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# How Can One Reflect upon the People's Republic of China's Totalitarian Political Economy from a Root Perspective of Moral Philosophy?

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**Abstract.** Regardless of Marshall's and Jevon's attempt to divorce economy from politics and hence morals in the 19th century, the ideals of socialism that rose at this time have similarly been steadfastly betrayed in practice and letter by the CCP. Neither is there any genuine prospect of public-choice in the sense of the Chicago School in terms of political economy in the PRC. There are merely factional and rent-collecting socialist party organ institutions that create distributional conflicts and eat up and misdirect precious resources. However, the PRC Party cadres need not concern themselves with newspapers questioning government policy as all newspapers are state-controlled, resulting in a "powerless public" oppressed by a totalitarian, socialist-come-mixed economy regime. Yet, usually, the largely rural Chinese populace remains complacent.

**Keywords:** political economy, economy regime, reform.

## 1 Introduction

When the political economy of the People's Republic of China (PRC) is reviewed, whether a perspective of political economy is taken from its original meaning of the term for analyzing production, commerce and these practices' relationships to the law, tradition and political administration (also encompassing the distribution of a county's common weal and budgetary considerations) or from the moral philosophical perspective of political economy (which developed into the 18<sup>th</sup> century analysis of the economies of states, known as *polities*), the PRC comes out sadly lacking. With both an enormous slave-labor program and army, the People Liberation Army, to administer it, the Chinese economy is firmly based upon a militaristic war economy that is transitioning to a mixed economy based on the self-same production of armaments and suppression of home and other population. From Marxist points of view and by the Chinese Communist Party's own admission, it is unlikely that a withering of the State will be seen, inaugurating any real sense of a Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

### 1.1 Political Economy of China Remained Stolid from a View of Production

During Maoist times, the political economy of China remained stolid from a view of production, according to most Western authors, and usually morally-bankrupt: “Mao Zedong was China’s “Great Helmsman” between 1949 and 1976. Corollary to his vision for China, all major social, economic and political decisions bore his personal imprimatur until his demise. By the time of his demise in 1976, the meld had been caps. China’s economy remained structurally rigid and functionally inefficient.” Even though Mao’s successors promised social change, they only delivered economic alterations without real political freedom: “Once Mao was out of the picture, Deng Xiaoping and his previously disgraced colleagues were promptly rehabilitated and brought back to centre stage once again. Though not as dictatorial, Deng nevertheless retained Mao’s mantra of “Politics in Command.” In his conversation with a delegation from the former Yugoslavia on June 12, 1987, Deng succinctly summed up his philosophy:” “I favor reform, because there is no future without reform. Reform must be comprehensive, including system reform in the economy, in the political system, and in all related domains. The overall objective of reform is to solidify our Socialist system that (concurrently) helps solidify the Party’s leadership position.” Therefore the CCP’s aim is contrary to Marxist belief that the State should wither and be replaced by a true Dictatorship of the Proletariat, something that is not happening in the PRC.

### 1.2 Economic Reforms

While economic reforms took place, this was at the expense of promise social and political reforms once part of Deng’s agenda for the new mixed economy: “Economic restructuring began in earnest, with reforming political system conveniently overlooked. The economic legacies which Mao and Deng left behind painted vastly differing pictures. Where Mao failed miserably, Deng succeeded beyond expectation”. Yet Deng failed to deliver on social and political reforms to his economic restructuring, buying off certain sections of an isolated but enriched entrepreneurial class in the new mixed economy of a supposedly “liberalizing” PRC. Thus certain sections of the PRC’s evolving and supposedly egalitarian class system took the gold (the Chinese political and entrepreneurial classes – usually through selling unproductive but materially-sound state enterprises at rock-bottom prices to associates) while the lower classes in Beijing took the lead from People’s Liberation Army guns at Tiananmen Square with the widespread shooting of students: “Deng’s approach to systemic transformation in China combined tight political controls with liberalizing economic policies. Deng’s three successors since 1997 have since were following closely in his footsteps, adopting liberalizing economic policies without permitting democratic processes”. Hence, despite a mixed economy that only certain Party cadres and their economic associates can access, little social or political reform has occurred in the post-Mao era of the PRC.

