

# Institutional Genes

Chenggang Xu

Comments: Dorothy Kronick

## Three main points

1. China is totalitarian
2. Because of (a) imperial genes and (b) Bolshevik genes
3. Institutional genes explain regime outcomes elsewhere

# Institutional genes of totalitarian China

Imperial system



↓  
practical top-down control

# Institutional genes of totalitarian China

Imperial system



secret societies



practical top-down control

secrecy, militance, obedience

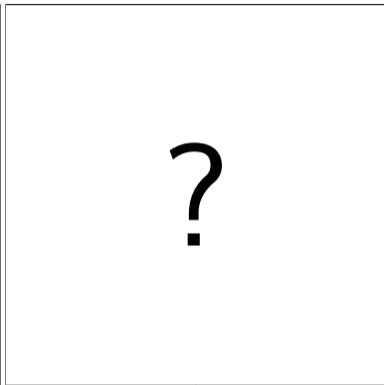


# Institutional genes of totalitarian China

Imperial system



secret societies



practical top-down control

secrecy, militance, obedience

ideology

# Institutional genes of totalitarian China

Imperial system



secret societies



Bolsheviks



practical top-down control

secrecy, militance, obedience

ideology

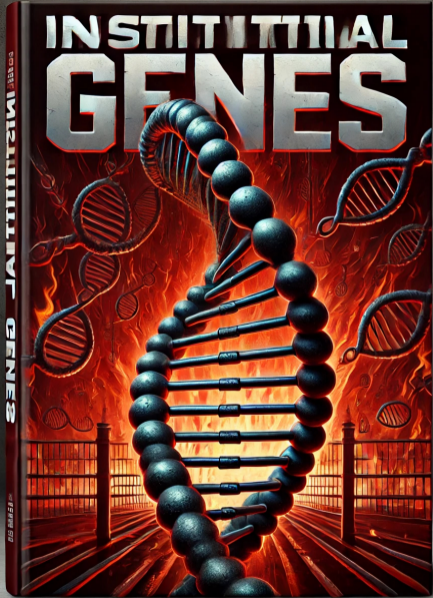
"Thought-provoking ... must-read book"  
Daron Acemoglu, *Nobel Laureate*

# INSTITUTIONAL GENES



ORIGINS OF  
CHINA'S  
INSTITUTIONS  
AND  
TOTALITARIANISM

CHENGGANG XU



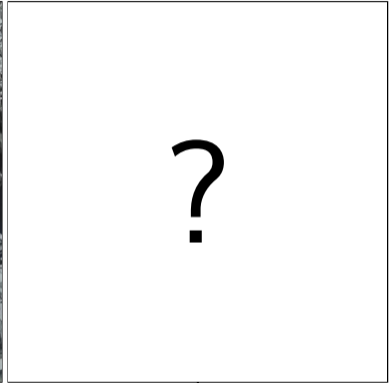


# Institutional genes of totalitarian Venezuela?

Centralism



Repression



practical top-down control

violent tactics

ideology



# Institutional genes of totalitarian Venezuela?

Centralism



practical top-down control

Repression



violent tactics

Fidel



ideology

“China emerged as the Comintern’s most significant success, if not the only success.”



# Open questions

1. Is China totalitarian?
2. Because of (a) imperial genes and (b) Bolshevik genes?
3. Do institutional genes explain regime outcomes elsewhere?