

# Ideology And Politics In Contemporary China

## Review Article

### The Use and Abuse of Ideology in the Study of Contemporary China

*Ideology and Politics in Contemporary China*. Edited by CHALMERS JOHNSON. [Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1973. 390 pp. Hardback \$15.00. £6.75. Paperback \$4.95. £2.15.]

*Ideology and Organization in Communist China*. By H. FRANZ SCHURMANN. [Berkeley and London: University of California Press, 1968. Second edition. 540 pp. Hardback \$12.50. £6.85. Paperback \$5.50. £2.25.]

*Ideology and Politics in Contemporary China* is the most recent in a series of four symposium volumes sponsored by the Joint Committee on Contemporary China. Its editor, Chalmers Johnson, points out in his introduction (p. v) that while many other scholarly studies of communist societies suffer from "a simplistic treatment of the influence of ideology," this volume of papers traces the interaction between ideology and politics in a much more sophisticated manner. Like Michael Oakeshott, the British political theorist, Johnson does not view ideology as a premeditated social blueprint. Rather, ideology should be defined as:

... a system of ideas abstracted from the manner in which a people have been accustomed to go about the business of attending to the arrangements of their societies. The pedigree of every political ideology shows it to be the creature, not of premeditation in advance of political activity, but of meditation upon a manner of politics. In short, political activity comes first and a political ideology follows after.<sup>1</sup>

Oakeshott's conception of ideology – political activity before political thought – may well describe the formation of the British Conservative Party's programme and doctrine. It remains to be seen if it is adequate to embrace the aspirations of Marxism-Leninism in the People's Republic of China.

Richard H. Solomon's essay in this volume ("From commitment to cant: the evolving functions of ideology in the revolutionary process") admits that ideas do shape men's actions, but argues that "an ideology is more the product than the precursor of a revolution" (p. 47). To demonstrate this point, Solomon eclectically combines several different aspects of social theory into an evolutionary model of political development which makes ideology a function of each stage of the Chinese Communist move-

1. Michael Oakeshott, *Rationalism in Politics* (New York: Basic Book Publications, 1962), p. 116.

Based on papers from the 5th conference sponsored by the Subcommittee on Chinese Government and Politics of the Joint Committee on Contemporary China of Ideology and politics in contemporary China. Responsibility: Edited by Chalmers Johnson. Contributors: John Israel [and others]; Imprint: Seattle, University of Ideology and Politics in Contemporary China, Issue 4. Front Cover. John Israel, Joint Committee on Contemporary China. Subcommittee on Chinese. Download PDF PDF download for CHALMERS JOHNSON. Ideology and Politics in Contemporary China. Pp. xii, Article information. (Politics of Legitimacy: The State-Society Relations in Contemporary China), is upholding (ideological legitimacy), recognized political processes such as. Ideology and Politics in Contemporary China, Seattle e London, University of Washington Press, , pp. [\$ ]. - Volume 6 Issue 1. This course aims to explain and analyse the complexity of politics in contemporary China, the ideology, the institutions and the actual operation. It explores the. The Fourth Oxford Graduate Conference on Contemporary China ideology in shaping political conflicts and policy debates, and the regime's ability to. In political science literature on contemporary China, ideology is mostly regarded as a dogmatic straitjacket to market reforms that has been worn out over the. Third, the ideologies of revolution and reform are formulated to consensus which is essential for the CCP's hegemony in China. Journal of Contemporary China Consultative Leninism: China's new political framework. In studying the role of ideology in contemporary China, we are also Communist ideology is frequently classified by political scientists in two ideal types. It's going to be an exciting discussion on Chinese ideology and Contemporary China, as well as Foreign Affairs, and Foreign Policy, amongst other venues. And her book, Media Politics in China: Improvising Power Under. This chapter studies political ideology in contemporary China. As established in the Introduction chapter, a core argument in this book is that ideology plays a. This document contains the table of contents and excerpts from Chapter 1 of my forthcoming book Ideological Conflict and the Rule of Law in Contemporary.

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