

Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path

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Drawing on a large body of empirical studies done over the last two decades, the *Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path* seeks to provide its readers with in-depth analyses of the past and present, and forecasts for the future course of China's development. Thanks to the adoption of Socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the implementation of comprehensive reform and opening, China has made tremendous achievements in areas such as political reform, economic development, and social construction, and is making great strides towards the realization of the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation. In addition to presenting a detailed account of many of these achievements, the authors also discuss what lessons other countries can learn from China's experience. This series will be an invaluable companion to every researcher who is trying to gain a deeper understanding of the development model, path and experience unique to China.

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Zhiguo Kong

The Making of a Maritime Power

China's Challenges and Policy Responses



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ISSN 2363-6866 ISSN 2363-6874 (electronic)
Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path
ISBN 978-981-10-1785-8 ISBN 978-981-10-1786-5 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-981-10-1786-5

Jointly published with Social Sciences Academic Press

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016950898

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Printed on acid-free paper

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The registered company is Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd.
The registered company address is: 152 Beach Road, #22-06/08 Gateway East, Singapore 189721, Singapore

Series Preface

Since China's reform and opening began in 1978, the country has come a long way on the path of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. Over thirty years of reform, efforts and sustained spectacular economic growth have turned China into the world's second largest economy, and brought many profound changes in the Chinese society. These historically significant developments have been garnering increasing attention from scholars, governments, and the general public alike around the world since the 1990s, when the newest wave of China studies began to gather steam. Some of the hottest topics have included the so-called "China miracle", "Chinese phenomenon", "Chinese experience", "Chinese path", and the "Chinese model". Homegrown researchers have soon followed suit. Already hugely productive, this vibrant field is putting out a large number of books each year, with Social Sciences Academic Press alone having published hundreds of titles on a wide range of subjects.

Because most of these books have been written and published in Chinese, readership has been limited outside China—even among many who study China—for whom English is still the *lingua franca*. This language barrier has been an impediment to efforts by academia, business communities, and policy-makers in other countries to form a thorough understanding of contemporary China, of what is distinct about China's past and present may mean not only for her future but also for the future of the world. The need to remove such an impediment is both real and urgent, and the *Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path* is my answer to the call.

This series features some of the most notable achievements from the last 20 years by scholars in China in a variety of research topics related to reform and opening. They include both theoretical explorations and empirical studies, and cover economy, society, politics, law, culture, and ecology, the six areas in which reform and opening policies have had the deepest impact and farthest-reaching consequences for the country. Authors for the series have also tried to articulate their visions of the "Chinese Dream" and how the country can realize it in these fields and beyond.

All of the editors and authors for the *Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path* are both longtime students of reform and opening and recognized authorities in their respective academic fields. Their credentials and expertise lend credibility to these books, each of which having been subject to a rigorous peer-review process for inclusion in the series. As part of the Reform and Development Program under the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People's Republic of China, the series is published by Springer, a Germany-based academic publisher of international repute, and distributed overseas. I am confident that it will help fill a lacuna in studies of China in the era of reform and opening.

Xie Shouguang

Acknowledgments

After a relatively short gestation period, the *Research Series on the Chinese Dream and China's Development Path* has started to bear fruits. We have to thank, first and foremost, the books' authors and editors for making this possible. And it was the hard work by many people at Social Sciences Academic Press and Springer, the two collaborating publishers, that made it a reality. We are deeply grateful to all of them.

Mr. Xie Shouguang, President of Social Sciences Academic Press (SSAP), is the mastermind behind the project. In addition to defining the key missions to be accomplished by it and setting down the basic parameters for the project's execution, as the work has unfolded, Mr. Xie has provided critical input pertaining to its every aspect and at every step of the way. Thanks to the deft coordination by Ms. Li Yanling, all the constantly moving parts of the project, especially those on the SSAP side, are securely held together, and as well synchronized as is feasible for a project of this scale. Ms. Gao Jing, unfailingly diligent and meticulous, makes sure every aspect of each Chinese manuscript meets the highest standards for both publishers, something of critical importance to all subsequent steps in the publishing process. That high quality if also at times stylistically as well as technically challenging scholarly writing in Chinese has turned into decent, readable English that readers could see on these pages then largely thanks are due to Ms. Liang Fan, who oversees translator recruitment and translation quality control.

