Rural Transformations and Development – China in Context

The Everyday Lives of Policies and People

Edited by Norman Long, Professor Emeritus, Wageningen University, The Netherlands; Adjunct Professor, China Agricultural University, Beijing, China and Honorary Fellow, White Rose East Asia Centre, University of Leeds, UK, Ye Jingzhong, Professor of Development Studies and Deputy Dean, College of Humanities and Development Studies, China Agricultural University, Beijing, China and Wang Yihuan, Professor of Development Studies, College of Humanities and Development Studies, China Agricultural University, Beijing, China

This unique book explores the varied perspectives on contemporary processes of rural transformation and policy intervention in China.

The expert contributors combine a critical review of current theoretical viewpoints and global debates with a series of case studies that document the specificities of China’s pathways to change. Central issues focus on the dynamics of state–peasant encounters; the diversification of labour and livelihoods; out-migration and the blurring of rural and urban scenarios; the significance of issues of ‘value’ and ‘capital’ and their gender implications; land ownership and sustainable resource management; struggles between administrative cadres and local actors; and the dilemmas of ‘participatory’ development.

‘This book is commended to rural development specialists, rural sociologists and anthropologists. These groups cover both, academics and practitioners who are interested in agrarian and development issues in China in particular and the world more generally.’
– Axel Wolz, Quarterly Journal of International Agriculture

‘Rural Transformations and Development – China in Context is a thoughtful book in both senses – penetrating and packed with ideas. True to its title, it takes the reader through the main socio-economic and political changes of Chinese rural society. The book brings together a selected group of authoritative, international experts on agricultural development with particular reference to China. It is a good read for everyone, and an eminently recommendable text for professionals and students interested in issues of China’s rural change.’
– Peter Ho, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

‘This is an insightful and excellent theoretical and empirical collection about China’s contemporary agrarian transformation critically studied – not in isolation from either the urban sector or the broader world, but in relation to these. It is a must-read for academics and development policy practitioners who are interested in agrarian and development issues in China in particular and the world more generally.’
– Saturnino M. Borras Jr, Saint Mary’s University, Canada

‘Bringing together contributions by some of the leading Western scholars working on paths of rural transformation with studies by their counterparts in China, this book examines the value of contemporary development theories for understanding the specificities of China’s trajectory of change. It is a first-class contribution both to Modern China studies and to the renaissance of international research on agrarian change that is now going on. It deserves a wide readership.’
– John Harriss, Simon Fraser University at Vancouver, Canada

‘Interesting comparative perspectives are coupled to extensive on-the-ground research in this exploration of the vast changes underway in China’s villages. This book by 19 specialists pushes forward the state of the art on rural China. It is a must-read for all those interested in the rural development of China and the future of international rural development studies.’

– William D. Church, Distinguished Professor and Acting Dean, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland

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