

济学系列丛书

Contemporary Economics Series

主编 陈昕



中国的 过渡经济学

当代
经济学
文库

盛 洪 主编



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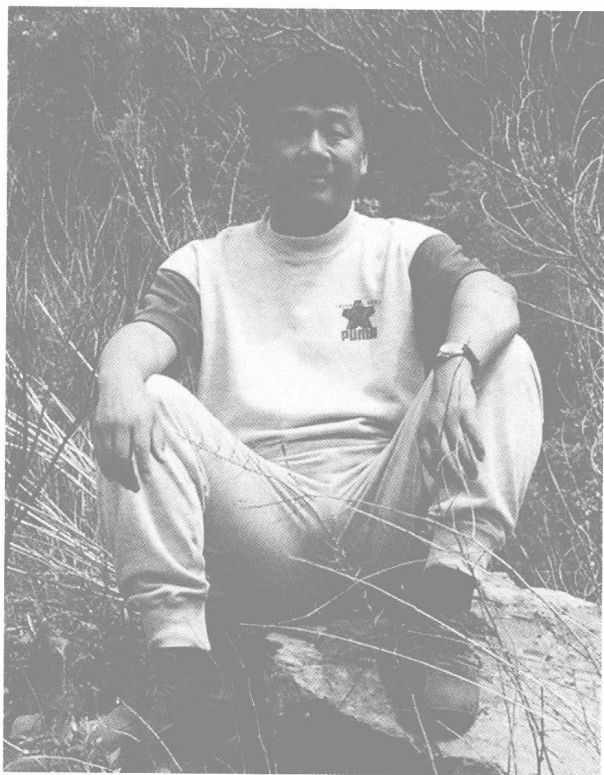
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作者简介

盛洪,1954年生,1983年毕业于中国人民大学,1986年和1990年于中国社会科学院获得经济学硕士和经济学博士学位。现任北京天则经济研究所所长,山东大学经济研究中心教授。先后致力于宏观经济理论和中国宏观经济问题的研究;产业经济理论和中国产业政策的研究;制度的结构、起源和变迁的研究;文明的冲突、融合与整合问题的研究;上百篇研究成果分别发表在各种学术刊物上。组织翻译了科斯的论文集《论生产的制度结构》,近年来又主编了新制度经济学经典论文集《现代制度经济学》。他的专著《分工与交易》是制度经济学的研究方法在中国的成功尝试之一;专著《治大国若烹小鲜》是用制度经济学分析政府的学术努力;他主编的《中国的过渡经济学》和论著《寻求改革的稳定形式》代表了过渡经济学领域的领先水平。

出版前言

为了全面地、系统地反映当代经济学的全貌及其进程,总结与挖掘当代经济学已有的和潜在的成果,展示当代经济学新的发展方向,我们决定出版“当代经济学系列丛书”。

“当代经济学系列丛书”是大型的、高层次的、综合性的经济学术理论丛书。它包括三个子系列:(1)当代经济学文库;(2)当代经济学译库;(3)当代经济学教学参考书系。该丛书在学科领域方面,不仅着眼于各传统经济学科的新成果,更注重经济前沿学科、边缘学科和综合学科的新成就;在选题的采择上,广泛联系海内外学者,努力开掘学术功力深厚、思想新颖独到、作品水平拔尖的“高、新、尖”著作。“文库”力求达到中国经济学界当前的最高水平;“译库”翻译当代经济学的名人名著;“教学参考书系”则主要出版国外著名高等院校的通用教材。

本丛书致力于推动中国经济学的现代化和国际标准化,力图在一个不太长的时期内,

从研究范围、研究内容、研究方法、分析技术等
方面逐步完成中国经济学从传统向现代的转
轨。我们渴望经济学家们支持我们的追求,向
这套丛书提供高质量的标准经济学著作,进而
为提高中国经济学的水平,使之立足于世界经
济学之林而共同努力。

我们和经济学家一起瞻望着中国经济学
的未来。

ABSTRACT

Transitional Economics of China

It is a challenge rather than a victory to the orthodox economics that almost all of the ex — planned — economy countries have gone on the road towards a market economy. The so — called victory is that of economic liberalism founded by Adam Smith, which advocates free market, economic freedom of individuals and limitation on the government's interference in the market. However, the orthodox economics after Smith, through a long — time process of formalization and mathematicalization, has lost the dynamic and historical vision Adam Smith once possessed, and can not tell people how to transform, but only what has to be transformed.

