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who were against the leftists in the riot were interviewed. Nor were other activists such as workers. Zhang has missed the opportunity to deconstruct the dynamics of the threefold relationship between Beijing's "control and the controlled" and the Hong Kong community. He only repeats an anachronistic saga of the struggle between bad guys and good guys.

This publication is the first book on the 1967 riot in Hong Kong after the handover. One wonders whether political correctness has dictated the study of this controversial issue. Lacking in scholarship, in terms of choice and quality of materials and depth of analysis, the book is a banal attempt to throw light on a turbulent episode in Hong Kong's past.

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ZHANG Weiguo, *Chinese Economic Reforms and Fertility Behaviour. A Study of a North China Village*. London: China Library, 2002. 276 pp., with tables, figures, appendices, bibliography, and index. ISBN: 1-873410-49-2. Price: £40.00.

In his meticulous work Zhang Weiguo, currently at the University of Toronto, sets out to study the linkages and interrelations between macro-level economic reforms and micro-level fertility behavior in rural China focusing on intermediate social institutions. In applying this institutional approach consistently throughout the book—addressing in turn social institutions regarding rural economy, power and authority, marriage, familial and intergenerational relations as well as the state's family planning program—the author persuasively demonstrates that his book serves well to fill the perceived gap between macro-level demographic transition theory and microeconomic theories of fertility change. The broadest point to emerge from this discussion is the interrelatedness of institutional change. On the one hand, these social institutions have been reshaped by rural reforms as well as popular responses to an altered environment; on the other hand, these same institutions served to mediate between large-scale economic and policy changes and the individual, at times having unintended effects. Thus, this study greatly contributes to our understanding of individual (fertility) behavior and the nature of institutional change.

The book's main empirical basis is Zhang's fieldwork conducted in a village in southern Hebei Province between 1992 and 1993. The limitations of a single case-study approach are obvious and duly acknowledged by the author who in general does a fine job in relating

China Information, Vol. XVII, No. 1, 2003

his findings to the national and regional contexts and the results of other researchers—one exception being the scarce attention to the considerable body of political science literature on the roles of village cadres in policy implementation. However, Zhang's thorough field research (including one census and four surveys in the village studied) ensures the high quality of his rich data which is well documented throughout the text.

After first addressing theoretical aspects as well as the macro-, meso-, and village-level reforms and their social consequences which will be familiar to most readers interested in rural China, in the main part of the book (chaps. 5–9) the author discusses social institutions related to reproductive behavior. He presents clear evidence of changing marriage patterns during the 1980s and early 1990s including marriage at an earlier age and an augmented role in marriage decision making for the young couples themselves. Most striking are his findings pertaining to increases in and a balancing of the value of bride price and dowry (pp. 104–110). Instead of retaining a large part of the bride price as compensation for the loss of their daughters' labor and as old-age support, the tendency for parents (especially better-off ones) during the reform era has been to give out-marrying daughters a greater share of the bride price as dowry. This reflects both the enhanced status of young women (now at times themselves wage-earners in local enterprises) and the continuation of relations between married daughters and their natal families. In contrast to being commonly severed during the collective period, these relations have since more often than not been retained and sometimes transformed into a channel of old-age support for parents. Less surprising is Zhang's finding that more young couples in rich families are provided with a new house after marriage than those in less affluent ones (p. 104), especially since his grouping of households according to wealth takes house ownership into account (p. 115, n. 2).

Focusing on family patterns and intra-household relations chapter six succinctly shows tendencies during the reform era for earlier household divisions and for the core familial relation to shift from father-son to husband-wife. This latter change is partly explained by the gender division of labor—with women engaged in agriculture and household chores while men migrate or commute to jobs in factories or construction—which fosters an “increasing interdependence between husband and wife” (p. 133). The more liberal social climate enabling earlier acquaintance and therefore more intimate relations between young couples is another factor contributing to this change (p. 135).

Chapter seven demonstrates how villagers have reacted to a changing institutional context and the state-sponsored family planning program with a lowering of the overall number of desired children and

with enhanced motivations to have daughters, although a preference for sons persists. On the other hand, in chapter eight Zhang depicts the largely ineffectual family planning campaigns carried out in the village during his fieldwork in 1993. The mediation of state policies through the interactions between village cadres and villagers result in a much altered, almost laissez-faire local population policy with sporadic bouts of activism during campaigns only. However, this assessment might be a bit dated since research done by this reviewer in a neighboring county in 1997 revealed a different picture of a much more institutionalized implementation of birth planning policy. Nevertheless, fertility trends detailed in chapter nine make it abundantly clear that this policy has only had limited impacts on the village studied by Zhang with most women still giving birth to three children as of the early 1990s, although marked declines in fourth and higher parity births have been registered (p. 212). In sum, the “fertility pattern in this village is ‘fewer’, but neither ‘later’ nor ‘sparser’” (p. 226).

Zhang Weiguo’s painstakingly argued book provides intriguing insights into the dynamics of fertility change in rural China. Furthermore, Zhang makes a valuable contribution to the study of changing social institutions during economic transition rewarding not only for those studying population issues but also any reader with an interest in Chinese rural society.

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Notes

¹ Marie-Claire Bergère, *L’Age d’or de la bourgeoisie chinoise* (The golden age of the Chinese bourgeoisie) (Paris: Flammarion, 1986; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989).

² See discussion in C. Cindy Fan, “Uneven Development and Beyond: Regional Development Theory in Post-Mao China,” *International Journal of Urban and Rural Research* 21, no. 4 (1997): 620–39.

³ Christopher Findlay, ed., *Challenges of Economic Reform and Industrial Growth: China’s Wool War* (Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 1992).

⁴ See especially work by Jean C. Oi, such as “Fiscal Reforms and the Economic Foundations of Local State Corporatism in China,” *World Politics* 45, no. 1 (1992): 99–126.

⁵ Recent analyses in this area include Victor F. S. Sit and Weidong Liu, “Restructuring and Spatial Change of China’s Auto Industry under Institutional Reform and Globalization,” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90, no. 4 (2000): 653–73; and Simon X. B. Zhao, “China’s WTO

Accession and Its Impact on Spatial Restructuring of Financial Centers in Mainland and Hong Kong," Occasional Papers, no. 4 (Hong Kong: CURS, Hong Kong Baptist University, 2001).

⁶ Lee Lai To, *China and the South Sea Dialogues* (Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 1999).

⁷ William C. Jones, ed., *Basic Principles of Civil Law* (Armonk N.Y.: M. E. Sharpe, 1989), xvi.