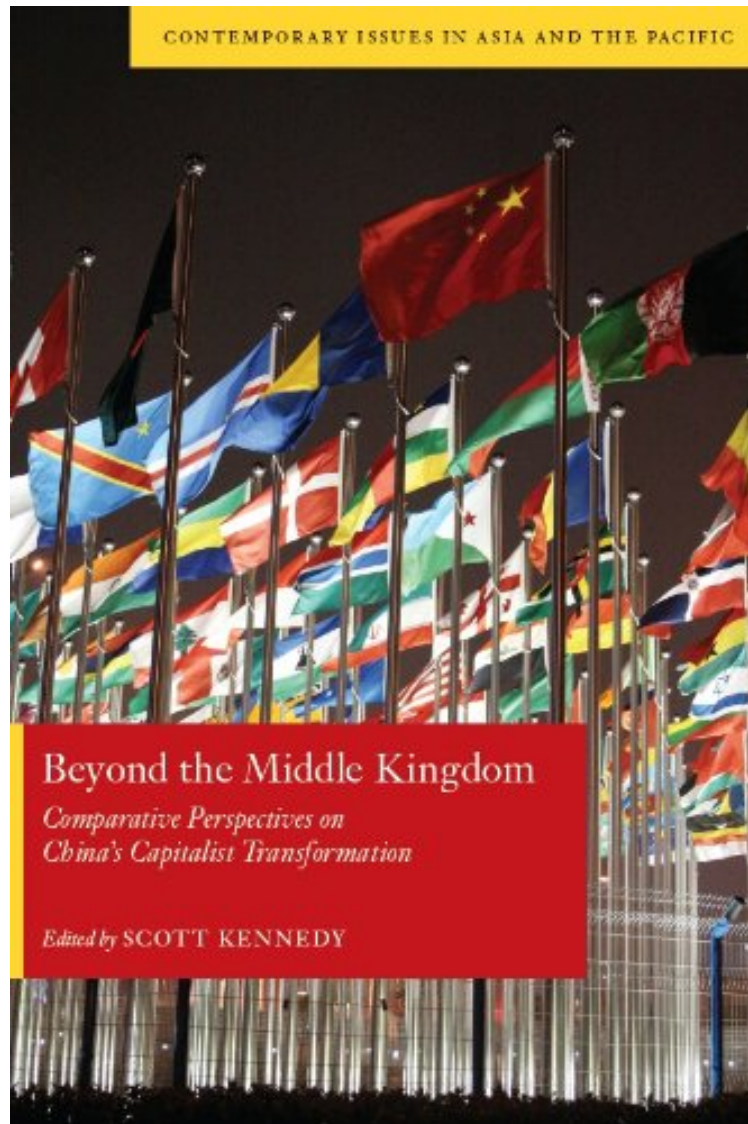


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1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Brilliant Book on China from a Comparative Perspective By Terrence Paupp This is a brilliant and unique book. This edited volume brings together scholars who address the little addressed questions associated with China. Where does China stand and how does it act in reference to other nations and common economic challenges in the 21st century? These are the central issues that this magnificent book addresses. In so doing, it takes the focus off the traditional preoccupation with military matter and US hegemony. Rather, it successfully addresses the reality of China's "peaceful rise" and the lessons that the pursuit of peace and progress can teach the rest of the world. In that regard, we can begin to think outside of the old box of Westernized "International Relations Theory" by rejecting the concept of the "balance of power" as some kind of central theme for global affairs in our new 21st century. The comparative emphasis of this book is astoundingly good. It is also highly relevant and informative like no other available book on the market!

This book breaks new ground by systematically examining China's capitalist transformation through several comparative lenses. The great majority of research on China to date has consisted of single-country studies. This is the result of the methodological demands of studying China and a sense of the country's distinctiveness due to its grand size and long history. The moniker Middle Kingdom, a direct translation of the Chinese-language word for China, is one of the most prominent symbols of the country's supposed uniqueness. Composed of contributions from leading specialists on China's political economy, this volume demonstrates the benefits of systematically comparing China with other countries, including France, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, India, Brazil, and South Africa. Doing so puts the People's Republic in a light not available through other approaches, and it provides a chance to consider political theories by including an important case too often left out of studies.

"For anyone wanting to understand China in a global context, this an excellent place to begin. Summing Up: Highly recommended." (C. A. Haulman CHOICE) "An impressive and most welcome effort to bring China into comparative analysis. This volume will be welcomed by both China specialists and others interested more broadly in the comparative political economy of development." (Richard F. Doner, Professor of Political Science Emory University) "With the advent of this volume, the literature of contemporary Chinese political economy no longer stands alone, but rather is duly blended into the mainstream studies of comparative political economy. Contributors of this volume methodically revisit salient issues of post-Mao Chinese development and masterfully compare them with those in carefully chosen reference societies on many analytical templates. Innovative and insightful." (Tun-jen Cheng, Class of 1935 Professor College of William and Mary) "[Beyond the Middle Kingdom] will come as a breath of fresh air to those seeking the de-ghettoization of China in comparative politics . . . [The] book aims to redress the country's outsider status by situating it alongside other cases of crucial importance in the field of political economy . . . Among the more original and impressive aspects of the book is the breadth of cases chosen for comparison." (Stephen Noakes) "This well-integrated, coherent book delivers persuasively on its comparative agenda and shows that a comparative, cross-national approach to the study of China is indeed a worthy endeavor and that China's transformation cannot be understood by overly simplified references to a single development model." (Marc Szepan) "[T]his edited volume is a serious academic work with several distinct strengths . . . [T]he chapters by various authors are coherently and organically connected, giving this volume of nine chapters (by eight authors) the impression of a work well-executed under a shared plan. Cross-references within the chapters are well-placed, which makes it easy to read this edited volume; despite some distinct individual styles. This excellent volume is suitable for a graduate seminar on China's economy or political economy and for an upper-division under-graduate class on the similar subject." (Yi Feng Journal of Chinese Political Science) About the Author Scott Kennedy is Associate Professor, Departments of East Asian Languages Cultures and Political Science, and Director, Research Center for Chinese Politics and Business, Indiana University. He is author of *The Business of Lobbying in China* (Harvard University Press, 2005) and editor of *China Cross Talk: The American Debate over China Policy Since Normalization, A Reader* (Rowman Littlefield, 2003). His current research projects are on the growing role of Chinese industry and government in global governance and on the evolution of corporate political activity in China.