



Thoughts on China's Development  
and its Implications on India:  
a Chinese policy practitioner's  
perspective



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- ▶ 1. China's Human Rights Development and the Evolution of the Social Sector
  - ▶ 2. China's domestic and foreign policies and its potential implications for India
  - ▶ 3. South-South Cooperation? – can we reconstruct human rights narratives for the global south? What are some points of learning and entry?



# China's human rights and social sector development – at “China Speed”

60%

of NGOs operated in labor rights, HIV/AIDS, environmental protection, or education

Registered: 600,000+

Unregistered: 1.5 million+

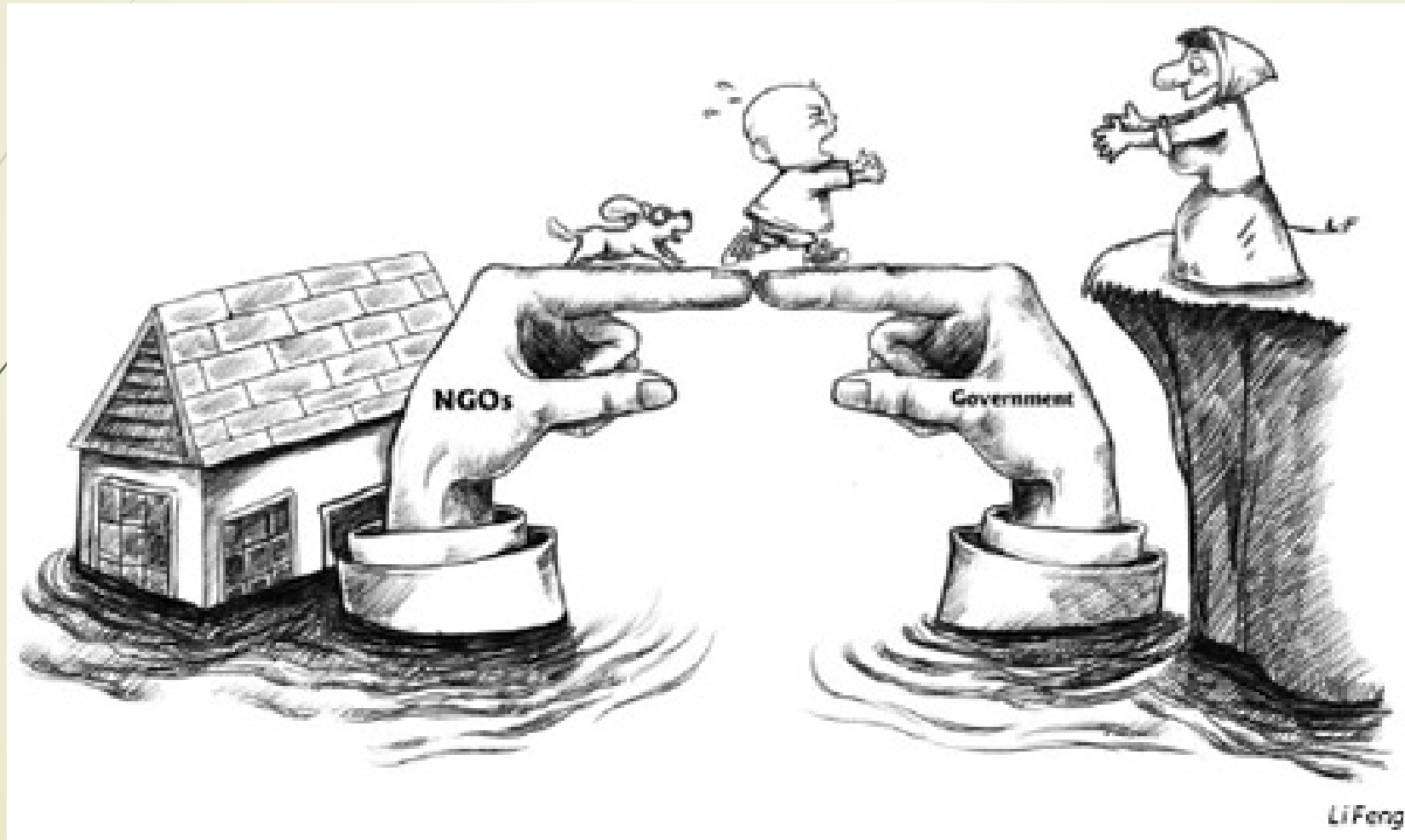
85%

of grassroots NGOs were founded in 2000 or later

In 15 years

China will have the largest number of social organizations in the world

# Contentious, evolving relationship



# Harsh government crackdowns – threat to social and political stability?

➤ Represses those involved in:

- Legal aid, Labor rights, Ethnic minority affairs, Religion
- E.g. Feminism,
- Territorial Disputes
- Hong Kong? Taiwan?
- Depends on issue area







# Tightened Government Regulations

- ▶ Charity Law – controlling what issue areas China should focus on?
- ▶ Foreign NGO Law, restrictions on foreign funding, crackdown on civil liberties and ‘western values’?
- ▶ National Security concerns?
- ▶ Government: are NGOs and foreigners the best vehicles for human rights development?



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- What is China's current human rights situation?
  - How is human rights linked to its current 'China speed' economic development?
  - How might this change the discourse of the general human rights global narrative?



# China and the World





# Ancient Links – Modern Interpretations?

- ▶ trading networks of China's maritime and silk routes
- ▶ knowledge systems (Buddhism → Confucian and Taoist culture)

## China and the World – the Belt and Road Initiative



# Belt and Road Initiative

- ▶ Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road → development strategy proposed by the Chinese government which focuses on connectivity and cooperation between Eurasian countries
- ▶ Infrastructure Investment and Trade
  - infrastructure, telecommunications, health care, training and education
  - concessional loans and preferential credit to countries in the global South
- ▶ Cultural Exchange?
- ▶ Political Influence?

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- ▶ Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Silk Road Fund
    - ▶ 84 member countries, with China holding just under 27 per cent of its voting shares, effective veto power, as major bank decisions require at least 75 per cent support. India is the second largest shareholder, with 7.7 per cent of the votes
    - ▶ approved funding for 24 infrastructure projects, five of them in India (28%)
  - ▶ Development finance environmental and social regulations? Safeguards? Accountability offices?



# Foreign Aid?

- ▶ China – Africa
- ▶ China – SE Asia
- ▶ China – Pakistan ...
- ▶ Chinese foreign aid models? Accountability mechanisms?




# India's concerns

- ▶ lack of transparency in decision making
- ▶ Chinese incursion in the Bhutanese territory, the India-China stand-off at Doklam
- ▶ China's flagship project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) – goes through Kashmir (PoK).
- ▶ Security implications of BRI for India is still unfolding, India boycotted BRI forum
- ▶ However – India still a big borrower from AIIB and benefiter from infrastructure projects - (adopted a multi-country, rules-based style of governance)






# Risks?

- Rule of law? International law?
  - Environmental Destruction?
  - Community Development?
  - Cross-cultural relations?
  - Sufficient Accountability Mechanisms?
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What does this mean for Asia regional governance?

- Rise of Asian philanthropy
- High tech exchanges
- Youth exchanges
- Common development challenges



## New Human Rights Narrative under South-South Cooperation context ?

- Gender?
- Labor?
- Environmental Rights?
- Indigenous People? Ethnic Minorities?
- Community Development?



Questions?

