













What is Civil Society?

...and (why) does it matter in modern China?

Civil Society can be...

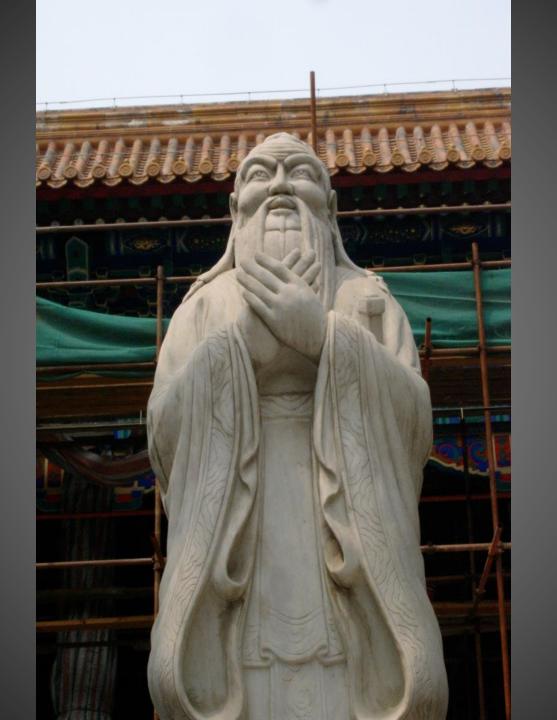
 A community of citizens linked by common interests and collective action (Oxford English Dictionary)

 Public space beyond the government, the family and the market, in which people can debate and take action.

 A sense of shared responsibility and stewardship, for a way of life people value.

Civil Society Can Include...

- Debate, sharing of information and ideas, and discussing shared concerns, in person, in the news media, or on the internet and social media.
- Forming non-government organizations or working individually to advocate for a cause, or provide assistance to those who need it.
- Working in professional groups like China's Weiquan (civil rights) lawyers – to make sure laws are fairly upheld.
- Protests and citizen movements, calling for policy changes or reforms.











中国人民解放军是毛泽东思想大学校



Regulating Civil Society: 1984

"Every social organization shall be associated with a government line agency in its professional field, and shall be reviewed and supervised by the State Commission for the Restructuring of the Economic System."

1984, Document # 25, issued by the Communist Party Central Committee & the State Council

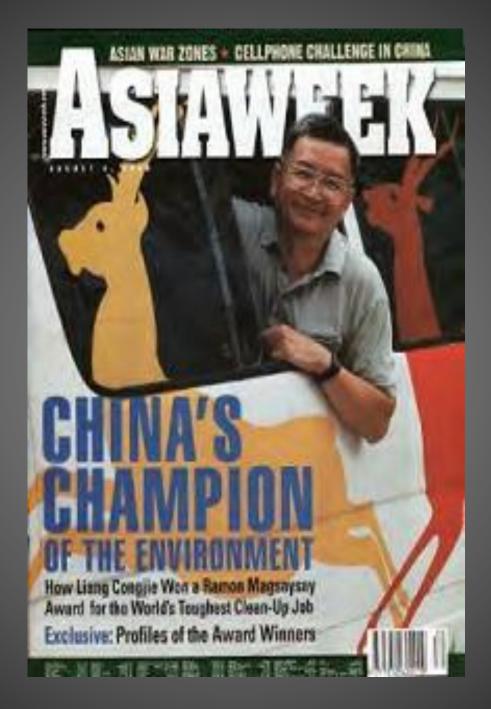




Regulating Civil Society: 1990s

China begins to embrace the internet. Official at 1996 National People's Congress says it will bring the country more benefits than harm.

- Chinese state-run media journalists, spurred by market reforms, start to experiment with investigative reporting.
- Foreign foundations and NGOs do rule of law training for Chinese officials, lawyers and judges.



1998: "Regulations on the Registration and Management of Social Organizations"

 Article 1: "These regulations protect citizens' freedom of association (and) the lawful rights and interests of social organizations."

 Article 2: "Social organizations (are) non-profit organizations voluntarily created by Chinese citizens to achieve the collective desires of members."





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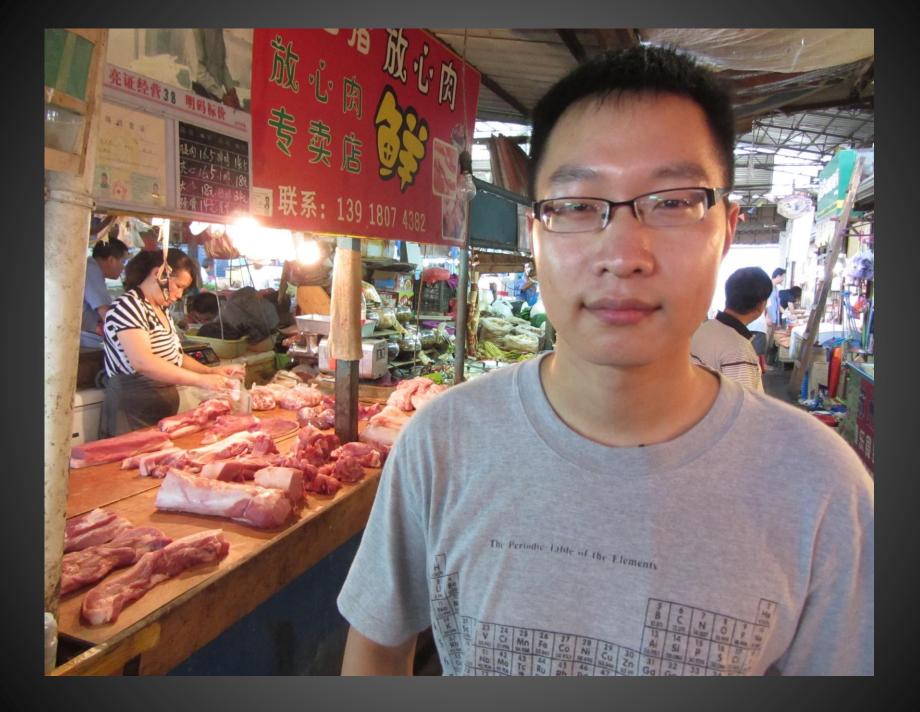
明心学学位,"自然设计第一人", 1888年聚七千人 一种下风

