



# Migrants in Chinese Cities

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# Conceptualizing China's migrants

- Separate urban and rural systems for
  - Property rights
  - Health care
  - Welfare
- New developmental state – willing to break with previous policy of strict control
- Precarious position of migrants – their labor is desired but their presence unwanted
- Two kinds of citizenship (urban and rural)



# Migrant features

- 200-250 million – primarily from rural to urban areas, and involves circular movements
- 70 percent is short-distance migration (within province), and much inter-provincial migration originates from central and western regions and flows to coastal region.
- Concentrated among most economically active group (between the age of 15 and 34) – male migrants outnumber females (2 to 1)

# Inter-provincial flows | 1995-2000

(Source: Fan 2005)

Image removed due to copyright restrictions. "[Prominent Interprovincial Net Migration Flows, 1995-2000.](#)"

Source: Figure 7 in Fan, C. C. "Interprovincial Migration, Population Redistribution, and Regional Development in China: 1990 and 2000 Census Comparisons." *The Professional Geographer* 57, no. 2 (2005): 295-311.

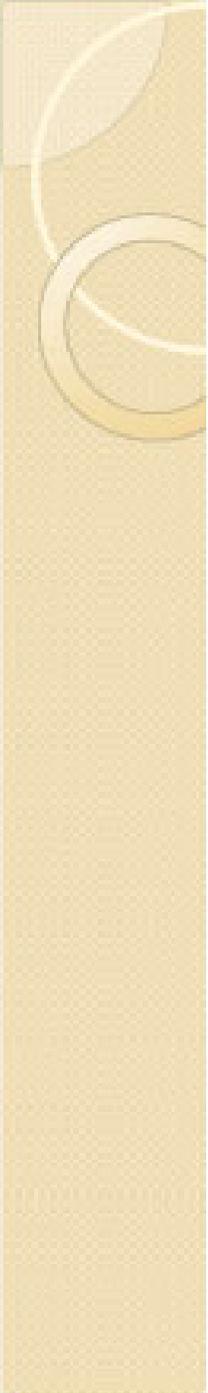


# Migrant housing and settlement

- Proximity to employment and low costs are important factors in residential decisions
- Renters in general are more mobile than owners
- Mobility triggers – demand side (e.g. family status change, job change) and supply side (e.g. housing opportunities)
- Tenure shift – from rented rooms to self-built shanties or houses, or from bridgeheaders to consolidators
- Spatial shift – from central city to urban periphery

# Housing and welfare

	<i>Migrants</i>			<i>Locals</i>		
	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Rural</i>	<i>All</i>
<b><i>Type of housing</i></b>						
Private housing	1.9	3.2	2.7	14.3	87.5	30.8
Own commercial housing	33.1	3.9	15.7	23.5	7.5	19.9
Own economic and comfortable housing	2.1	0.2	1.0	2.1	0.7	1.8
Own public housing	14.8	1.4	6.8	35.4	0.9	27.6
Rent public housing	12.3	5.5	8.3	20.6	0.5	16.1
Rent commercial housing	30.1	73.6	55.9	2.1	1.9	2.0
Others	5.7	12.1	9.5	2.1	1.0	1.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b><i>Welfare</i></b>						
Health insurance	68.5	16.2	36.5	86.2	76.5	83.9
Retirement insurance	68.4	12.7	34.4	85.5	38.0	74.5
Unemployment insurance	45.0	5.6	20.9	47.0	5.6	37.4



Photographs removed due to copyright restrictions. Survey sites in Beijing and Shanghai.  
Source: Figure 1 in Wu, Weiping. "[Drifting and Getting Stuck: Migrants in Chinese Cities.](#)" *City: Analysis of Urban Trends, Culture, Theory, Policy, Action* 14, no. 1 (2010): 10-20.

