Catch-up and Radical Innovation in Chinese State-Owned Enterprises

Exploring Large Infrastructure Projects

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This original book is a unique and original study on how, in the past decade, Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs) have achieved technological innovation in the large infrastructure sector. It reveals a 'new world' of Chinese innovations, showing that SOEs are willing to innovate and more than capable of doing so. Based on findings from first-hand data and years of in-depth observations, this book shows how the innovation ecosystem perspective incentivizes and facilitates Chinese SOEs’ innovation and highlights entrepreneurial role of the government.

'This book provides a unique and insightful analysis of innovation in China’s state-owned enterprises. It is a must read for those who are interested in innovation in China’s state owned sector, an important player in the Chinese economy.'
– Xiaolan Fu, University of Oxford, UK

‘Xielin Liu has written an important book that challenges head-on the popular wisdom about state-owned enterprises and innovation. Liu presents valuable new case study material to argue that state firms in China anchor an overall ecology of innovation, providing essential inputs and market support for innovative activity among many private and public firms. Anyone seriously concerned with innovation in China needs to consider his argument.’
– Barry Naughton, University of California, San Diego, US

‘Observers of China’s innovation capabilities commonly minimize the role of state owned enterprises (SOEs). In this intriguing new work, three seasoned scholars of innovation challenge this view. Based on case studies of four key infrastructure technologies, they demonstrate that an innovation system led by entrepreneurial state officials, with access to reformed research institutions, and faced with demanding national challenges, can produce an effective innovation ecosystem. The study is an important contribution to our understanding of China’s technological trajectory.’
– Richard P. Suttmeier, Professor Emeritus, University of Oregon, US