

Christopher R. Leighton

Capitalists without Capital: China's Businessmen under Mao

Recently framed as both the world's biggest startup and greatest turnaround story, China's turn toward global markets builds from an unconventional experience of capitalism. During the Mao years (1949-1976), the country cultivated a small group of so-called red capitalists--often the scions of prominent business families--who worked with the communist regime. This talk considers what it was like to live as a prominent capitalist, and how newly-available and under-used sources can shed light on China's complicated relationship with business.