# Homeownership

	<i>Migrants (non-local)</i>		<i>Locals</i>	
	<i>Rate of ownership (percent)</i>	<i>Per capita housing area (m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	<i>Rate of ownership (percent)</i>	<i>Per capita housing area (m<sup>2</sup>)</i>
<b>2005</b>				
<b>Urban</b>	51.9	25.3	75.2	25.8
N	[14618]	[14618]	[55784]	[55657]
SD	50.0	18.7	43.2	18.8
<b>Rural</b>	8.7	11.5	96.6	43.7
N	[21407]	[21407]	[16212]	[16206]
SD	2.8	11.6	18.2	30.8
<b>All</b>	26.3	17.1	80.0	29.8
N	[36025]	[36025]	[71996]	[71863]
SD	44.0	16.4	40.0	23.3
<b>1999/2000</b>				
<b>Urban</b>	1.9	9.5	30.6	17.1
N	[363]	[357]	[386]	[381]
<b>Rural</b>	0.4	7.5	87.6	33.5
N	[2357]	[2310]	[129]	[126]
<b>All</b>	0.6	7.8	44.9	21.2
N	[2720]	[2667]	[515]	[507]



Images removed due to copyright restrictions. Graphs of Average annual mobility rates over duration of residence in Beijing (2000) and Guangzhou (2005).

Source: Figure 2 in Wu, Weiping. "[Drifting and Getting Stuck: Migrants in Chinese Cities.](#)" *City: Analysis of Urban Trends, Culture, Theory, Policy, Action* 14, no. 1 (2010): 10-20.



# Spatial concentration

Images removed due to copyright restrictions. Maps showing spatial concentration of migrant population and share of migrants in total population  
Source: unknown.



# Context of China's urbanization

- Marketization – command to market economy
- Decentralization – central-local fiscal relations
- Industrialization – agricultural to manufacturing economy
- Migration – rural-based to urban-based society
- Globalization – autarky to open regime

# China's urbanization at a glance

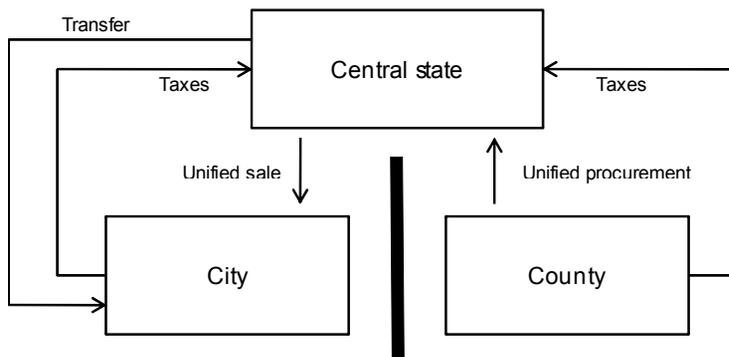
	~1980	~2010	% change
Urbanization level (%)	19.4	51.0	162.9
Number of cities	193	657	240.4
Eastern region	69	344	398.6
Central region	84	218	159.5
Western region	40	95	137.5
Cities by population size			
Super large (> 2 million)	-	42	
Extra large (1-2 million)	13	82	530.8
Large (0.5 -1 million)	27	110	307.4
Small & medium (< 0.5 million)	153	423	176.5
Agriculture's share in employment (%)	64	39	-39.1
Ratio of urban-rural per capita income	2.6	3.2	23.1

# Urbanization and regions

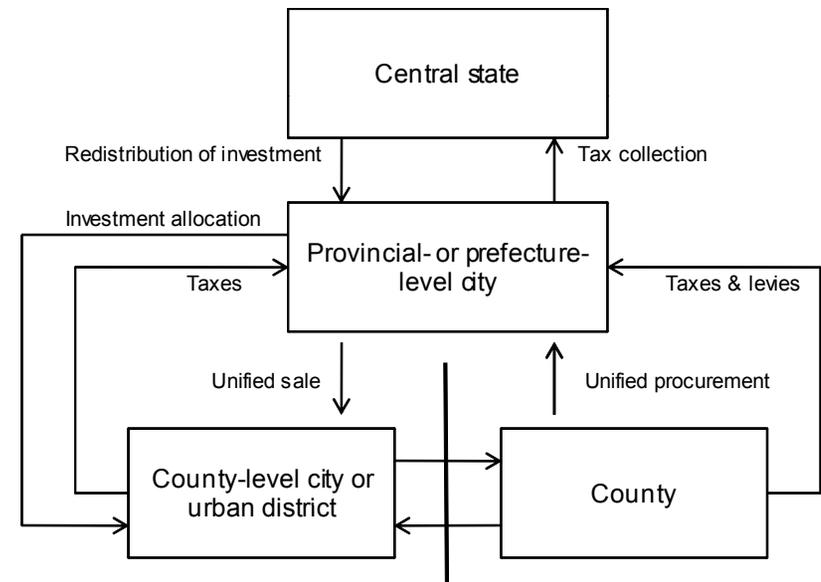
Image removed due to copyright restrictions. Map of China showing urbanization and regions.  
Source unknown.

