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978-1-107-02404-5 - City Versus Countryside in Mao's China: Negotiating the Divide

Jeremy Brown

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City versus Countryside in Mao's China

The gap between those living in the city and those in the countryside remains one of China's most intractable problems. As this powerful work of grassroots history argues, the origins of China's rural-urban divide can be traced back to the Mao Zedong era. While Mao pledged to remove the gap between the city worker and the peasant, his revolutionary policies misfired and ended up provoking still greater discrepancies between town and country, usually to the disadvantage of villagers. Through archival sources, personal diaries, untapped government dossiers, and interviews with people from cities and villages in northern China, the book recounts their personal experiences, showing how they retaliated against the daily restrictions imposed on their activities while traversing between the city and the countryside. Vivid and harrowing accounts of forced and illicit migration, the staggering inequity of the Great Leap Famine, and political exile and deportation during the Cultural Revolution reveal how Chinese people fought back against policies that pitted city dwellers against villagers.

Jeremy Brown is Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese History at Simon Fraser University. He is coeditor, with Paul G. Pickowicz, of *Dilemmas of Victory: The Early Years of the People's Republic of China* (2007), and he has published articles in *Late Imperial China* and the *Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies*.

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Abbreviations

Frequently cited works are referred to in the notes by the following abbreviations. Whenever possible, I have indicated the repository or published collection. Documents, files, and manuscripts from my own collection are denoted by the abbreviation “AC,” for “author’s collection.”

Citations referring to documents from the Hexi District Archive, Hebei Provincial Archive, and Tianjin Municipal Archive look like this: 1–6–33C. The numbers indicate the batch number (*quanzong hao*), catalog number (*mulu hao*), and file number (*juan hao*), respectively. The letter at the end of the entry refers to the time limit for storage (*baoguan qixian*): “Y” means perpetual (*yongjiu*), “C” means long-term (*changqi*), and “D” is short-term (*duanqi*).

AC	Author’s collection
GJG:1	Gao Jianguo. “Xiaojinzhuang de chenfu” [The rise and fall of Xiaojinzhuang]. Pt. 1. <i>Sanyue feng</i> 15 (February 1986): 3–17.
GJG:2	Gao Jianguo. “Xiaojinzhuang de chenfu” [The rise and fall of Xiaojinzhuang]. Pt. 2. <i>Sanyue feng</i> 16 (March 1986): 6–20.
HDA	Hexi District Archive (Tianjin)
HPA	Hebei Provincial Archive (Shijiazhuang)
HZDSJ	Tianjin shi nongcun hezuo zhi fazhan shi bianji bangongshi, ed. <i>Tianjin shi nongcun hezuo zhi dashiji: 1949–1987</i> [Chronology of the Tianjin village cooperative system, 1949–1987]. Tianjin: Tianjin shi nongye hezuo zhi fazhan shi bianji bangongshi, 1988.
MWG	<i>Jianguo yilai Mao Zedong wengao</i> [Mao Zedong’s manuscripts since the founding of the People’s

	Republic of China]. 13 vols. Beijing: Zhongyang wenxian chubanshe, 1987–1998.
NBCK	<i>Neibu cankao</i> [Internal reference]
NCS	Tianjin gongnong lianmeng nongmuchang shizhi bangongshi. <i>Gongnong lianmeng nongchang shi</i> [History of the worker-peasant alliance farm]. N.p.: Tianjin, 1992.
RMRB	<i>Renmin ribao</i> [People's Daily]
TJJG	Zhonggong Tianjin shiwei dangshi ziliao zhengji weiyuanhui, Tianjin shi dang'anguan, eds. <i>Tianjin jieguan shilu</i> [History of the takeover of Tianjin]. 2 vols. Beijing: Zhonggong dangshi chubanshe, 1991, 1994.
TJRB	<i>Tianjin ribao</i> [Tianjin Daily]
TJWB	<i>Tianjin wanbao</i> [Tianjin Evening News]
TMA	Tianjin Municipal Archive
WDGW	Song Yongyi, ed. <i>Zhongguo wenhua da geming wenku</i> [Chinese Cultural Revolution database]. Hong Kong: Xianggang Zhongwen daxue Zhongguo yanjiu fuwu zhongxin, 2002. CD-ROM.
ZGSX	Zhonggong zhongyang dangxiao dangshi jiaoyan er shi. <i>Zhongguo gongchandang shehuizhuyi shiqi wenxian ziliao xuanbian</i> [Selected documentary materials from the Chinese Communist Party's socialist period]. N.p., 1987.
ZYWX	Zhonggong zhongyang wenxian yanjiushi, ed. <i>Jianguo yilai zhongyao wenxian xuanbian</i> [Selected important documents since the founding of the People's Republic of China]. 20 vols. Beijing: Zhongyang wenxian chubanshe, 1992–1998.