《感同身受？中国的高考制度在国外遭猛烈炮轰！》

导读:你是否也曾幻想过通过参加高考进入梦寐以求的高等学府，北大、清华、浙大、北外……诚然，高考作为国家的选材方式目前有着无可比拟的优越性，可是，作为一种制度，它也有着自身的弊端，比如说，题型僵化、名校名额分配各省不一……

In China, school students have to take the gao kao, with only the best winning the most coveted places.

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According to Ye Liu, a lecturer in international development at King’s College London, despite huge regional disparities in access to the most prestigious universities and the strong influence of parental education on gao kao results, students blame themselves if they fail. “They feel like they are not smart enough; they think they are inferior.”

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Her book, Higher Education, Meritocracy and Inequality in China, details that a quarter of China’s most prestigious universities are based in Beijing – where disproportionately large quotas of places are reserved for local students – while 13 per cent are in Shanghai. “Elites try to protect their privileges through the quota system,” she argues.

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Meanwhile, the scores that students need to get into university vary depending on a student’s province. This can work in favour of students from far-flung, poor western provinces such as Tibet, Liu’s analysis shows, but it also benefits those in eastern metropolises like Shanghai, Beijing and Tianjin.

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Nevertheless, the rural students Liu interviewed still believed in China’s gao kao meritocracy, at least they can get to university.

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Lijing, a first-year undergraduate from a poor farming background, told Liu that at secondary school “all I wanted was to pass the gao kao and go to university. I was very ambitious…I was so naive then.”

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Arriving on campus, she found herself living alongside students from vastly richer backgrounds, who could afford laptops when Lijing had to queue to use PCs at the university computer centre.

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Another rural student who got into medical school said, “I don’t have real friends here. Friendship in university costs money. You need to hang out with them, drinking and eating out. I cannot afford that. I only eat in the canteens.”

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