

TW Nolan on
Zhang Weiwei The China Wave
World Century, 2012

He is a professor of international relations at Fudan University. This is a translation and partial rewrite of his best selling book in China.

He notes that within China as well as in the West there are vigorous debates about the future of China.

While noting many problems he takes a quite optimistic view and argues that China needs to follow its own path.

While there's much that can be learned from other countries

he's extremely critical of what he sees as the US model of market fundamentalism

which he sees as both highly crisis prone and inequitable. He makes a lot of the US financial crisis and is very negative on the experience with 'shock therapy' in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

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"The most impressive characteristic of China's rise is its peaceful nature, with internal stability and unity..." p 12

He strongly argues for using PPP calculations in comparing country's GDP and argues that China's moving up the list of country's GDP's has attracted much more attention in the West than in China.

He cites Robert ~~Fogel~~ Fogel's estimate in Foreign Policy, 2010, that by 2040 China would be 40% of the global economy, and the US only 14%.

He argues that China is a 'civilization state' based on the four features of population, territory, tradition, and culture" p 67

He discusses the Asian Development model and argues that the 1997-98 crisis was caused more by 'casino' capitalism than by 'crony' capitalism. He argues that while China has a problem with corruption many other countries have it worse.

He notes a study by Daniel Kaufman of Brookings that if political contributions and lobbying ~~was~~ are considered corruption. Then the US is 53rd of 102 countries studied.

"Along with the South Korean democratization was a swift expansion of economic nationalism ... in the early 1970s ... [the] South Korean elite were so preoccupied with election that the supervision of the economy was somehow neglected," p 84

"I tend to believe that the overwhelming power of capital in the American political system is a major cause of the current crisis ... [which] is a penalty for those who believe in market fundamentalism and democratic fundamentalism" p 85

He argues that China has a unique development model based on the following factors:

1. practice based reasoning based on lots of experimentation

③ "The logic of China's political culture" has allowed it to escape "traps" such as shock therapy, wholesale privatization, and financial crisis

2 A strong state

"China has a relatively strong, disinterested and pro-development state" p 92

3 ~~Protecting~~ Prioritizing Stability

4 Primacy of People's Livelihood

"people-oriented economy"

5 Gradual Reform

6 Correct Priorities and Sequence

"[This] is inseparable from China's holistic and dialectic philosophical traditions" p 98

7 Mixed Economy - "socialist market economy"

"China has shown ingenuity in separating the right of land ownership from that of land use" p 99

8 Opening Up to the Outside World

He believes that if China had followed the Western model it would experience "huge chaos and even a breakup" p 109

"The Chinese economic system has... endeavored to combine the efficiency of the market economy and the strength of overall balance of socialism" p 107

It has avoided the excessive capitalism of the US and the excessive welfare state of Europe. ~~?~~

He's negative on the outlook for India.
Its democracy has five inherent
weaknesses. The double P's: populacism
and ~~politicization~~ polarization
and the triple S's - soft state,
short-termism and scheming

He argues that as Asia democracy
has led to divided societies and
corruption has generally increased

He notes a survey where Asian
elites have an orderly society and
harmony as their major objectives
values while in the US it was
freedom of speech and individual
rights p 149

2009 Pew survey on whether
citizens are satisfied with the
way things are going, China 87%,
US - 36%, France 27%, Japan 25%.

He reports an interesting debate he
had with Francis Fukuyama. He
criticizes the lack of political accountability
in the US and argues that the need
for political reform is as strong for the
US as for China and that China
has solved the 'bad emperor
emperor' problem