

moves beyond formal approaches, which have proven unsuitable for the assessment of civil society building. Hence, in terms of both its methodology and findings the research has significant implications for the future study of civil society.

Bibliography

Havel, Vaclav. *The Power of the Powerless*. New York: Palach Press, 1985.

Janos, Andrew. *East Central Europe in the Modern World*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000.

Linz, Juan J. and Alfred Stepan. *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996.

Pridham, Geoffrey and Tatu Vanhanen. eds. *Democratization in Eastern Europe-domestic and international perspectives*. London: Routledge Publishers, 1994.

Rupnik, Jacques. "On the two models of exit from communism: Central Europe and the Balkans," in *Between past and future-the revolutions of 1989 and their aftermath*, ed. Antohi, Sorin and Vladimir Tismaneanu. Budapest: CEU Press, 2000.

Vejvoda, Ivan and Mary Kaldor. "Democratization in Central and East European Countries," *International Affairs*. 73 (Jan. 1997).

James Kynge. *China Shakes the World: The Rise of a Hungry Nation*, London: Phoenix, 2006. xi + 244 pp. £8.99/€14.07 (paperback).

Author: Dylan Kissane
University of South Australia,
School of International Studies
dylan.kissane@unisa.edu.au

There have been many of books published in the past five years describing the fundamental changes to international politics that a rising China has provoked. Some, such as David Lampton's *Major Power Relations in Northeast Asia* or David Shambaugh's *Power Shift*, largely focus on security and foreign policy issues arising from the PRC's post-socialist transformation. Others, including Nicholas Lardy's *Integrating China into the Global Economy*, are concerned with the implications for global markets of China's economic trajectory. James Kynge's *China Shakes the World: The Rise of a Hungry Nation*, however, does not limit itself to considerations of a sole element of China's tangible impacts on the world. Instead Kynge attempts to consider China from within and without in economic, social and political terms, succeeding in presenting an informed study of the nation-state that will come to influence international affairs in ways barely imagined during the Cold War.

Broadly, Kynge's book is divided into two parts which might be thought of as "the impact" and "the cost". Chapters

One to Five present studies of Chinese successes in manufacturing and industry, all to the detriment of communities in Europe and the United States. Drawing of examples ranging from steel and vehicle production to textiles and men's fashion, Kyngge explains how the evolution of China has revolutionized global markets. The final four chapters assess the impact of this revolution within China from a variety of perspectives. The environmental cost on rivers and forest both in mainland China and across the world, the social costs to individuals and families in China as well as the impacts on those in the West who feel they are "losing" to the rising Chinese state. Kyngge concludes that, in spite of the significant changes within and without China, "future scenarios full of doom and gloom" (p.227) fail to consider the integration of the People's Republic into the world economy in recent years that acts as an increasingly strong restraint on the possibility of international aggression.

Kyngge's style is engaging and it easy to imagine him as a very British Thomas Friedman. In contrast to Friedman's broad generalizations and relentless name-dropping, however, Kyngge takes the reader to the very personal experiences of the average citizen in China and beyond. Kyngge's account of the impact of identity fraud in China, for example, draws on an interview with Qi Yuling, a young woman whose life was changed forever when a classmate stole her identity after high school (pp.149-153). Drawing on Qi's

experience, Kyngge builds a case for the endemic black market that infests Chinese cities. In Beijing, he notes, "a whole identity makeover with a PhD in rocket science can be bought for less than \$100" (p.154). Kyngge cites the thriving market within major cities in illegal vehicle license plates which are mounted on cars to avoid speeding fines (p.155). Such examples build to the inevitable conclusion that, despite all the successes of China, there remain some domestic obstacles for the state to overcome in order to continue its meteoric international rise.

Kyngge uses this methodology consistently throughout his text, moving from the specific and personal through to the general conclusions that depict broader trends, both in China and abroad. Such an inductive style is common in texts that attempt to bridge the gap between academic and popular social science. While it makes for easy reading and opens the book to a wider audience, it also results in an absence of the detailed citations that will aid the researcher. As such, while it is deserving of its 2006 *Financial Times* Business Book of the Year award, it remains short on the footnotes and sourced references that aid scholars in building their own arguments. This is not a failing on the part of Kyngge – he made no representation of presenting a standard academic work – but it must be considered by the serious researcher of post-communist economies.

While it is impossible to compare post-socialist China with post-socialist

Central and Eastern Europe in all areas, there are some similarities that remain striking. Besides the impact of the black market, there are clear parallels in two other areas, the first being the market price of labour in post-socialist societies. Though the disparity in labour cost between China and the rest of the world has driven their manufacturing sector for a decade, the same cost disparity exists between the former socialist states of Central and Eastern Europe and the states of Western Europe. While there remains the chance that Western multinationals will bypass Central and Eastern Europe and direct their investment to China, Kyngé does not discount the possibility of post-socialist European states using their comparative advantage in labour costs to their advantage (p.94).

Further, China's embrace of regional institutions through ASEAN+3 (p.212), the East Asia Summit and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation mirrors the integration of Central and Eastern Europe in both the European Union and NATO. While China's regional integration is not as far-reaching or as bureaucratic as that experienced under Europe's continent-wide project, it is significant that major regional powers such as Russia and China are working more closely in matters of security and foreign policy. This will surely impact on international affairs just as much as the economic policies that Kyngé describes in this book. The reader with research interests in post-Cold War integration in Europe will thus find this an interesting comparative study of

post-communist economic, social and political development.

However, integration is only part of the rising China story. Kyngé recounts the tale of the Illinois town of Rockford. Previously the heart of the American machine tooling industry, today it is a town which has felt the rise of China in a way that increasingly more communities in the West have and will. Its manufacturing jobs have departed for the Asian superpower, and have been traded for cheaper imported consumer products which now fill the aisles of the local Wal-Mart. Describing this trend, Kyngé writes "Rockford's centre of gravity had shifted" (p.98). *China Shakes the World* is a compelling study of Rockford's story writ globally. Kyngé's book is above all else an account and analysis of the shift in the global centre of gravity from the North Atlantic of the United States and Europe to the Asia-Pacific of China and the United States. Of utility to researchers and students of post-socialism, Asia studies and globalization, Kyngé's work will enlighten and inform both the scholar and the more general audience with an interest in this rising state.

T.J. Pempel, editor. 2005. *Remapping East Asia: The Construction of a Region*, Cornell: Cornell University Press, 315 pages.

Author: Jewellord Nem Singh
Lund University, MA Center for East and Southeast Asian Studies
jtnemsingh@gmail.com