

Understanding Asia: Ideas, Democracy, and Rights

Democratization Today: Theoretical and China-Specific Reflections



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(In cooperation with the
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Studies)

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Hybrid event

Talk of the crisis of democracy has been around for decades and seems here to stay. Such talk is misleading, because the presupposed idea of democracy as the property of a state form and of democratization as progress toward such a state form is misguided. I propose assigning priority to democratization as an open-ended and reversible process rather than to democracy as a normative end state, actual or imagined. Treating the reversed order of priority as my point of departure, I will proceed to give a brief sketch of a potential theory of democratization, followed by briefer reflections on the state of democratization in China and in the democracies.

Jiwei Ci is Visiting Professor of Philosophy at the University of Oxford, having previously taught at the University of Hong Kong. He is the author of *Democracy in China: The Coming Crisis* (2019), *Moral China in the Age of Reform* (2014), *The Two Faces of Justice* (2006), and *Dialectic of the Chinese Revolution: From Utopianism to Hedonism* (1994).