Urban Development in Post-Reform China
State, market, and space

Fulong Wu, Jiang Xu, and Anthony Gar-On Yeh
Radically reoriented under market reform, Chinese cities are playing an important role in China's overall economic development. The creation of housing and land markets is rapidly changing the face of Chinese cities, and they present the landscapes of both the First and Third Worlds. Yet, radical marketization co-exists with the ever-present state control.

_Urban Development in Post-Reform China_ provides the first integrated treatment of China's urban development in the dynamic market transition. Focusing on land and housing development, the authors show how the market has been 'created' under post-reform urban conditions, which in turn challenges state regulation. Urban space constitutes a critical component of China's new growth strategies and through the reconfiguration of this space, market-oriented land development has been launched into the Chinese version of local boosterism. The authors examine 'the state in action' and highlight how changing urban governance towards local entrepreneurial state facilitates market formation. City planning has been transformed from allocating state resources to place promotion; and municipal governments have formulated various competitive urban strategies through place-making. The resulting changes in urban structure are manifested in the renewal of the city centre and urban sprawl at the periphery, creating a 'novel' urban landscape of redeveloped central districts, university towns, science parks, and 'urban villages'.

This innovative book, based on the authors' first-hand research in major Chinese cities over the past fifteen years, rethinks the relationships between pervasive marketization, proactive state action, and the transformation of urban spaces. It is illustrated throughout with over fifty figures and tables.

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