



Book Title: China 1978-2008: the rebirth of the dragon
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This book is a real-life document, a travel account based on ‘live recordings’ of the China of 1978, of 2006, and 2008, and its development. When Sotiris Chatzigakis made his first journey to China, in 1978, there were the makings of the new era OF Deng Xiaoping (1905-1977). His second journey was twenty- eight years later, in 2006, and his second journey, in 2008, completed a span of three decades. On this last two journeys, he was accompanied by his son Michael, who took an active part in writing the present book.

The main themes of the book are china’s escalating democracy; how china deals with political liberties and human rights; the geographical importance of Eurasia; china’s leading role in the developing countries; the role of Confucianism; similarities and differences to rising economies; the growth of shanghai and Guangzhou; and investment in education and technology. This is therefore not a traveler’s diary so as the account of a temporal current towards the morrow. As Sotiris Chatzigakis notes, a central element in Chinese politics is a sense of purposiveness: “feeling of purposiveness”, he replied at once, looking at the view of Beijing. “Compared with China, America seems to be running on autopilot. China has a purpose, America, if not the west as a whole, has reactions to ailments”.

Book Review by Nikiforos Chatzigakis