

CHINESE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AFTER MAO

in Historical Perspective, *md*

by

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## INTRODUCTION

In 1949 China faced the complicated task of restoring and rehabilitating its war-torn, inflation-ridden economy. Given China's backwardness and enormous population this job would prove to be an extremely difficult one. Certain questions had to be answered with regard to the objectives of industrialization in China and what specific plans should be adopted to achieve these goals. The urge for modernization in China was reinforced by the pressures of population. And as China has come into contact with the more advanced countries, through whatever means, the regime has become conscious of the fact that there is a link between modernization and the welfare of the country's population.

Traditionally, the Chinese have viewed their country as a world in itself and felt little need for outside contacts. This was primarily due to the fact that China's land could provide almost all the resources required to sustain life. This self-reliance ideology continued under the Communists and has affected much of China's development through the 1960's.

In the late 1970's and early 1980's China began a serious program for modernization based upon past experiences, actual conditions in the People's Republic, and the country's potential for the future. This paper examines China's development strategies and their results from 1949 to 1981, discusses China's latest blueprint for modernization, and analyzes its appropriateness for the modernization of China.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this paper is to delineate China's post-Mao strategies for development in historical perspective and to analyze the