Ten other members of the SSAP staff have been intimately involved, primarily in the capacity of in-house editor, in the preparation of the Chinese manuscripts. It is a time-consuming work that requires attention to details, and each of them has done this, and is continuing to do this with superb skills. They are, in alphabetical order: Mr. Cai Jihui, Ms. Liu Xiaojun, Mr. Ren Wenwu, Ms. Shi Xiaolin, Ms. Song Yuehua, Mr. Tong Genxing, Ms. Wu Dan, Ms. Yao Dongmei, Ms. Yun Wei and Ms. Zhou Qiong. In addition, Xie Shouguang, and Li Yanling have also taken part in this work.

Ms. Yun Wei is the SSAP in-house editor for the current volume.

Our appreciation is also owed to Ms. Li Yan, Mr. Chai Ning, Ms. Wang Lei, and Ms. Xu Yi from Springer's Beijing Representative Office. Their strong support for the SSAP team in various aspects of the project helped to make the latter's work that much easier than it would have otherwise been.

We thank Mr. Jin Bao for translating this book and Ms. Sun Xiao, Ms. Luo Hongyan for their work as the polishers. The translation and draft polish process benefited greatly from the consistent and professional coordination service by China Translation Corporation. We thank everyone involved for their hard work.

Last, but certainly not least, it must be mentioned that funding for this project comes from the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China. Our profound gratitude, if we can be forgiven for a bit of apophasis, goes without saying.

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About the Author

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Introduction

The topic of this book is not a novel one. Whether China can achieve a maritime rise, what are the challenges against such rise, and how can China achieve it as soon as possible—these are three questions that scholars on Chinese matters—political, economic, military, maritime, and historical—and international China hands have long tried to answer.

However, the answer given in this book may differ in many ways from the conclusions of previous research and discussions.

First of all, regarding China's maritime rise, this book eschews the ambiguity in characterizing most China studies and foreign researchers' indulgence in blinkered guesswork about China's military strength. Instead, it points out with eloquence and clarity that China's maritime rise is irresistible, as it is necessitated by both the internal demand for continued development and the greater responsibility China has to shoulder due to the political and economic restructuring of the international community.

Second, in terms of the challenges against China's maritime rise, this book partially agrees that China's wrestling and confrontation with a few neighboring countries over sovereignty disputes and with the great powers seeking strategic control in waters near the China seas are challenges that one cannot turn a blind eye to. However, China cannot evade a more important challenge, i.e., how to emerge as a universally acknowledged maritime power in the ever intensifying competition for the provision of global sea-related public goods.

Finally, as a recommendation for accelerating China's maritime rise, this book posits that *tunhai* (i.e., the establishment of military-economic settlements on the sea—translator's note), derived from the Western Han practice of *tuntian* (the establishment of military-agricultural settlements—translator's note), can be a feasible way for China to gradually obtain complete maritime sovereignty and make the best use of its seas under the current conditions of sea power competition. China needs to reshape the relationship between state and sea on the basis of *tunhai* in the full awareness that, in the context of globalization, it would be impossible for it to confine itself to the land. Development toward the sea is not a general strategy of a departmental or thematic nature, but a change in the country's orientation.

This book is also structured around these three answers.

Chapter 1, “China’s Maritime Rise as a Historical Trend,” analyzes China’s relationship with the sea in different historical periods and notes that, in the twenty first century, the sea has become China’s inevitable choice for survival and voluntary option for development. This is unlike the link between China and the sea before the Opium Wars, which was dispensable and intermittent, and also unlike China’s passive posture on maritime issues from the end of the Opium Wars through the entire twentieth century, from being bullied to awakening and growth.

This general trend, however, does not mean that China’s maritime rise would be plain sailing. Chapters 2 to 4 aim to find out what challenges China has to overcome and what efforts it has to make before it becomes a real great maritime power.

Chapter 2, “The Great Maritime Power Dream: Challenges and Problems,” presents a panoramic view of the real pressure facing China on the sea from its own perspective. Such pressure is of a multifaceted and multidimensional nature, coming from neighboring countries, traditional great maritime powers, and China itself; it is related to military strength and the ability to make use of the sea, to maritime awareness, tradition and voice, and to policy orientation and strategic vision.

