

Social Security and the Role of Civil Society Organisations in China

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Security in China

- Social Security:
Not appear till mid-1980s
- Previously and most of time
Government deal with and
people are familiar with
State security and Public security

Security in China

- 1) State security (secret police)
for political and ideological purpose

crime of Counterrevolution

Attack of CCP and its political system

Subversion of government

Espionage, etc.

consequently, control of assembly, association,

expression and demonstration

1989 and aftermath

More or less getting loose

Security in China

- 2) public security (police)

Fight against criminal for social order and justice

Review of Three *Yanda* campaigns
(rigorous crime-fight campaign)
1983, 1996-1997, 2000-01

Principles of being quicker, stricter, heavier
cause many wrong, unjust, unfair trials

Security in China

- Accusations and crime in State / Public security are often overlapped and ambiguous

Abuse of army and police

Violation of human rights

Esp in issues of freedom, democracy, civil and human rights

Case: libel, personal appeal for house-relocation, etc.
internet shield, trade union

Social Security in China

- Came into being in mid-1980s
- Get well aware of it in recent years (21st century)
- Background:
 - 1) economic reform: unemployment and high rate crime in urban, mass migrate peasant workers from rural, widening income divide, high expense in house, education and health, expanding of excluded groups
 - 2) Opening - up: coming of West idea, conception of human rights, emerging of public intellectual and social activists
 - 3) comparison and pressure from international and domestic society

Two aspects of Social Security

- 1) social welfare and benefit
 - general concept,
 - technical, professional and managing problem
- 2) social safety and political stability
 - more complicated,
 - political-economic-cultural problem
 - level of social develop
-

1) social welfare and benefit

- 3 Mountains: high cost in
House, education, health care

----house: (an ju le ye)

boom of real estate

high price, 20-30 years income for a flat

house-owner or slave of bank

What government do?

cost of land and administration fee 30-40 % in total price

Pull the price high to stimulate the economy

corruption*

cheap state-owned house and scandal

Corrupted official in urban construction



Note:
luxury
cigarette
and
watch

---Education: 9 years compulsory
but heavy cost in nursery and university
education budget: less than 4% of GDP
and continually decline
unbalanced distribution of fund and resource

---health care
expensive, few, difficult
bribery and commission
decline budget and unbalanced distribution

- The government want people to pay more in house, education and health care.
- Profit of economy growth is put into re-investment (include overseas), government and SOE expense, and corruption
- Uncertainty in social security makes highest rate of deposit and many saving in China
- Actually, China has the richest government in the world:

2000 billion USD foreign currency reserve

6000 billion Euros revenue 2008 and 30 growth

Big project ,construction and purchase one by one

- Common people do not gain equally *
- However, progress in social security is obvious
- Reform and various plans in house and health care go on.
- Experiment in local government
case: Shengmu County



Chen Tonghai, former chairman
of Sinopec
accuse of bribery 20 million Euros



Chen Liangyu, member of CCP
Political Bureau and top leader of
Shanghai

abuse of 3 billion Euros of
social security fund

other:

pension

employment

disabled

poverty

...

Achievement and problem in Social Security

- House
 - nation-wide public fund for housing
 - Cheap –rent public house
 - Economy house , price-size-limited house
- Health
 - established : urban basic insurance for big disease
 - developing rural basic and cooperation health security system
- Education
 - gradually realize 9 years free education
 - Decrease fees and other charges in school

problem

- House
- Sudden change in limit free house distribution
- Conflict between haves and have-nots
abuse of public fund, cheap-rent and economy house

Health

several failed health care plans

interest conflict between governmental and non-governmental sections

difference in various model, local economy and idea

- Education
regard it as industry , less important than other industry, budget decrease

2) social safety and political stability

- Rampant Fake
- Problem in food, medicine, house
case: milk powder, Zheng Xiaoyu,
building quality in Earthquake and
Shanghai *
- Mine Disaster and traffic accident
- Taxi driver strike
- Appeal and protest of Re-located residents *



complete falling down of
an expensive flat-building
in Shanghai

Appeal and ban appeal



- Social divide

wealth gap , haves and have-nots

power gap, conflict between official and people

information gap, stock market

inequity

income gap case*



Ma Mingzhe, CEO of Ping'an Insurance (SOE and listed company) with 6,800,000 Euros annual income

