

CHINA CROSSROADS

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The Liberation of Shanghai: May 1949 to May 1950

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This talk will review the main historical processes and turns of events regarding the People's Liberation Army (PLA) taking over of Shanghai, as well as the Communist Party's effort in stabilizing the city setting up a new political and social order. The military takeover was short and quick, completed in only a few days. The political and administrative takeover, as well as guarding the City against the sabotage staged by the already-fled Kuomintang (KMT) regime, however, was much more challenging. By the following May, with KMT troops evacuating Zhoushan Island, and fresh seafood reaching Shanghai residents' tables, the liberation of Shanghai was finished.

[Wang Zhengxu](#) is Distinguished Professor at the Department of Political Science, School of Public Affairs of Zhejiang University in China. Before joining Zhejiang University, he was Distinguished Professor at Fudan University's School of International Relations and Public Affairs, research fellow at the East Asian Institute of National University of Singapore, and Associate Professor at the School of Contemporary Chinese Studies at the UK's University of Nottingham, where he also served as Acting Director of the university's China Policy Institute. His research interests are in comparative politics, Chinese politics, and empirical political science theories. His publications have appeared in *Governance*, *International Review of Sociology*, *Democratization*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *The China Quarterly*, *The China Journal*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and others. He is currently working on a project on the pre-modern state in East Asia influenced by the Confucian Minben-Meritocratic concepts, and another one debating the main ideas and concepts in political science. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from University of Michigan (2005).

[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.