

Dragana Mitrovic

**FROM SOCIALIST  
MODERNIZATION  
to  
CHINESE DREAM**



INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES  
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## Preface

This compilation book originates from an attempt to collect and preserve my previously published research and thoughts on China's astonishing development during the previous forty years and its impact, which were scattered across different Serbian and foreign academic journals, textbooks, magazines and media platforms over the last thirty years. It is written in English, as its content was originally published, spoken or written in that language.

The book, which is dedicated to my students and associates who are my perpetual inspiration and support, is well-timed, as it assists me in marking thirty years in my academic career at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Science. It is also intended to express gratitude to my professors, who introduced China Studies to us as young students in a manner that opened the gate to a stream turning into an Eternal River.

As one of the most significant phenomena of our era, China's rise during the forty years of "reform and opening up" tremendously – and most likely irreversibly – changed the lives of Chinese citizens, in the process that was praised to have brought over 700 million people out of poverty. At the same time, China's regional and global influence immensely grew through its forceful economic rise and its impressive relational power.

By transforming and rising to become a global actor China has incited others – both near and far – to adjust to those challenges and opportunities. Cooperation offered through China's initiatives: "Belt and Road Initiative" and the "16+1" framework that became part of it, as well as the other Chinese-launched trans-regional and globally reaching projects and plans – all being elements and products of China's Rise – also revealed a call for better understanding and more profound analyses of the achievements and future prospects and challenges of these processes. I hope that this book will help my students, fellow researchers and professors, journalists and all interested parties to somewhat deepen their understanding of modern China.

Belgrade, February 7, 2019