18,000 Euros per day



- 60-80 Euros monthly income for an ordinary peasant-worker

20-30 Euros per day

- psychological gap
- Hatred of the rich, the official
- Anti-society, government and CCP's rule
- Emerging and break-out of
“mass social emergencies” *

In Weng'an, Guizhou Province
people rush into police bureau and destroy it



In Shishou, Hubei Province, people conflict with police from home and other cities



6.20湖北石首7万人抗暴 民众打跑警察

- So, problems in social security make people uncertain and unsafe
- Complaint , appeal, hatred of society and government , and
protest/ demonstration (mass social emergency) lead to political instability to threat CCP's legitimacy

Social security ,stability and civil rights

- CCP-ruled government develop social security to maintain stability and legitimacy
- On the other hand, China limit civil rights to insure a silent stability and one-party rule.

Case: China's current Constitution

promulgated 1982

revised 2004

Add human rights and civil rights to it

Article 33: PRC respect and safeguard human rights

Article 34-37: eight rights

vote and be voted, opinion, publish ,assembly,
association, parade, demonstration, religion,
personal freedom

- However, no further and measurable laws to exercise human rights and civil rights
- No trial to protect those rights neither
- No any approved demonstration since 1989

to maintain stability , which, according to Deng Xiaoping, is most important above every things.

China did sign International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1998 , but the NPC has not approved it so far.

- hard to realize it at the moment
- operation of these rightst will shake stability and CCP's legitimacy

Co-relations of the two aspects of social security

- Social welfare will help maintain social stability.
- Stability will ensure the operation of social welfare.

Role of Civil Society Organisations

- In China ,often ambiguous and debatable
 - Governmental NGO & Grassroots NGO *
 - NGO = Anti-Governmental Org
 - NPO = Org with political purpose

Background: China is a CCP-dominant,
government-overwhelming country with
special political and ideological orientation.

Seek a grassroots NGO



Role

- Decompressor between complaints and governance
- Player of Construction not destruction for social development
- Diversified and dynamic force

Background

influence decline of *Danwei*, in which you are working and you are controlled from cradle to grave

Role

- 1. arouse public awareness of social security and civil rights, rule of law and civil education
- 2. mobilize people for social participation and to take action for public interests
 - easier in environment, poverty, health
 - sensitive and difficult in political issue and social problem
 - case: fine and shut of Gongmeng (Open Constitution Initiative)

- 3. surveillance of situation and supervision of government to make good use of security lobby, reconciliation, well-informed and cooperation with media great influence of website of civil society org.
- 4. Cooperation and dialogue with international counterparts and community, learn from each other
this conference

Challenges of civil organisations

- General:
 - 1) CCP-dominant government's overall control to maintain its legitimacy and the declining ideology (similar control to media, religion and trader union, etc)
 - 2) people's reluctance and indifference
 - individual and family rather than org and society
 - well-being rather than civilised way of life
 - side-effect of 1-Child Policy and
 - selfishness of post-80s and 90s

Challenges of civil organisations

- Specific:
 - 1) hard to register / license
need permission for operation from a government sector before register in Civil Ministry/ Bureau;
if register as a corporate: 5.5 % operation tax and other problem.
Case: *Gongmeng* (Open Constitution Initiative)
 - 2) lack of qualified human resource
compete with government and SOE in household registration (*Hukou*) , income etc.
 - 3) Problem in self-maintenance and management
part-time volunteers rather than professionals

Opportunity for civil organisations

- 1. Earthquake: NGOs boom and break-through
Legacy of Beijing Olympics;
2010:Shanghai Expo and Guangzhou Asian Games
Outside pressure, CCP's show-off , loose control of NGO
- 2. ICT: network connection and social mobilization for civil education
3G, SMS, QQ, BBS, website, No. 1 user market
- 3. Take advantage of political policy
 - 8-Glory and 8-Shame education (Hu Jintao)
 - scientific developing strategy (CCP campaign)
 - constructing a harmonious society (CCP prospect)

Prospects of China's society

- Transition and transformation to a more open and real civil society
- Dynamic economy and diversified society will bring political changes
- Sharing of information, technology with the world; push of globalisation and political democratisation

- Thanks !