## 2 Other Views

Other major Occidental authors concur with Mantzopoulos, and Shen view of the sham-liberalization with the People’s Republic of China, post-Mao “Although China

is a historical military power with a rich tradition that goes back 5000 years, modern Chinese security perspectives are about twenty-five years old. After two and a half decades as a nation under Mao Tse-Tung's leadership, his death in 1976 brought with it initiatives for broad strategic reform. These were focused on modernization, liberalization, internal reform, opening up China to outsiders, and exposing the Chinese to the outside world. The overarching mantra has been national economic development, focused broadly on industry, agriculture, science and technology, and defense. The overall economic goal is to double the Chinese GDP by the year 2000, and to double it again by the year 2050, thus placing China squarely in the class of modern nations".

The CCP does not only use the PLA to suppress its own citizens, be they religious such as Falun Gong or otherwise. They also annexed Tibet by force during the 1950s and are trying to ethnically displace the indigenous occupants currently with Han Chinese immigrant workers as a part of their command-control come mixed economy. Meanwhile, the PRC has fought continual border skirmishes with its fellow socialist- and once-ally neighbour, the People's Republic of Vietnam, for intervening in the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime of Pol Pot of Kampuchea (Cambodia), a regime which the PRC funded and supported. This demonstrates that the CCP are morally-bankrupt in terms of political economy when one examines the sharp end of their socialist military-industrial complex. On the 29th of December, 2009, the CCP executed an obviously innocent and mentally-ill British man, Akmal Shaikh, in one of their mobile liquidation vans that tour the nation putting large numbers of people to death, similar to the supposedly-judicial mobile van killings of the disabled, deemed 'unfit for life', by the Nazis before and during World War II. Shaikh was lured to the PRC via the Internet by a Chinese criminal gang who coaxed the Briton with a ludicrous story involving a supposed and non-existent media job. The diagnosed mentally-incompetent Shaikh was induced to unknowingly carry a large amount of high-grade Chinese heroin through customs, quite openly, in a suitcase. Alert and demonstrably 'honest' CCP functionaries and custom guards (more used to fatally rifle-sniping long-range, unarmed, civilian escapee Tibetan refugees fleeing across the border) pounced (MSNBC 2006, 2009). The extensive and pervasive gulag system in the PRC runs at a profit and contributes a substantial portion through slave labour to the PRC's military-industrial complex. This is the truth of the PRC's political economy and its morals from a root perspective.

### 3 Overseas Ideas

Often the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) acts so capriciously and in such a dictatorial fashion, it is difficult to know when exactly they are dispensing due and honest justice. An example of this is the recent case of Stern Hu, the Australian-Chinese business official acting in lieu of the international and Australian mineral resource corporation, Rio Tinto, has been incarcerated by the Chinese Communist Party for alleged corporate espionage (Winkler, 1997, p.59) in the People's Republic of China. How much the CCP can be believed in these cases, considering their past totalitarian actions and expropriations, is left completely up to critical question and rightful, outright suspicion.

## 4 Conclusion

In conclusion, if the political economy of the People's Republic of China (PRC) is considered, be this a perspective of political economy taken from the original meaning of the term for investigating production, commerce and these practices' connections to the law, custom and political administration (also covering the distribution of a nation's common weal and budgetary concerns) or from the moral philosophical perspective of political economy (which grew into the 18th century investigation of the economies of states, called polities), the PRC measures up poorly. With both a huge slave-labor gulag and army, the PLA, to control it, the Chinese economy is firmly entrenched in a militaristic war economy that is morphing into a mixed economy based on the self-same production of weapons and oppression of indigenous and other populaces. From Marxist perspectives and by the CCP's own statements, it is unlikely that a withering of the State will ever be allowed to occur, inaugurating any real concept of a Dictatorship of the Proletariat.

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