

Is China a Communist or a Capitalist Country?

China: Towards Capitalist Restoration. Michel Chossudovsky

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

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Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [Global Economy](#), [History](#), [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

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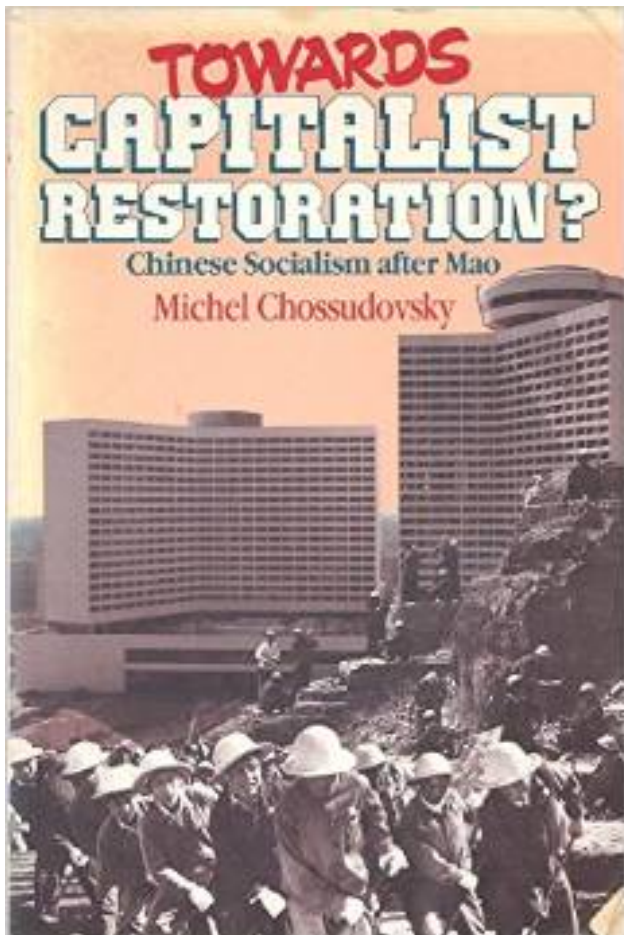
In 1981-82, based at the University of Hong Kong, Centre for Asian Studies (CAS), I started my research on the process of capitalist restoration in China. I took a crash course in Mandarin at the HKU Language School as well as in Taiwan. This research -which extended over a period of 4 years- included fieldwork in several regions of China (1981-83) focussing on economic and social reforms, analysis of the defunct People's Commune (abolished in 1983) and the development of privately owned capitalist industry including the cheap labor export economy.

*I started reviewing Chinese economic history including the structures of the factory system prior to 1949, the development of the treaty ports established in the wake of the Opium wars (1842) and came to the realization that what was being reinstated in terms of the **special economic zones, the open door policy** had been influenced by the **history of the treaty ports**, which granted extraterritorial rights to Britain, France, Germany, the US, Russia and Japan.*

The book consists of a Preface, an Introduction and Eleven Chapters

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In the 1980s, the consensus among Leftists was that China was a socialist country. Debating the restoration of capitalism in China in Leftist circles was a taboo.

More than forty years later, sectors of the Left continue to portray China as a Communist country, despite ample evidence to the contrary.

I completed the manuscript of my book entitled "[*Towards Capitalist Restoration? Chinese Socialism after Mao*](#)" in 1984.

The book was subsequently published by Macmillan in 1986. [Click to download the book in pdf.](#)

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Michel Chossudovsky is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal, Editor of Global Research. He has undertaken field research in Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific and has written extensively on the economies of developing countries with a focus on poverty and social inequality. He has also undertaken research in Health Economics (UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNFPA, CIDA, WHO, Government of Venezuela, John Hopkins International Journal of Health Services (1979, 1983) He is the author of 13 books including *The Globalization of Poverty and The New World Order* (2003), *America's "War on Terrorism"* (2005), *The Globalization of War, America's Long War against Humanity* (2015). He is a contributor to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. His writings have been published in more than twenty languages. In 2014, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit of the Republic of Serbia for his writings on NATO's war of aggression against Yugoslavia. He can be reached at crgeditor@yahoo.com

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