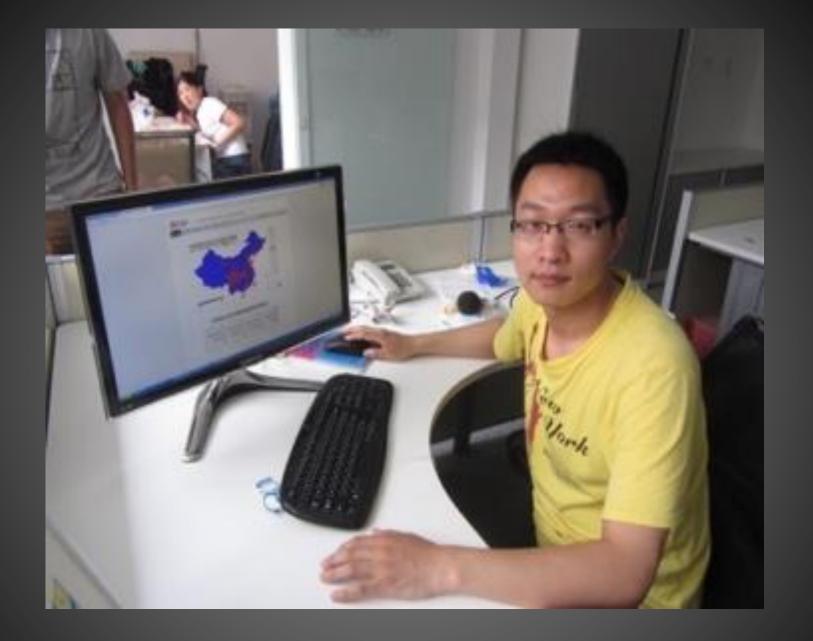
















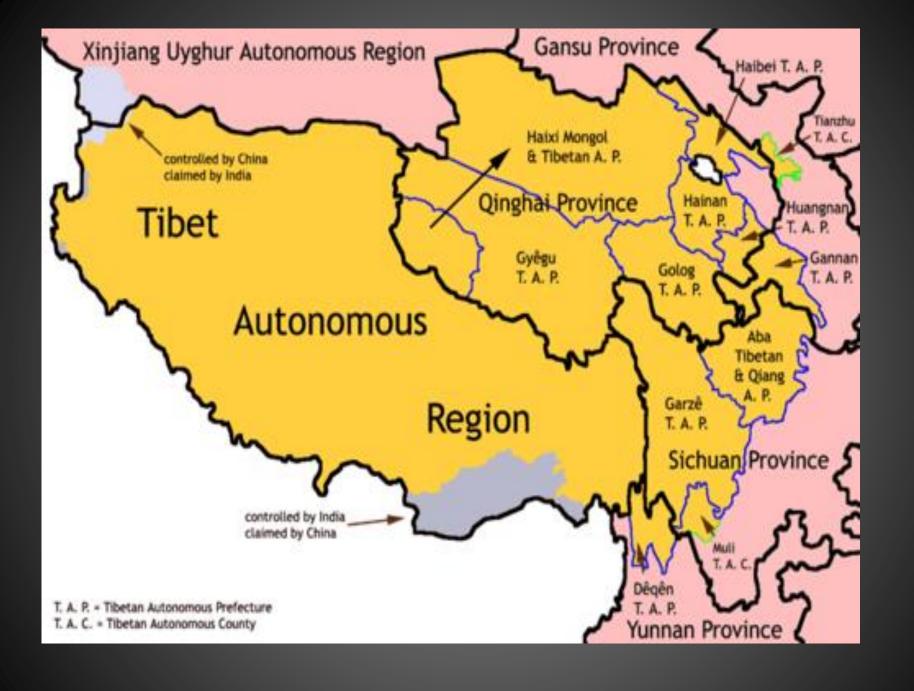








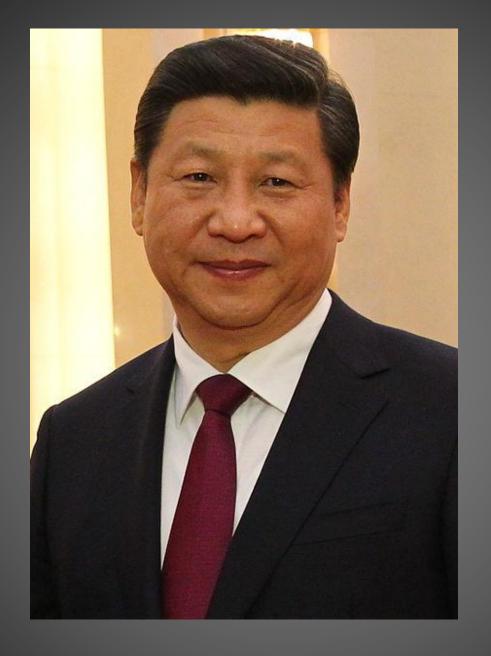












Regulating (Civil) Society: 2013

- Document No. 9....came out in summer 2013 from the top leadership.
- Warned of 'Western' ideas, called "perils" to the Party's continued rule, including:
- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Media independence
- Civil Society
- "Constitutionalism" (The idea that no one, including government and Party leaders, is above the law).





