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Zhang Weiwei (ed.), *The China Wave: Rise of a Civilizational State*, Lakewood, New Jersey: World Century Publishing Corporation, 2012, 208 pp. + xiv.

The fast economic growth of the People's Republic of China (PRC) with a non-traditional way has attracted scholars to explore the reality of this phenomenon. "Wade across the stream by feeling the way" which is proposed by Deng Xiaoping is being used as the basic principle of China's economy, governance, and politics. Still, doubt exists among both foreign observers and the local people. Is it the right way that China has chosen to promote itself to be a new civilizational country? Zhang Weiwei tries to explain this controversial issue from a rather positive perspective.

The characteristics and features of China's rise are given in Chapter 1. After 30 years of fast economic growth, China has become the world's second largest economy and its total GDP has increased about 18-fold. "Peaceful rise" is the most important feature of China's development, which means increasing the power of China without affecting the benefits of other countries. In contrast, Japan's modernization had been built on capital accumulation which was acquired through war. In terms of the level of education, healthcare, housing and average life span, China is poised to surpass the United States in the future. Chapter 2 uses the formula $1+1>2$ to explain the engine of China's growth. Coastal

provinces combine the “quasi-developed countries” within China, and interior provinces combine the “emerging economies”. Combination of those two parts produces the amazing effect and the rise of China.

Chapter 3 mainly explains the different way of a rising China. By choosing its own way of development different from the way of the Western world, China has avoided the outcome of disintegration like that experienced by the Soviet Union. Although lacking the foundation of forming a nation-state, China still becomes a nation-state after 1949. China’s rise is a combination of civilization and tradition, and tradition plays an important role for development. Large population, vast territory, long traditions, rich culture, unique language, unique politics, unique society, and unique economy combines the features of China’s civilizational state. As of the advantage of population, territory, tradition and culture, China will not follow the Western world’s model to promote the development of whole society. China should be selectively learning from foreign countries, even for political reform. China also has its own advantages from the perspective of making aims, education, looking after the elderly, saving habit, and looking forward.

The rise of a development model is explained in Chapter 4. The China model seems to be superior to American democratic model as it is a unique extension of the East Asian model which is State-guided. Practice-based reasoning, strong State, prioritizing stability, primacy of people’s livelihood, gradual reform, correct priorities and sequence, mixed economy, and opening up to the outside world are eight characteristics of the China model. China uses its own way to develop to shape the Chinese standards. By combining the Western countries’ theory with its own tradition, China changes itself to be an innovative socialist market economy.

Chapter 5 describes the framework of a new political discourse. State control in some aspects seems to have disappeared or been weakened in China. Political rationalization is more important than Western-style democratization. China's political reform aims at advancing economic development and increasing people's living standards. Western human rights theory has its weakness as it cannot reach the balance between political rights and economic rights. China contributes to the world with its ideas from people's living standards, governance, and efficiency perspectives.

Chapter 6 uses the stories of India and East Asia to end this book. By using the Western model, India's democracy has its weakness such as how populism prevails, and short-term politics thrive. When East Asia countries embrace the Western model, societal division, corruption, and negative economic effect usually appear in those countries. All those issues proved that the Western model is not suitable for China. The last section of this chapter represents a debate with Professor Francis Fukuyama.

As summarized above, this book helps foreigners and even local Chinese to understand the essence of China's development from PRC's perspective in the "open and reform" era. It explores the rise of China from the economic and political perspectives, inducing confidence that the China model is more suitable than Western model for China. Wholly copying the Western model for the Asian countries, according to the book, will bring some weaknesses due to the different culture and history of Western countries. Hence, by using both Chinese wisdom and the advanced technology from Western countries, China follows its own way of development following the dynamic condition. China's economic success, according to the author, proves the right choice of development, as China meanwhile also contributes to the world and sets the standards of diplomacy.

Even as China achieves economic success, there still exists a huge space to advance political reform. Far behind economic reform, the driving force for political reform appears weak. According to the government, freedom to some extent has to be limited, in aiming at peace and stability of the society. The author also brings up the issue of the ordinary people still feeling unsafe as their houses may be facing forced demolition and relocation, as China is trying to solve the social and economic problem. Due the State's security concerns, people in China cannot access Facebook, YouTube, Google and Gmail. Hence, scholars in China have to use proxy or Virtual Private Network (VPN) to access Google Scholar in order to search for academic articles. Under President Xi Jinping's leadership, China is now focusing on anticorruption efforts. However, people still wonder whether this campaign will last 10 years or more, as every new leader in China has a different administrative and policy orientation.

All in all, this is a good book that introduces China's performance and achievement in economy and politics today. It leads us to think critically about every existing theory and model of development. It invites the reader to consider the development path according to an "Eastern" model. This model has its own advantages subject to different country's features. Even if it still needs to be developed, from PRC's perspective in the economic reform era it represents a new model that fits the conditions of China and hence should be respected and recognized by both foreigners and local Chinese citizen.

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