# Resource allocations

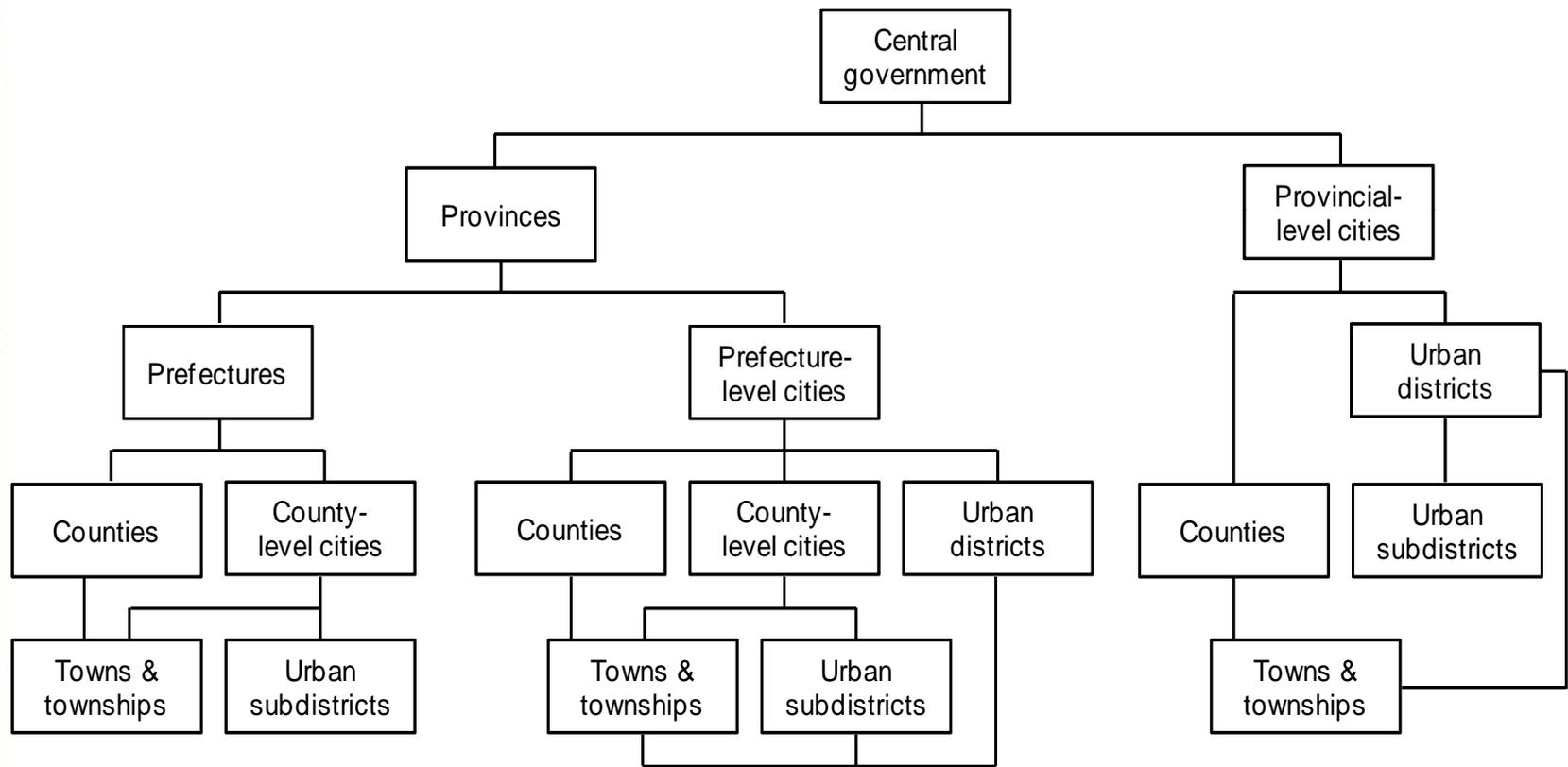
a. Under state socialism



b. Under market reform



# Urban administrative hierarchy





# The book

## ***The Chinese City***

By **Weiping Wu**  
and **Piper Gaubatz**

Routledge 2013, 978-  
0-415-57575-1

Image removed due to copyright restrictions. Book cover photograph.  
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<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415575751/>

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