Shanghai Rising
State Power and Local Transformations in a Global Megacity
Xiangming Chen, editor with Zhenhua Zhou

Analyzing a Chinese city’s dazzling rise to global megacity status

Until around 1990, Shanghai was China’s premier but sluggish industrial center. Now at the beginning of the twenty-first century, the joint impact of global forces and state power has turned Shanghai into a dynamic megacity. Shanghai’s remarkable growth in economy, infrastructure, and global presence has prompted questions about the Shanghai “miracle.” This collection places the city’s unprecedented rise in a rare comparative examination of U.S. cities, as well as with Asian megacities Singapore and Hong Kong, providing a nuanced account of how Shanghai’s politics, economy, society, and space have been transformed by macro- and micro-level forces.

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EXCERPT:
“The large city of today has emerged as a strategic site for a whole range of new types of operations—political, economic, and cultural. It is a prominent nexus where the transformation of old practices and formation of new claims, involving both the powerful and the disadvantaged, unfold and take hold.” —Saskia Sassen, from Shanghai Rising

Xiangming Chen is director of the Center for Urban and Global Studies and Raether Distinguished Professor of Sociology and International Studies at Trinity College. He has also been honored as Distinguished Professor at the School of Social Development and Public Policy, Fudan University, Shanghai.
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