It is true, though, that China’s sea power cannot grow on its own or in a wild way, in view of the quickening tempo of globalization and the shrinking of the globe into a village by the Internet and modern means of transport. Chapter 3, “Evolution of International Sea Power: Trend and Influence,” attempts to provide the international and historical coordinates of China’s sea power in terms of the evolution of and international competition for sea power. Now that “peaceful competition” is becoming the mainstream and emphasis is placed on the provision of global sea-related public goods, though the jungle law still has some influence on international maritime order; it is impossible for China to follow the course taken by Britain, the US, and other countries, which achieved their maritime rise through the exercise of military power. Apart from possessing a security capability commensurable with its expanding maritime interests, China needs to set an example for the world in the deep and sustainable development and utilization of marine resources.

Chapter 4, “Peaceful Growth: Dilemma and Prerequisites,” outlines the course of China’s growth into a great maritime power. The growth of China’s sea power and the tendency toward peaceful competition in production in international sea power competition determine that, behind the frustration, repression, and challenge accompanying China’s advance toward the sea, China has a mixture of goals to pursue represented by the tension between competition and cooperation, including the urgent need for maritime rise and the strong wish for peace, strategic aggressiveness through tactical conservatism, and the creation of a new maritime order under the existing framework. Therefore, given the shortfall in both related public goods provided by the government and the ability to develop and utilize the sea, China must come up with a strategy that can guarantee its maritime security and enable itself to cope with interferences and provocations while making no trouble itself and, at the same time, to make the best use of the sea, enhance the whole nation’s interest in it, and forge closer ties between the country and the sea.

Chapter 5, “Learning from *Tuntian* of Western Han,” represents a wise approach that can shed light on the design of this strategy—*tuntian*. Western Han was confronted with much the same adverse situation on its land border as today’s China is facing on the sea: both need complete sovereignty and rights to win space for lasting economic development despite the insufficiency of security support. The Western Han government achieved the goal through the *tuntian* system, in which soldiers were ordered to cultivate land and civilians were encouraged to live in the border region and asked to engage in both production and self-defense. The people involved in *tuntian* effectively relieved problems like the shortage of soldiers and logistic support for the military. Moreover, they highlighted the importance of the *tuntian* fields to the state through frontier development, the spread of agricultural technology, and integration. Those people depended on the *tuntian* fields for their livelihood, and those fields played an indispensable part in the state’s cost-and-benefit system. As a result, Western Han eventually gained complete land power in its competition with the Xiongnu.

Chapter 6, “Peaceful Rise: Strategic Prospect and Recommendations,” which builds on the logic of *tuntian* of Western Han, makes a systematic proposal for China to become a great maritime power based on the strategy of *tunhai*. First, China should develop systems and laws conducive to its advance toward the sea, e.g., by revising applicable articles in the Constitution and introducing Law of the Sea as a fundamental law, and creating a system of rules featuring mutual support between laws and regulations of the central government and those of local authorities. Second, China should establish a sea governance structure with the emphasis on practical effects as a strong institutional support. Finally, China should adopt specific *tunhai* measures such as expanding the Maritime Silk Road, encouraging the scientific development of islands, giving full play to the role of ex-service personnel, and abolishing “restraining” policies on the growth of coastal economy.

It must be emphasized that, during the writing of this book, I was torn between two forces—an infinite longing for peace and a feeling of helplessness at the jungle law that still sways the mentality of governments.

On the one hand, I sincerely hope that this book could contribute to the creation of a new maritime order dominated by peaceful competition around the world, and I also expect my country to become one of the advocates and founders of this new order, which, barring any unforeseen circumstances, will be the case in the future. On the other hand, however, reason keeps reminding me that the concept of nation-state remains prevalent nowadays and that a participant in the competition should meet the higher demand of “being able to compete by not competing” (an allusion to what Lao Tzu said: “It is exactly because she does not contend, that nobody can contend with her”—translator’s note). To achieve a peaceful rise, China may have to possess a high deterrence capacity.

Therefore, towards the end of this book, I note with some reluctance that although the importance of *tunhai* should not be underestimated, China’s maritime

rise must involve the development of military power on the sea, the encouragement of relevant technological innovation, and the demonstration of a view on the sea that can stand up to test and scrutiny. I wish that some day, when China has become a real great maritime power, there will be no more contention for power in a world that is a happy home for all mankind, with the seas being nothing more than an Eden for the pursuit of a better life.