《美国人眼中的中国改革开放40年之路》

中国正在庆祝改革开放四十周年，纪念1978年以来脱离毛泽东路线，跟随邓小平，实施改革开放和中国特色社会主义市场经济政策，给中国人民带来的收入增长和繁荣稳定。

China is now in full celebration mode, commemorating four decades since it turned away from Mao Zedong Thought and toward Reform and Opening Up — the blend of market and socialist policies initiated in 1978 by Deng Xiaoping that the Communist Party credits for “giving the Chinese people growth and prosperity.”

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Around China, state media, schools, museums, even the Beijing Symphony Orchestra, are hailing the “correctness” of the country’s development path. Foreign delegations are engaged in “fact-finding tours and seminars”that tell a “million” stories about Reform and Opening Up and admiring the “major exhibition” at the National Museum of China. The festivities also include an international component to promote what President Xi Jinping called “a new option for other countries and nations who want to speed up their development while preserving their independence.” At one such conference a British scholar declared that Chinese socialism has offered the world “a new example” and “a new possibility.”

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Myth No. 1: Low commune productivity led farmers to abandon collective agriculture and return to household farming.

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This simply wasn't the case. Newly uncovered national, provincial and county-level data on grain and pig production reveal that sizable and sustained increases in agricultural productivity began after the 1970 Northern Districts Agricultural Conference. Under Premier Zhou Enlai's leadership, this six-week gathering initiated extensive reforms of the collective remuneration and agricultural research and extension systems that made the commune far more productive in the 1970s than it was in the previous decade.

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Myth No. 2: The government allowed rural markets and private enterprises only after Reform and Opening Up.

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"The private economy disappeared in China for more than two decades until the Third Plenum … in 1978, which approved the restoration of a non-public economic sector," the South China Morning Post recently reported. This too is incorrect. After 1961, private household production, small-scale animal husbandry and cottage industries, and rural markets , collectively known as the Three Small Freedoms (??), were legal and commonplace throughout the Chinese countryside. Rural markets were an important outlet for excess sideline production (except grain), which was households' primary source of vegetables, protein, and cash. After 1978, rural markets and private enterprises were greatly expanded in size and scope.

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