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1. *In recent years, you have paid great attention to issues related to the Chinese economy. When did you start to study the Chinese economy? How would you rate the development of China's economy in the past four decades?*

Prof. Grzegorz W. Kolodko, Kozminski University, Warsaw, and Distinguished Professor of Belt and Road School at Beijing Normal University

I turned my research attention to China already in the 1980s, during the early stage of the Deng Xiaoping’s market reforms. It was inspiring to compare the Chinese attempts with our reforms in Poland and in some other East European countries, as Hungary and Yugoslavia, or with the Gorbachev’s *perestroika* in the Soviet Union. At that time, nobody did appreciate the significance of China’s efforts and its future consequences for the world economy because not a single person had expected such enormous economic growth in China in the subsequent decades. I was considering the possibility of Chinese expansion but not to such a great extent as it happened later. In the history of humankind, not any other country has accomplished so huge scale of social and economic progress. Moreover, none will be able to repeat it.

Basically, I perceive China in the contextual way. My main theoretical and policy-oriented concern has been regarding three great processes of our epoch: (1) policy of economic development, (2) systemic transformation, and (3) globalization. If one studies these domains, one must understand the Chinese case. Otherwise, it would be somehow ignorant, wouldn’t it?

Nowadays, it is of utmost importance that China is truly committed to continuation of globalization. Indeed, it is an irreversible process, yet to make it working better it must be more inclusive. Here, China is coming with her proposition of so-called win-win globalization. The next decade will show how successful – hopefully - we will be to this end.

2. *Your book made a lot of positive comments on China's economy and society. But today's Western medias has many misunderstanding reports about China. What methods do you think can clarify these misunderstandings? And how to introduce China objectively to your readers in Western society?*

The best way to clarify misunderstandings is to keep talking. It is a long shot... Sometimes we need plenty of time to convince the others what is a true and what is not, what is a fact and what is a fake news. How many years we needed to convince everybody that the Earth circumnavigates the Sun, not the other way around? How many generations it took to persuade the people that they are walking the globe, not the flat ground? Some still do not want to believe in hard facts, also about the Chinese realities. It is quite disappointing that there is plenty of popular misunderstandings and

deliberate manipulations of public opinion by some politicians, driven by the different ideologies or pressure of groups of special interest. But it is a pity that similar misconceptions occur in the social sciences where it should not happen.

What can be done? What I do? I continue my research, I conduct my comparative studies, and I do publish the results of my works in various languages, including, of course, English, but also in Chinese, Russian, and Japanese. I am also verbatim keeping talking – presenting lectures and keynote speeches at numerous prestigious conferences and seminars; recently, *inter alia*, in Chicago, New York, Austin, Davos, Istanbul, Budapest, Kiev, Moscow, Berlin, Delhi, and frequent in Poland. Undoubtedly, it is of great importance to appear in opinion-forming media programs, as long as you manage to reach recipients with your thoughts in this media turmoil. But if anyone can, it works. Going back to the scientific field, just recently I was invited to contribute a research papers for special issues of major international journals, from the JCR list: “Acta Oeconomica” and “Communist and Post-Communist Studies”. Both papers were published in the last quarter of 2020. Their translations are published also in Russian, Ukrainian, Japanese and Polish languages. I believe, such efforts and systematic works are bringing – gradually and slowly, yet they do–the positive results. Consequently, there is less of the misunderstanding of Chinese phenomenon in the West, at least within the intellectual, academic and professional circles. Isn't it very interesting that my recent book on China and the global affairs (“China and the Future of Globalization: The Political Economy of China's Rise”, published in the USA by Bloomsbury in 2020) was distinguished as the “Summer 2020 book” by “Financial Times”, the most influential and opinion leading Western newspaper?

Aside of writing, publishing, discussing particular issues, taking a part in media disputes, etc. critical for mutual understanding is travelling and visiting each other. I encourage doing so as many people as possible. Whenever I am in China, I try to go somewhere else – far away for the city center, hotel, and university auditorium – to see the country, to meet the people, to observe the life and how it is changing. Therefore, I have visited plenty of places in China – not only Beijing and Shanghai, Shenzhen and Chengdu, or Guangzhou and Xi'an. Chinese history and culture is fascinating and the nature is beautiful! The more people see and feel it, the better.

3. *You have been to China many times in the past decades. What is your most impressive experience or story about China? When was the first time you went to China? What was the biggest change between China at that time and China today?*

Most of my contacts in China are with the academic and think tank circles. While I visit China, I am meeting not only the professors and research staff but the students too. I am quite impressed by the open minds of the young generation and their eagerness to get as much knowledge as possible. They do know what the meaning of the knowledge is, they have good understanding of the significance of knowledge-based economy for both – the country's progress and their own future well-being. This attitude has changed incredibly during last three decades, since my first visit to China in the summer of 1989.

What is the biggest change from that remote time? I think the positive fact that one do not see any more poor people on the streets. As for the economist, no doubt, the biggest difference between then and now is that China was able to replace the low-inefficient economy of shortages with the high-competitive economy of balanced consumers' market. Well, maybe there is even too much of consumerism as a negative side effect of the achieved progress.

4. What do you think are the development methods of China's economy that other countries should learn from? What are the problems or difficulties that China needs to pay attention to in the process of development?

As for the development methods that other countries may learn from the Chinese experience, the most important is the ability to combine the power of invisible hand of market with the power of the visible (yet maybe sometime too much visible...) hand of the government. At the foundation of the successful economic system, which has evolved over last four decades – which I call Chinism, and this new term is getting momentum both in professional literature and in media – lies positive synergy of market spontaneity and government policy, of private entrepreneurship and state leadership. Chinism is a unique combination of these features, but all the time one has to be careful to avoid, on the one hand, wrong interventionism of state bureaucracy and corruption, and, on the other hand, disequilibria overshooting and social inefficiencies of the market. Chinism is a kind of meritocracy where rational people in a rational way are taking rational decisions.

The other important thing the other countries should learn from China is an ability to exercise the long-term policy. With this respect, China has done a lot, including eradication of extreme poverty, what has happened in 2020, but still has much to do, starting from cleaning and protecting the natural environment, and diminishing income and wealth inequality. Such large inequality as it is currently happening in China, would be not compatible with the long-term sustainable socio-economic development. China must go along the line describe by my new pragmatism – an outline of policy-oriented, heterodox theory of economics and economic policy aiming for triple – not only economic, but also social and environmental – balanced development. Economic pragmatism with the Chinese characteristics sounds as good recipe for a better future.

So, some can learn something important from China just as China should learn from other nations' achievements. After all, the development process is learning by doing.