

## Chinese Communism and Capitalism – what next?

Dc Tue 18 Feb 2014 at *The Blue Mugge*

1. Going round a quick review of our perspectives on how Chinese civilisation and history have been seen in Britain - a 5000 year old civilisation, exceptionally rich and varied; much in Chinese culture from ceramics, through medicine to Yin and Yang have been respected here; Mandarin, an ancient language, with more speakers than any other on the planet.... On the other hand, fears of 'the yellow peril' and responses to the Chinese Communist revolution and the Korean war...
2. What do we know about Mao, Maoism and the Cultural Revolution? The Chinese earlier working in harmony with nature across their vast and turbulent country. Mao seeking to conquer nature ... Again, a fairly quick review of our attitudes to Mao...
3. A few words on Deng Xiaping (1904 – 1997) and his leadership in China from 1978 to the early 1990s - his economic policies were at odds with Mao – he was purged twice during the Cultural Revolution. Deng was 'a reformer who moved China towards market economics'.  
Issues and problems ...
4. Deng led Chinese economic reforms through a synthesis of theories known as 'socialist market economy'.
5. When Deng died in 1997 the Chinese economy was growing at 10% pa. Since then and especially following the economic crisis from 2008 Chinese growth rates have far exceeded those of the USA, the EU and most other countries. Hence, the synthesis of communism (state and government) and capitalism (economics) has worked – to some extent? Major tensions though and is this a contradiction that simply cannot work in the long run? Example of paradoxes: Deng's 'reforms' leading to more huge bill-boards featuring David Beckham than Mao in major Chinese Cities... A large majority of China's most competitive companies are state owned...
6. Contemporary views and issues:
  - i) that 'China is not a nation state, it is a civilisation state ... the Chinese people see the state as the guardian of Chinese civilisation - its most important responsibility.. the unity of the country' (Martin Jacques)
  - ii) '...China's '... instincts remain Confucian seeking a strong central state aiming benevolently and collectively to improve the condition of the people'. Will Hutton
  - iii) A series of recent surveys of opinion in China (conducted by Harvard University) found that more than 80% are 'satisfied with central government'....
7. Examples of China's current phenomenal power and growth
  - BBC, Jan 2014 'China on world's biggest push for wind power' from current 75 GW to 200 GW by 2020 (compare EU's current overall total of 90 GW...)
  - 'China installed more solar energy than any other country in 2013'
  - 'China's High Speed Rail network is the world's largest'....
8. But... problems for the future: growing gap between the hugely rich and the poor; pollution and rapid city growth issues; centralised totalitarian government versus human rights and democratic communications (web etc) issues; globalisation and trading challenges. Others....

