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Abstract of the dissertation

Culture and Tradition in the Forming of Political Leadership in China after 1989

The main objective of the dissertation was to study the reproduction of traditional patterns of political leadership in contemporary China. First, the thesis presents ideal types of leaders according to four philosophical schools: *ru* (Confucianism), Legalism, Moism, and Taoism. The political leadership of the three General Secretaries of the Communist Party of China was then analyzed in terms of alignment of their actions with proposals of ancient thinkers. Individuals taken into account were Jiang Zemin (General Secretary 1989-2002), Hu Jintao (2002-2012), and Xi Jinping (2012-). The core of the dissertation is an analysis of eight philosophical texts (*Lunyu*, *Mengzi*, *Xunzi*, *Shangjunshu*, *Han Feizi*, *Mozi*, *Daodejing* and *Zhaungzi*), which not only led to identifying differences between given schools in relation to the issue of leadership, but also drew distinction within them. The thesis consists of five chapters. The first discusses theoretical and historical issues. The next three focus on school ideas. Chapter five examines how the political leadership of the General Secretaries responded to the postulates of thinkers. In general, this work is part of the academic debate on the influence of traditional Chinese culture on the functioning of the Communist Party of China.


PhD Candidate


Supervisor