International Journal of China Studies

Volume 5    Number 2    August 2014    ISSN 2180-3250

Special Issue

June Fourth at 25: The Quarter-Century Legacy of Tiananmen

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION
The Long Shadow of Tiananmen: Political Economy of State-Civil Societal Relations in the People’s Republic of China Twenty-five Years On / Emile Kok-Kheng Yeoh

SPECIAL COMMENTARY
The Reemergence of Public Intellectuals in Late Twentieth-Century China: Reflections on the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Tiananmen / Merie Goldman

ARTICLES

June Fourth at 25: Forget Tiananmen, You Don’t Want to Hurt the Chinese People’s Feelings – and Miss Out on the Business of the New “New China”! / Arif Dirlik


The Legacy of the 1989 Beijing Massacre: Establishing Neo-Authoritarian Rule, Silencing Civil Society / Johan Lagerkvist

Revisiting the Role of the Media in the Chinese Communist Party’s Legitimation Strategy in Post-Tiananmen China: Case Study of News Corporation / Chin-fu Hung and Stuart Dingle

The Problematic Politics of China’s Economic Reform Plans / Guy de Jonquières

Xinjiang in the Aftermath of Tiananmen: Prospects for Development and Challenges for the New Administration / Roy Anthony Rogers

Old Question Revisited: Towards a Holistic Understanding of 1989 / Barış Yörümez


BOOK REVIEW
Xinjiang in the Aftermath of Tiananmen: Prospects for Development and Challenges for the New Administration

Roy Anthony Rogers*
University of Malaya

Abstract

The political conditions in Xinjiang and the Tiananmen Square demonstrations both remain taboo topics in China. Since 1978 when Deng Xiaoping took over the leadership of China after the demise of Mao Zedong in 1976, China including Xinjiang witnessed dramatic changes in the economic and political situation. This article examines the impact of the Tiananmen Square demonstrations in 1989 on the political conditions in Xinjiang. Political violence and separatist activities in Xinjiang have increased in the 1990s despite some conciliatory measures which were undertaken by the Chinese administration. This article argues that one of the factors include the Tiananmen Square demonstrations which have provided a boost to some Uyghurs to openly challenge the Chinese administration. In addition, it also analyses the possible strategies that the new Chinese leaders can take into consideration to overcome the security problems in the province.

Keywords: Tiananmen Square demonstrations of 1989, Xinjiang, Uyghur, Han, Central Asia

JEL classification: F54, H12, J15, Z13