

THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STUDIES

CAMBRIDGE

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CHINA

Since the late 1970's China's economy has become one of the fastest growing in the world. It is almost certain that by the middle of the twenty first century it will be an economic giant. This will have immense implications for the global economy and for international political relationships. The course seeks to understand this remarkable phenomenon in the light of basic economic principles and of the specific nature of China's history.

It examines China's economic revolution in four unequal parts. It begins with a brief analysis of the nature of traditional Chinese political economy before the European industrial revolution. It then looks briefly at the way in which China responded to the 'challenge' of western imperialism from the 1840's to the 1940's. The main body of the course is concerned with the evolution of the Chinese economy under Maoist planning from 1949 to 1976, a period which included the disaster of the Great Leap Forward and the turmoil; of the Cultural Revolution.

The course concludes with an extensive evaluation of the remarkable growth of the Chinese economy in the period of 'economic reform' since 1976 with particular emphasis on China's global position in today's world.

Lecture List

1. Introduction: China in the Modern World

Pre Communist China

2. China: pre –1840
3. The Impact of Imperialism

Communist China: 1949 – 76

4. Agriculture
5. Industry
6. Population
7. Planning
8. Film on Life under Communism

The Four Modernisations

9. Agriculture
10. Industry
11. Trade

Reading List

The main source for books for this course is the **Marshall Library** which contains books no longer available as well as all relevant current articles to which you will be directed by the tutor.

INSTEP Books

General

Eastman, Lloyd E.	Families, Fields, and Ancestors	2
Howe, Christopher	China's Economy: a Basic Guide	1
Howe, Christopher	Employment and Economic Growth in Urban China 1949 – 1957	1
Howe, Christopher	Shanghai: Revolutions in an Asian Metropolis	1
Lin, Justin Yifu	The China Miracle	1
Nolan, P.,	China at the Crossroads	4
Roberts, J.A.G.	The Complete History of China	2

Pre 1949

Eastman, L.,	Families, Fields and Ancestors	2
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Post 1976

Nolan, P.,	China and the Global Business Revolution	1
Pomeranz, K.,	China, Europe and the Great Divergence	4
Vogel, E.,	One Step Ahead of China	1

Method of Assessment

Weekly Readings

Class Discussion

A minimum of two out of three 2500 word essays