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The economic transformation that China has undergone over the last several decades is regarded as one of the most important events in recent international relations. The Chinese government plays an important role in some of the most prominent international groupings (e.g. SCO, BRICS). China is also a heavy hitting negotiator when it comes to climate change and other international debates. Indeed, the more China develops, the more important it becomes for other international actors to understand the global giant. How the Chinese government functions is a crucial aspect of understanding China. Specifically, it is imperative, say the authors of this text, to understand not only China's international economic and political policies but also its domestic and social policies and, critically, its media. They say, with more interaction between the international community and China, there must be an increased focus on the way the Chinese media works.

The Chinese media is an important aspect to understand if one wants to understand the control of the Chinese government with respect to the Chinese society. Media in China is highly controlled, and it is generally regarded as the "mouthpiece" of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The CCP has been using the media in order to promote and disperse the information and ideas which it regards necessary and conducive to a harmonious society and highly controls the information available to the Chinese people. However, this system has been undergoing a shift in power since the introduction of the Internet. Even though the Chinese government originally introduced the Internet in order to help in the overall economic development of the country, the Internet has—much to the government's dismay—also helped the Chinese people voice their political, social, and economic discontentment with the government. This development also highlights the way the central leadership pitches itself against the provincial and local leadership in China. Finally, say the authors, with the introduction of market reforms, there has been a reduction in the media subsidy and, thus, the media sector has also become highly commercialized. This has led to a boom in the media industry in China both at the national and provincial level.

With this background, the book *Mapping Media in China*, as argued by the editors, is an attempt to "reflect the full range of topics and materials that can be, and in fact should be, analyzed as 'media,' with provincial Chinese media as our focus" (p. 9). The book is an edited volume divided in five parts. Each section discusses a different theme, including methodologies and frameworks; local politics; rural cultures; regional formations and rescaling place. The authors have contributed chapters within these sections attempting to understand what developments and changes have taken place in the regional media landscape and politics in China in the last decade. However, what the book lacks is a chapter concluding the overall debate and arguments presented in the book.

Some of the important arguments presented by the authors are discussed. Zhao and Xing argue in their chapter that "expansionist and profit driven logic of the Chinese commercial media has brought new patterns of class-based inclusion and exclusion in social communication" (p. 45), a conclusion at which they arrive based on their "examining the central-local dynamics and the impact of a profound class differentiation on media production and representation." Sun argues, "The government's role as a guarantor of public order and social justice has been completely overshadowed by its commercial interests" (p. 74). Another important argument put forth by Svensson is that "...the relationship between local, provincial, and national media is

quite dynamic” (p. 210). Each author’s contribution strengthens the argument that a study of the Chinese media is essential to understanding Chinese thinking and society at large. It also brings to light the new role that the provincial and local media are undertaking. Rather than just being the conveyor of news as directed by the central media; today, these local media also play a crucial role in formation and dissemination of news.

Mapping Media in China provides a detailed analysis of the “provincial media” in China and how it has transformed over the years. This book can be regarded as an essential read for any scholar or student trying to understand the Chinese media today and how it functions in the changed environment. The authors have conducted in depth analyses that enrich the discussion of the Chinese media.

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