

China deconstructs

Over the last ten years China's economy has grown faster than that of any other nation. By the early part of the next century it is widely suggested that it will be the largest in the world. Yet, as it verges on becoming an economic superpower questions are being asked about China's identity.

This challenge to identity has been triggered by the Chinese economic reform and in particular the decentralization of economic power. The uncertainty surrounding succession politics is bringing the crisis to a head. This book examines the process of internal and external bargaining by analysing reforms in China's political economy. This is done through analysis of key regions, and their external connections, as well as how the outside world is interacting with this less tightly-knit China.

Decentralization has caused a number of fault lines to appear in the structure of authority because power has flowed from Beijing and into the provinces. However, the break-up of China would benefit few, either inside or outside the country. If the outside world believes that it can best accommodate China's rising power through mutual interdependence, then the strongest ties will be woven with the different regions of China.

David S.G. Goodman is Director of the Institute for International Studies at the University of Technology, Sydney and is author of *Deng Xiaoping and the Chinese Revolution*.

Gerald Segal is Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies and coordinator of the ESRC Programme on Pacific Asia. He is also the author of more than a dozen books on China.

China deconstructs

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Edited by

David S.G. Goodman and Gerald Segal



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Is China breaking up ?

For the last ten years China has achieved a more rapid rate of economic growth than any other country. It is likely that within a generation, China will have the world's largest economy. Yet, at the moment when China looks set to regain its former power, serious questions have to be asked about the continuing integrity of China. The challenges posed by economic reform, succession politics, and new forces of political liberalism are compounded by China's strategy of greater interdependence with the regional and global economy.

The writers of this book analyze the factors that might lead to the break-up of China. They provide key data about economic activity and external connections of the major regional forces. Their analysis provides essential reading for those concerned with the prospects for China, and the future stability of East Asia.

David S.G. Goodman is Director of the Institute for International Studies at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Gerald Segal is Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies and coordinator of the ESRC Programme on Pacific Asia.

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