

"This terrific book is more than simply (as modestly characterized in the introduction) a 'nudge' in the mainstreaming of China scholarship. It is a platform for a collection of veteran China hands, non-China specialists, and a cross section of younger but nonetheless accomplished China scholars to share their insights on how China fits in the larger tradition of comparative and border-crossing contentious politics." - Andrew Mertha, *Perspectives on Politics*

"A valuable addition to the study of social movements and Chinese politics, *Popular Protest in China* provides a lively account of various forms of social resistance in a non-democratic environment. The wide range of assembled research encompasses a rich empirical spectrum of collective action from workers' strikes to internet contention, from environmental campaigns to religious dissent, and from openly organized or spontaneous assemblies to underground mobilizations. We find in the book many of the same stories on contemporary Chinese insurgence covered recently by the media but with much more complexity, nuance and depth." -Xiaodan Zhang, *Contemporary Sociology*

"This book defines its aim as to "nudge the study of contentious politics and China a step closer together." This is a welcome goal in the study of Chinese popular protests, and the book delivers what it promises. At the same time, it provides a wealth of information on contemporary contentious politics in China. Most articles in the book manage to be both theoretically interesting and to provide new information. . . . Everyone interested in contemporary Chinese protests and social movements will find the book worth reading. It also calls for further research using concepts from studies in contentious politics. The book thus raises the level of theoretical debate by asking how well these concepts travel to China and what China can give back to them." - Lauri Paltemaa, *China Journal*

"Two decades of citizen action in China have presented social movement scholars with a goldmine. A veteran scholar of Chinese protest, Kevin O'Brien, brings out this edited volume to showcase a group of experienced field researchers, continuing an effort to build a dialogue between Chinese experiences and Western theoretical models. The book is a welcome addition to the literature, as movement theorists have for years lamented the lack of lessons learned through a broadened comparative scope." -Yang Su, *China Quarterly*

"As Kevin O'Brien and Rachel Stern explain in their introductory chapter, the volume is designed as a springboard for new research. In that respect, they succeed marvelously. This book is highly recommended for graduate courses on contemporary Chinese politics and to anyone interested in state-society relations in China." -James Reilly, *Journal of Chinese Political Science*

"This fine collection of chronicles of what were largely short-lived episodes of disturbance and appeal, paired with analyses of what kept them so, sheds much light on the situation of protest in China today. The individual pieces, most of them drawing attention to novel aspects of expressing dissent in contemporary China, and new means of doing so, are all gems. Almost every one of them improves on work the authors published earlier on the same topics they write on here. But these new essays possess much more relevance to the au courant comparative social movements, "political process" approach--one that account for protest by reference to structural and ideational factors, as well as to the resources available to protesters. The extent of the theoretical and comparative material consulted and assimilated in pretty much every chapter is extremely impressive." -Dorothy Solinger, *China Perspectives*

"Overall, the book has several strengths that make it a valuable contribution to the literature on popular contention as well as to the study of China more generally. It includes informative cases that reflect some of the contemporary challenges facing the Chinese state. Furthermore, the individual chapters offer detailed reviews of the literature and build on one another quite well, so that the book reads as a unified body of work rather than a disjointed collection of essays, as sometimes occurs with edited volumes. Together, the essays offer a nuanced assessment of the factors contributing to the successes and failures of different protests, and have a nice combination of both historical and contemporary protests to discern important areas of convergence and divergence. . . . The book is highly recommended for a wide audience, and it is a must-read for anyone who is interested in what the future holds for the state of protest in China." -Carrie Liu Currier, *Journal of Asian Studies*

"Two strengths of the volume highly recommend it to scholars. China specialists will gain from reading the detailed case studies and analysis of issues such as use of the internet, religious movements, protest leaders, and linkages between Chinese and international activism. The second and larger strength of the volume is its explicit attempt to make developments in China relevant to contention and protest in other countries. O'Brien and Stern suggest the usefulness of research on China to the international description and analysis of social movements, if the factors influencing political opportunity are disaggregated, as opposed to the traditional focus on unique elements of overall Chinese society and polity." -Jerry McBeath, *American Journal of Chinese Studies*

"*Popular Protest in China* is notable in that the contributors employ the "political process model" in crafting their research. The essays in this volume point to the utility of applying comparative concepts to the Chinese case as well as suggest ways in which the Chinese example can contribute to the broader academic discourse on social movements." -Cecily McCaffrey, *China Review International*