

# Rural Development And Regime Consolidation After 1979 - How It Transformed China's Rural Areas

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China has undergone remarkable changes since the late 1970s, particularly in its rural areas. The Chinese government's rural development policies have played a significant role in transforming the country's agricultural sector and consolidating the regime's power. This article aims to explore the impact of rural development on regime consolidation after 1979 and the subsequent changes in China's rural landscape.

The Beginning of Reforms:



## Iran's Reconstruction Jihad: Rural Development and Regime Consolidation after 1979

by Moshe Gat(Kindle Edition)

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In 1978, China initiated a series of economic reforms under Deng Xiaoping's leadership. These reforms aimed to shift the country from a centrally planned economy to a more market-oriented one. One of the critical aspects of these reforms was the focus on rural development. The government recognized the importance of agriculture and the rural population in sustaining economic growth and social stability.

#### Role of Rural Development:

Rural development policies sought to improve agricultural productivity, infrastructure, and living standards in rural areas. The government implemented various measures, including land reforms, household responsibility system, and financial support, to incentivize rural development. These policies aimed to increase agricultural production, increase rural incomes, and bridge the urban-rural divide.

#### Impact on Rural Areas:

The rural development initiatives brought significant changes to China's countryside. Agriculture witnessed a remarkable improvement in productivity due to the incentives provided to farmers. Modern farming techniques, such as the use of fertilizers, machinery, and improved seeds, were introduced, leading to increased yields and improved food security. The rural infrastructure, including roads, electricity, and irrigation, was developed, facilitating better transportation and access to resources.

#### Rural Income Growth:

As a result of increased agricultural productivity and supportive policies, rural incomes experienced substantial growth. Farmers were given more autonomy

over their land and production decisions, leading to increased motivation and diligence. The household responsibility system allowed for surplus agricultural production, which could be sold on the market, providing additional income for farmers. These income improvements helped alleviate poverty and improve living standards in rural areas.

#### Role in Regime Consolidation:

Rural development played a vital role in consolidating the Chinese regime's power after 1979. By improving the living conditions and incomes of the rural population, the government gained their support and loyalty. Stability in the countryside was crucial for the regime's overall stability. The rural population, being the majority of China's population, played a crucial role in maintaining social harmony and preventing potential unrest.

#### Political Reforms:

In addition to economic reforms, political changes were also introduced as part of rural development. The government allowed for village-level elections, empowering local residents to participate in decision-making processes. These elections served as a channel for rural grievances, allowing farmers to voice their concerns and demands. This participation created a sense of ownership and involvement in the country's governance, leading to increased support for the regime.

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Rural development has been a critical component of China's economic and political transformation after 1979. The government's focus on improving agricultural productivity, infrastructure, and living standards in rural areas has

significantly contributed to the regime's consolidation. The improvement in rural incomes and increased political participation, along with stability and social harmony in rural areas, have helped the regime maintain its power. The transformation of China's rural landscape stands as a testament to the success of rural development in achieving both economic growth and regime stability.



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Based on over one hundred and thirty interviews with government officials, revolutionary activists, war veterans, and development experts, this is the first full length study in English to examine the significant yet understudied organization and ministry, Reconstruction Jihad, as a basis for understanding the political and social changes and continuities that have transpired in the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) over the last four decades. Exploring the success of the Iranian revolution, the state's development policies, its overall resilience and the conflicting dynamics of its attempts to mobilize and institutionalize activists, Iran's Reconstruction Jihad is one of the few studies that adopts an institutionalist approach toward analyzing critical aspects of the IRI's history and politics, with

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