

# Reform, Opening-up and China's Changing Role in Global Governance

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# Preface

As I am an author who writes articles in my mother tongue, most of my articles and written works for the past thirty-odd years are published in Chinese version. However, based on the characteristics of my job and work unit, I also wrote several articles in English occasionally, while part of the published essays were translated from Chinese into English for direct communication with foreign fellows. During the process of contact with foreign scholars and experts, I received English edition books sent from them many times, however, I felt pity that there are only a small number of written works in English that I can give them. From 1988 to 2019, there are totally 11 pieces of working papers that I wrote and rendered in English editions, which are suitable to be compiled and published.

In the summer of 1988, the Helsinki-based UNU-WIDER established a research program “Economic Reform of Countries in Transformation”, for which the director of economic research institute affiliated with Poland Planning Commission was appointed on the leading position, and its members are from Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and China, and I was the only member from China among them. Our mission was that every member needs to accomplish a reform report in view of their nationality during roughly two months. Although China has undergone reform and opening-up for about 10 years by then, the systematic descriptions and conclusions of China’s reform and opening-up for the past 10 years were not adequate, and to arrange and comprehend the logic and path of China’s reform and opening-up was a difficult task with huge pressure for me, as a 28-year-old young Chinese research fellow at that time. After absorbing suggestions and advice of colleagues from Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, the article titled “[Economic System Reform in China](#)”, as one of the working paper series on developing economic research, was published in 1989.

This research program was a long-term item, and the panelists attended meetings to discuss initial paperwork in Warsaw during spring and summer in 1989. According to the overall requirement of the item team, the second national report should be focused on stable policies of the reform course, which is the second chapter titled “[Reform, Development and Stabilization Policies: The Case of China](#)” in this compilation. Despite the paperwork being discussed and reviewed, I was unable to attend the meeting held in Helsinki to arrange working papers for some reasons at that time, due

to which this paperwork was not listed in the working paper series of WIDER. As a result, this paperwork has become one of the two articles that have not been published yet. From today's perspective, there are many parts that need to be improved and are not accurate in the paperwork, but it somehow has reflected upon my understanding and thinking of that period in 30 years ago. From a different angle, to understand China's reform and opening-up in the point of view of young Chinese researchers in 30 years ago can provide certain value especially to readers interested in China's reform and opening-up history.

2008 marked the 30th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up, and at the invitation of the editor of *Wenjing* magazine, I completed an article titled "[Smith Theorem, Olson Conditionality, and Reform: An Institutional Economics Interpretation of China's Growth Performance During 1978–2008](#)". If the previous two articles emphasize on detail and the implementation process of China's economic system reform, this article that was written in 2008 can be seen as an economic and theoretical explanation of China's reform and opening-up process, in particular, on its huge success. And in 2018 which marked the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up, I wrote another article "[China's Opening-Up: Idea, Process and Logic](#)", and this article gave a systematic presentation about the reform sector. Until today, the Chinese economy has scored great achievements, and the per capita GDP has exceeded to ten thousand US dollars in 2019, and the problems China faced and its external relations have changed profoundly. From the article "[China's Structural Reforms and Implications for Northeast Asia](#)" written in 2017, readers can understand China's efforts to realize the growth model transformation which is from high speed growth to high quality growth.

The above mentioned five articles consist of the first half of the compilation, namely China's reform and opening-up.

The second half of the compilation put emphasis on the relations between China and the outside world. China and India are the two largest developing countries, and their economic cooperation is not only concerned with their economic growth performance but also will bring immense spillover effect. The article "[The Relationship Between China and India Within the Framework of Asian Economic Integration](#)" published in 2008 made a conclusion that the China-India relations are more on functional cooperation rather than comprehensive and close cooperation, which has stood the test of time.

Global governance is one of my key research areas at Institute of World Economics and Politics. To present the Chinese appeal and purpose of participating in and improving the global governance procedure has become my focal point. In this regard, I wrote two theses, which are "[How G20 Can Better Support Global Governance?—A Chinese Perspective](#)" from Chinese Perspective, and "[Non-neutral International Institution and Catch-Up Strategy of Emerging-Market Economies](#)", respectively. In these two theses, I put the concept of the non-neutral system which set forth 30 years ago into the discussion of global governance, which aims to discover the game in the global governance reform negotiation and to guarantee the maximum of interests by maintaining and building international rules. To clarify the global governance on the basis

of the academic theory is another objective that I pursue when thinking over related issues. In the paperwork “[Global Governance: A Theoretical Framework](#)”, I have tried to summarize global governance combined with the fundamental analysis and logics of neo-system economics, and set up an initial conception system and framework. To some extent, the article Understanding Global Governance can be deemed as a simplified version of the previous one. On the basis of the two paperworks, I have been composing a written work of the same title along with my partners.

Presently, the international landscape has been going through profound changes, which was triggered by radical alternation of major power strength, and consequently has dealt with a heavy blow to the international system established since the end of World War II. With the overall peace prevailing the world for the past 75 years and the economic development especially propelled by the industrialization process, and the alternation of population age and ethnicity structure, humankind faced increasingly severe global challenges. For example, the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic seems to be an alarm to humanity. The essay titled “[Perception of ‘The Great Transformations Once in a Century’](#)” can be regarded as a type of thinking to the world pattern and human destination by myself.

And the above six articles consist of the second half of the compilation.

With this opportunity of writing the preface, I want to express my gratitude to my four partners, in particular. They are Dr. Tian Huifang, research fellow Feng Weijiang, Dr. Ren Lin and Dr. Song Jin. It is through their collaboration that the four theses were completed in a smooth way. During the editing course, Dr. Ren Lin, Dr. Song Jin, Dr. Peng Bobo, Ms Li Junwei and Ms Gao Fei made their contribution to the publication of the compilation, and I appreciate their great help. Meanwhile, I also feel grateful to Ms Wang Yin, an assistant of the Editor in Chief of China Social Sciences Press, and her team. Thanks to the publication of this book, our partnership has become more solid. And so long as for any possible mistake in the book, I would be held accountable for that.

Beijing, China  
August 2020

Yuyan Zhang

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