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China Goes Green

Coercive Environmentalism for a Troubled Planet

Yifei Li and Judith Shapiro

“China Goes Green brilliantly redefines our understanding of modern Chinese governance, dismantling a simplified portrait and illuminating the force, and the flaws, of the centralized approach that some officials call the ‘era of coercion.’ These insights are vital to understanding not only China’s environmental policy but also its handling of public-health emergencies and other issues of urgent global interest.”

Evan Osnos, author of *Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth and Faith in the New China*

About the Book

Despite its staggering pollution and colossal appetite for resources, China exemplifies a model of state led environmentalism. On the face of it, China seems to embody hope for a radical new approach to environmental governance.

In this thought-provoking book, Yifei Li and Judith Shapiro probe China’s “ecological civilization” to show how “going green” helps the state to further other agendas such as citizen surveillance and geopolitical influence. Through top-down initiatives, regulations, and campaigns to mitigate pollution and environmental degradation, the Chinese authorities also promote control over the behavior of individuals and enterprises, pacification of borderlands, and expansion of Chinese power and influence along the Belt and Road and even into the global commons. Given the limited time that remains to mitigate climate change and protect millions of species from extinction, we need to consider whether a green authoritarianism can show us the way. This book explores both its promises and risks.

About the Authors

Yifei Li is Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at NYU Shanghai and Global Network Assistant Professor at NYU.

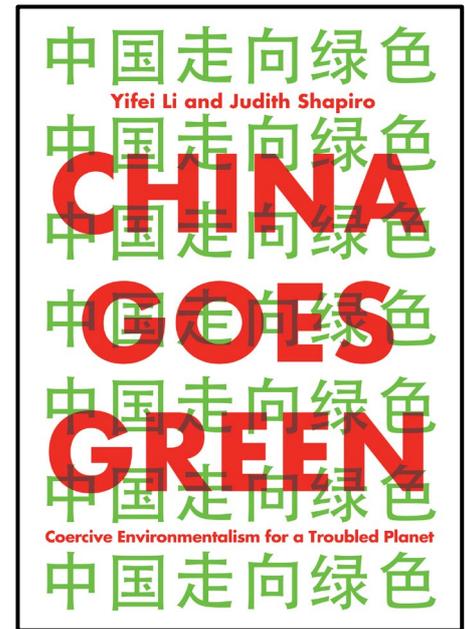
Judith Shapiro directs the Masters in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development at the School of International Service at American University.

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