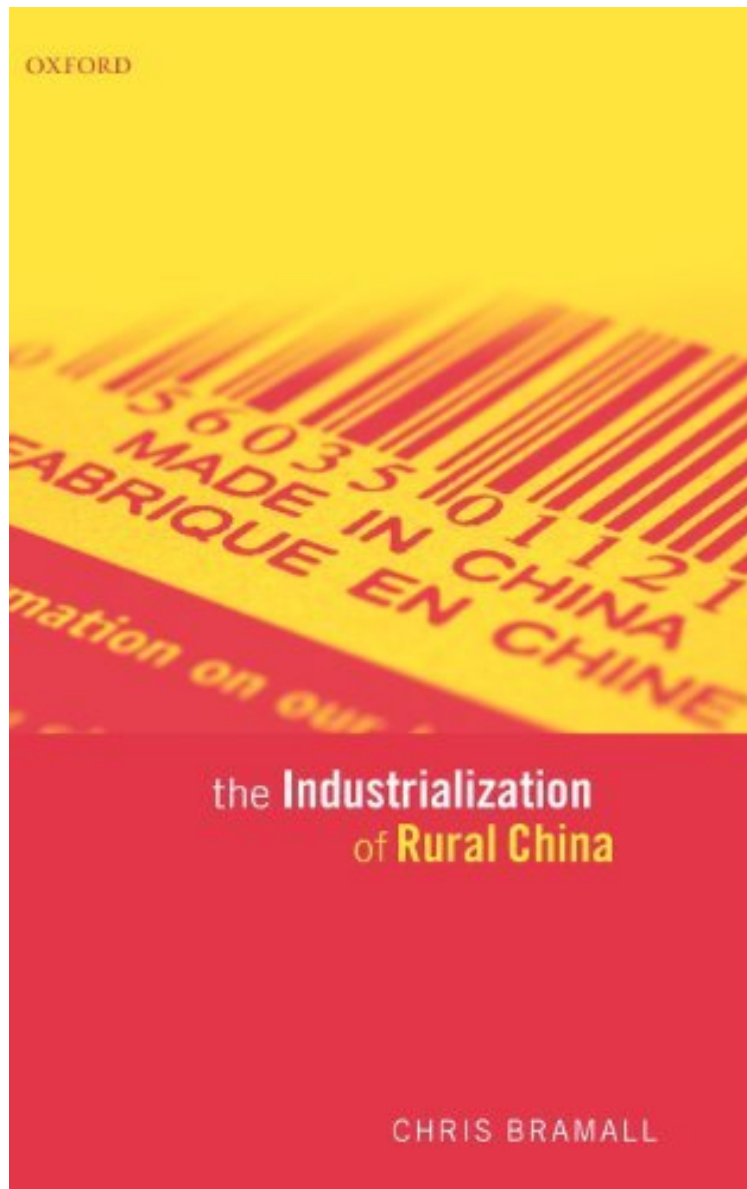


(Download free ebook) The Industrialization of Rural China

The Industrialization of Rural China

Chris Bramall

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Chris Bramall : The Industrialization of Rural China before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Industrialization of Rural China:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent study of China's rural industrialization
By William Podmore
The task that Chris Bramall, a Senior Lecturer on the Contemporary Chinese Economy in the School of East Asian Studies at Sheffield University, sets himself in this fine book is to explain how rural China industrialised so successfully in the 1980s. He cites Alexander Gerschenkron who wrote, "industrial labor, in the sense of a stable,

reliable and disciplined group that has cut the umbilical cord connecting it with the land and has become suitable for utilization in factories, is not abundant but extremely scarce in a backward country. Creation of an industrial labor force that really deserves its name is a most difficult and protracted process ..."Bramall writes, "The very process of learning itself requires an extensive programme of investment in physical capital: many skills are acquired by a process of learning-by-doing in a factory environment. For that very reason, one cannot expect newly-created factories to be efficient. It is a simple enough task to create new factories, but it takes time before infant industries grow up to become efficient enterprises."He observes, "Indeed it is hard to think of a country which has successfully industrialized - certainly not the USA, Germany, Japan or South Korea - without extensive state intervention, whether in the form of industrial subsidies or tariff protection. It is because infant industries are unprofitable in the short and perhaps even medium term that subsidies are essential."He explains, "The most plausible explanation for the absence of rural industrial take-off in the period between 1958 and 1978 is that there was a lack of industrial capability. Rural China enjoyed the advantages of backwardness in the 1950s, and the state was committed - in both word and deed - to the promotion of rural industrialization. Neither agency nor incentive were lacking in the 1960s and 1970s. ... Yet the rural industrialization programme failed." So what happened that accounted for China's exceptional growth in the 1980s? Bramall suggests, "it was the diffusion of skills from urban core to rural periphery, and the learning-by-doing in the primitive rural industries of the Maoist era, which ensured that China entered the 1980s with the workforce needed for rapid industrial expansion. By 1978, an extensive manufacturing capability had been created in rural areas."He continues, "One of the attractions of this learning-by-doing hypothesis is that it explains the gradual acceleration in the growth of rural industrial output during the late 1970s. If policy change had been critical to the process, a much more abrupt discontinuity in the pace of the growth in the early 1970s (following fiscal decentralization) or in the early 1980s (as a result of liberalization of controls on ownership) would be observed. In fact, however, the change was much more gradual."He adds, "One key element in this post-1960 process of capability enhancement was the transfer of skilled workers and urban youth to the countryside. ... However, the fact remains that this process of urban to rural diffusion was without parallel in the developing world. It is hard to believe that the rural industrial explosion of the 1980s would have occurred in its absence."0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Too Academic -By Loyd EskildsonIndustrialization of stock markets helped listed companies pay more attention to maximizing shareholder value and management motivation. Zhu Rongji decreed in 1997 that loss-making SOEs were to turn their performance around in three years.TVEs closed during harvest season to allow workers to collect the harvest. In 1987, TVEs contributed 32% of coal, 25%, 80% small agricultural tool production. The Budget Law of 1995 banned monetization of deficits and restricted use of bonds, creating pressure to raise revenue via privatization of SOEs. TVE employment rose from 28 million in 1978 to 139 million by 2004, due to industrial and construction segments (agriculture declined about 4 million).Overall - far too technical for general reading.

A welcome addition to a growing literature, this book highlights the economic and social achievements of the Maoist regime. Using a wealth of new data it shows that while many rural industries were initially inefficient, the workers employed in them acquired skills making the creation of a globally competitive Chinese industrial sector possible.

About the AuthorChris Bramall was trained in Economics at the University of Cambridge, where he completed a PhD on the Chinese economy in 1989. He was a Fellow and Director of Studies in Economics at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, between 1990 and 2000, before moving to the School of East Asian Studies at Sheffield University, where he is currently a Senior Lecturer. He has researched extensively on the twentieth century Chinese.