

Institute for Chinese Studies Lecture Series

Rethinking Nationalization: The Destruction and Survival of China's Family Capitalism, 1950-1980

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1969-2019
EAST ASIAN
STUDIES
CENTER

Friday Sept 27, 4-5:30 pm
Mendenhall Lab 115



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Nationalization is one of the most important epochal events in twentieth-century China. Through the large-scale expropriation of factories, mines, and plants from the Nationalists in the late 1940s and then from private businesspeople in the early 1950s, the Communist regime successfully transformed the Chinese economy into full state ownership and established a massive planned economic system. Equally important, by eliminating capitalists and private business, nationalization laid the ideological foundation of the Communist rule, a legacy that continues to resonate in contemporary China. This talk shifts away from the conventional top-down narrative that portrays nationalization as a transformative political and economic campaign and instead explores its ground-level experience and lasting social and legal consequences in the local society. Drawing on newly discovered family letters, factory archives, legal papers, and local government documents, this study provides a unique story of a local iron factory and their private owners' journey through the process of nationalization, re-investigation, and compensation between the 1950s and the 1980s.



Free and open to the public
easc.osu.edu/events/ics/z-zeng

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