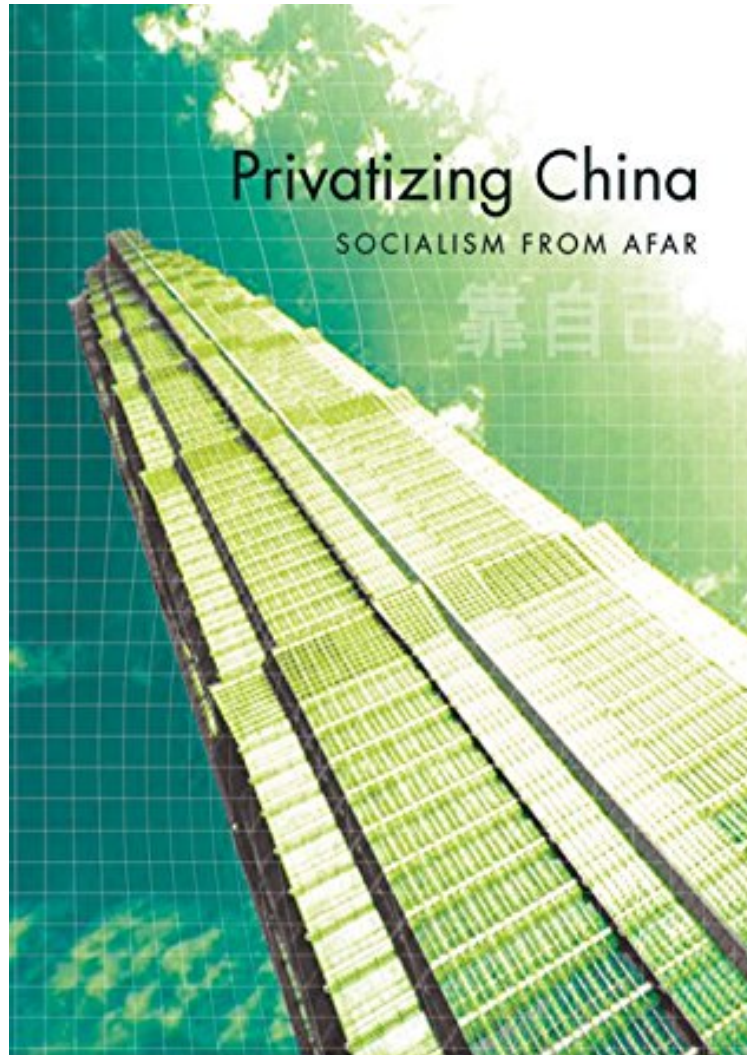


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Privatizing China: Socialism from Afar

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EDITED BY Li Zhang and Aihwa Ong

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From Cornell University Press : Privatizing China: Socialism from Afar before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Privatizing China: Socialism from Afar:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Strong contribution to understand the emerging society in China By Yong Ming Kow Privatizing China discussed a very timely topic about the development of new form of society in China. Specifically, it is about a new social, that was badly understood by some western writings. The authors, within their specific encounters with Chinese culture, articulated the process of creating new private spaces for each

individuals and institutions. From new apartments, to internet cafes, professionals, land owners, restaurants, and religious forums, we saw the effects of this new found 'freedom' on China and how it is evolving. As the whole society gravitates towards new forms of expression and differentiation between people, successful people built new spheres of power that at times conflicted with national interests. Hexie shequ, or harmonious communities, that Hu Jintao proposed, acted as a counter-balance between the state interests and need for zhengqi fenkai (separation of politics and businesses). The formation of yewehui, for instance, was a case of individuals, within their personal sphere of influence, experimentally coming together to pursue a common interest. In China, all these were part of the great experiment. Within each context, we can see the cultured forms of negotiation at dining tables and with the use of guanxi, and how these dances around formal rules otherwise so rigid in western settings. Not to forget that all these changes were built on the foundation of the old socialist. While western ethos such as privatization can give China a headstart, we can see evidence from the book of a new emerging social. Overall, recommended reading for all who are interested more in depth, and at the same time, wide ranging perspectives on the social dynamics of Chinese economic development. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very Good By Abbey D The book arrived in great condition, almost new. It also arrived much earlier than I expected, which I was very happy about.

Everyday life in China is increasingly shaped by a novel mix of neoliberal and socialist elements, of individual choices and state objectives. This combination of self-determination and socialism from afar has incited profound changes in the ways individuals think and act in different spheres of society. Covering a vast range of daily life from homeowner organizations and the users of Internet cafes to self-directed professionals and informed consumers; the essays in *Privatizing China* create a compelling picture of the burgeoning awareness of self-governing within the postsocialist context. The introduction by Aihwa Ong and Li Zhang presents assemblage as a concept for studying China as a unique postsocialist society created through interactions with global forms. The authors conduct their ethnographic fieldwork in a spectrum of domains; family, community, real estate, business, taxation, politics, labor, health, professions, religion, and consumption; that are infiltrated by new techniques of the self and yet also regulated by broader socialist norms. *Privatizing China* gives readers a grounded, fine-grained intimacy with the variety and complexity of everyday conduct in China's turbulent transformation.

"*Privatizing China* is an outstanding contribution to the literature on the extraordinary changes taking place in China today. Its authors analyze fresh evidence through new and compelling frameworks that capture the often contradictory but always fascinating 'assemblages' that constitute Chinese social, economic, cultural, and political life. All of the essays adopt a mode of presentation and argumentation that moves back and forth between theoretical commentary and ethnographic description; all are clearly written, highly accessible, moving, and evocative in their storytelling." --Susan Greenhalgh, University of California, Irvine

"*Privatizing China* is an important book that deserves a close reading by all scholars interested in postsocialist societies and/or twenty-first-century socialisms. Contributors explore China's headlong plunge into the privatization of housing, urban land, labor, consumption practices, health care, and new media. This is anthropology at its very best." --James L. Watson, Fairbank Professor of Chinese Society and Professor of Anthropology, Harvard University

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About the Author Li Zhang is Department Chair and Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Davis. She is the author of *Strangers in the City: Reconfigurations of Space, Power, and Social Networks within China's Floating Population* and *In Search of Paradise: Middle Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis*, and is the coeditor (with Aihwa Ong) of *Privatizing China, Socialism from Afar*. Aihwa Ong is Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley.