

## *Rethinking Global Civil Society in an Era of a Rising China\**

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### *Abstract*

The concept of global civil society arose out of a language, culture and definition influenced by mainstream Western political philosophy and discourse, and the behavior of Western NGOs that proliferated in the latter part of the 20th century. The recent rise of Chinese social organizations internationally—which were born, developed, and prospered in a domestic authoritarian institutional environment with varying values and norms than their Western counterparts—suggests a rethink of how global civil society is conceived. Namely, as Chinese social organizations internationalize, they ultimately export to host nations their best/worst practices, modes of operation, organizational behavior, and values and norms. This article looks at the experiences of Chinese social organizations domestically and abroad, and discerns how their actions and behavior potentially confirm, modify, and/or reject the contemporary conceptual understanding of global civil society.

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