

Olivia Cheung

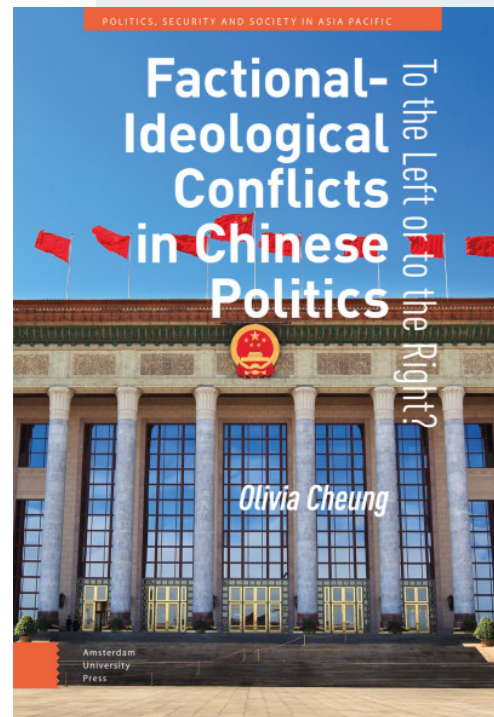
## Factional-Ideological Conflicts in Chinese Politics

*To the Left or to the Right?*

This book reconstructs the factional-ideological conflicts surrounding socialist transformation and political reform in China that were played out through 'factional model-making', a norm-bound mechanism for elites of the Chinese Communist Party to contest the party line publicly. Dazhai, Anhui, Nanjie, Shekou, Shenzhen, Guangdong and Chongqing were cultivated into factional models by party elites before Xi Jinping came to power in 2012. Although factional model-making undermined party discipline, it often did not threaten regime security and even contributed to regime resilience through strengthening collective leadership and other means. This follows that the suppression of factional model-making under Xi might undermine longer-term regime resilience. However, Xi believes that regime security rests on his strongman rule, not any benefits that factional model-making may contribute. It is in this spirit that he grooms Zhejiang into a party model for his policy programme of common prosperity, which is designed to legitimize his vision of socialism.

### BIOGRAPHY

Dr Olivia Cheung is Research Fellow of the China Institute at SOAS University of London. She obtained her DPhil from the University of Oxford where she was a Swire Scholar and a Rhodes Scholar. She previously taught at the University of Warwick, where she was Course Director for the MA in International Politics and East Asia. She is the co-author of *The Political Thought of Xi Jinping* (2024).



Politics, Security and Society in Asia  
Pacific July 2023

Hardback £ 96 / € 104  
E-book OPEN ACCESS

ISBN 978 94 6372 029 8

e-ISBN 978 90 485 5708 0

BISAC HIS008000 / POL005000 / POL049000

BIC JPFC / JPHX

#### KEYWORDS

Chinese Communist Party, factionalism, ideology,  
model, policymaking

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University  
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