decade's events in China and that nation's future trajectory. Focusing on political maneuvering among the top leadership and debates and discussions among politically oriented intellectuals, Fewsmith goes right to the heart of the matter and provides a coherent, credible narrative of deep political conflict." Andrew J. Nathan, Columbia University, co-editor of The Tiananmen Papers

"In the last 10 years some of the liveliest and most basic intellectual debates anywhere have been in China. Do all countries have to follow the U.S. path to democracy and liberal economics? Now that markets have taken off, what values beyond money making are worth preserving? China's debates are now informed by Western currents of post-modernism, neo-authoritarianism, nationalism, liberalism. Joe Fewsmith, extremely well-informed, does a superb job of capturing these lively debates." Ezra Vogel, Harvard University, author of Is Japan Still Number One

"Major changes have occurred in intellectual currents in China during the 1990s. Fewsmith elucidates these and integrates them with a detailed analysis of elite politics since Tiananmen. The result is an important book that enhances understanding of critical pieces of the puzzle that is China's future." Kenneth Lieberthal, University of Michigan, author of Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform

"Fewsmith's masterful evaluation of the intellectual trends in the 1990s and interaction between political and intellectual elites provides us much-needed and updated information on Chinese politics." Historian

"Most Westerners assume that post-Tiananmen China has a government intolerant of dissent and citizens concerned only with getting wealthy. Fewsmith, a master scholar of Chinese intellectuals, presents a different picture, suggesting that the Chinese political elite is divided over policy and power. In fact, China's intellectuals are a diverse lot, engaged in earnest debates over alternative visions for China's future." Lucian W. Pye, Foreign Affairs

"China Since Tiananmen is well written and carefully researched...Fewsmith writes clearly, a glossary of the key figures would have improved clarity...This is a valuable book that contributes significantly to our understanding of recent Chinese politics." History Review of New Books

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marilyn Daniels:

This book untitled China since Tiananmen: The Politics of Transition (Cambridge Modern China Series) to be one of several books which best seller in this year, that is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail store or you can order it via online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this book from your list.

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James Martin:

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