

# **THREE DROPS OF WATER: NOTES ON CHINA BY A NON-SINOLOGIST**

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## **Summary**

This brochure is an extended essay about China, not a presentation of research results, and contains no tables, charts, calculations or references. Half of the text is devoted to economics in China, while the remaining half presents summaries of Chinese politics, culture, history, and religion. The major question discussed is how China – and other countries based on Chinese culture, such as Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Southeast Asian states – unlike other developing economies managed to bridge the gap in the level of economic development with the West during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Economic factors, such as openness, liberalization, strong institutions, macroeconomic stability, and export-oriented industrial strategy, provide most probably merely a partial explanation of rapid growth. No less important were the historical and cultural factors, although it is not exactly clear how they operated. As argued in this essay, “the secret of the East Asian economic miracle probably cannot be revealed without understanding why there were no religious wars in China, or why in Chinese characters denoting words connected with water one can still see three stylized drops.”