

An Analysis of Chinese Netizen Rights: Predicament and Promise

-Taking the “Anti-Green Dam” Movement as an Example

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The “anti-Green Dam” movement which took place in Chinese cyberspace in 2009 can be considered the single biggest struggle between Chinese Internet users and the government’s regulatory efforts since the Internet emerged in China. Some also consider it a collision between China and Western countries, in which the West attempts to leverage the popularity of an anti-Internet censorship campaign to influence China. There are two sides in this game: one fights for a free cyberspace; the other wants to control and regulate the Internet. When Chinese netizens’ appeals and pressure from the West converge, what changes can be expected for the future of the Chinese Internet? This paper argues that as the Internet develops in China, both the government and the Web users are falling into a predicament. Therefore, it is urgent for both sides to work together and make rules in the interest of all.