Evolving Paradigms in Chinese Rural Land Policy: Developmentalism, Welfarism, and Liberalism

This talk examines the policy debates on rural land tenure in China since the 1980s. delineating three primary perspectives. Developmentalism advocates maintaining robust government control over land for economic development. Welfarism underscores the role of rural land as social insurance and warns against the risks of land privatization. Liberalism promotes land privatization as a fundamental solution to problems of growth and equity. Although state-directed developmentalism has remained politically dominant, growing demands for land acquisition compensation from villagers have continually prompted an uneasy fusion of these views at the policy level.



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