The rise of Transitional Economics is a response to the challenge. It can be viewed as a branch of the Theory of Institutional Change, but focuses on a certain kind of institutional change, that is, the transition from the planned

economy to the market economy, and especially analyzes the problem how to reform, while it supposes that the direction of the transition has been determined. This means that it supposes that the market economy is better than the planned economy.

The economic reforms which happened and are happening in Eastern Europe and China are the background of the rise of Transitional Economics. The practices, experiences and lessons of the reforms in different countries provide abundant source material for the analyses of Transitional Economics. Among various practices there are two main ways to reform. One is the so — called “shock therapy” carried out mainly in Russia and several Eastern European countries; another is the so — called “gradualism” carried out mainly in China. Comparatively speaking, the reform in China is more successful than those in Russia and other Eastern European

countries. The economic reform in China has been bringing about almost 8% growth of per-capita income per year since 1978, while those in Russia and other Eastern European countries made people experience the pains of depression, soaring inflation and unemployment. The results of different ways to reform present the evidences to test the economic theories behind the strategies of reforms, and tell us that the ways of transition matter.

China's Transitional Economics was introduced on the background of the relative success of the reform in China. It consists of quite a few academic articles written in Chinese by the economic scholars mainly in mainland China, and most of them were published after 1990. At that time, the labor of the reform began to yield a harvest, wealth flowed out as a spring. The institutional structure had become one dominated by the market. The deficit of foreign trade was

shifted into foreign trade's surplus. The foreign exchange reserve of China had leaped up about US \$50 billions by the end of 1992. According to the International Monetary Fund, the total GNP of China was No. 3 in the world in that year. Many Chinese, especially those economists who had participated in the works for the reform, were suddenly aware that China itself became a model, the Chinese Model, of the reform, after they explored and learned from more than a dozen foreign economic models for more than one decade. The term "Chinese" came to be endowed not only with a geographical implication, but also with logical meaning. To seek for the reason behind the success of the reform in China became more necessary to economic theories. Meanwhile, the transitional economics of China benefitted from the affluent practical experiences and theoretical literature about the reform accumulated for more than ten years.

These experiences and literature provide not only evidence to be analyzed but also wisdom to inspire economists' theoretical imagination. Among them is a theme of how to avoid the conflicts between people as possible as we can, while realizing the end of the reform. The "Tiananmen Square Event" of June Fourth, 1989, deepened such consideration. How to avoid the reoccurrence of such an event was one of incentives of those scholars who are devoted to transitional economics. Finally, Chinese economists had imported, learned and absorbed various economic theories from foreign countries from 1978 to the early in 90s. They compared and comprehended them, then integrated them as their own theories according to the empirical studies in China. Therefore they arrived at an advantageous position in developing the economic theory about transition.

Although it is not an academic school with one voice, there is some main approach in

China's transitional economics. The approach firstly focuses itself on the analysis of the *process* of the transition, which means that it is the change itself rather than the ends of the change which is the research subject of the approach. Then it emphasizes the importance of the analysis of the problems of the *interest distribution*. The economists who hold the approach believe that any change in the allocation of resources caused by the institutional change usually leads to some redistribution of wealth; a reform may benefit some people while hurting others. The people who feel hurt may oppose the reform with their actions or speech; thus they might make the reform fail. Therefore, the fate of the reform is determined by the resolution of the problems of distribution caused by the reform. Furthermore, the concept of the "*costs of reform*" or "*costs of transition*" is derived from the conflicts or disputes incurred in

the process of the reform. The number of the persons who are against the reform and how sharp the opposition is may be the measurement of the costs of the reform which can be directly and easily observed by economists. Finally, the *efforts* to explain the problem of the reform logically and naturally become those of *reducing the costs occurred in the real process of the reform*.

Economics in China does not have a long history. But the history puts the China's economics on the edge of a breakthrough. Few economists in other countries are as fortunate as those in China who can observe a great institutional change just before their eyes. To describe it itself is already a terrific thing. The problems presented by institutional change may make Chinese economists question some doctrines of neo-classical economics, such as the Theory of Second Best, which leads to an all — or — nothing strategy for the reform and is as a theoretical

basis of “shock therapy”. Acknowledging the lack of empirical evidence in their research, some Chinese economists set up a research project named *Case Studies in China's Institutional Change*, Which is expected to be a part of the record of the great institutional change, and perhaps a starting point for economists in China to go to the head of the economics in the World.

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