

# CHINA CROSSROADS

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## Just Hierarchy: Why Social Hierarchies Matter in China and the Rest of the World

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All complex and large-scale societies are organized along certain hierarchies, but the concept of hierarchy has become almost taboo in the modern world. This stigma is a mistake. In fact, it is neither possible nor advisable to do away with social hierarchies. Drawing upon Chinese thought and culture as well as other traditions and philosophies, Bell and Wang ask which hierarchies are justified and how these can serve morally desirable goals. They look at ways of promoting just forms of hierarchy while minimizing the influence of unjust ones, such as hierarchies based on race, sex, or caste.

[Daniel Bell](#) is Dean of the School of Political Science and Public Administration at Shandong University (Qingdao) and Professor at Tsinghua University (Beijing). His latest book (co-authored with Wang Pei) [Just Hierarchy](#) was published by Princeton University Press in February 2020. His previous books include [The China Model](#), [Spirit of Cities](#) (co-authored with Avner de-Shalit), [China's New Confucianism](#), [Beyond Liberal Democracy](#) and [East Meets West](#) (all Princeton University Press). He is founding editor of the Princeton-China Series. In 2018, he was awarded the Huilin Prize and honored as a "Cultural Leader" by the World Economic Forum. In 2019, he was also awarded the Special Book Award of China.

[Wang Pei](#) is Assistant Professor at The China Institute of Fudan University. She completed her PhD thesis on phenomenology at the department of philosophy of Tsinghua University. She was a post-doctoral fellow at the Tsinghua Institute of Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Science. She has authored academic articles in English, Chinese, and French, mainly on phenomenology, ethics, and comparative philosophy. Her book (co-authored with Daniel A Bell) [Just Hierarchy](#) was published by Princeton University Press in February 2020. She is currently writing a book titled "The Power of Calligraphy: A Political History of Calligraphy in China."

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at [editor@shanghai-review.org](mailto:editor@shanghai-review.org).