Abstract

The present study focuses on the local organizations and state extraction in rural China from 1949 to 1956. But in order to provide an understanding of context and processes the thesis at the same time examines the secular changes in local organizations and the historical experience of state extraction in rural China during a relatively long period from the fourteenth century to 1956. Specifically, the present study focuses on the relationships between local organizations and the efficiency (transaction costs) of state extraction in rural China from the fourteenth century to 1956, and finds that the actions and interactions of the state (or rulers), state agents (recorders in lijia organization and lineage leaders before the twentieth century, local bosses during the first half of the twentieth century, and heads and recorders in the collectives after 1949), and constituents (the common peasants) led to the changes of institutions in state extraction (forms of taxation, forms of contract between the state and state agents, structures of local organizations) and institutions in broader social context (informal institutions), and the changes in the efficiency (transaction costs) of state extraction, by using the historical experience of state extraction from villages in A County (a County in southeast China) from the fourteenth century to 1956 as a case study. The thesis therefore revises key aspects of the new institutionalism model (Williamson 1975; North 1981, 1991; Kiser 1994; Levi 1988), and develops a new model for understanding organizations, what might be called the process institutionalism model. In contrast to the new institutionalism model which emphasizes the efficiency properties of alternative forms of organization, and their centrality to the actions and interactions of organization participants and the other actors in
broader social context, the process institutionalism model focuses on the processes whereby the organizational participants and the other actors in broader social context, having different interests and valuing various inducements, take actions and interact with each other, and emphasizes that the processes of the actions and interactions of organization participants and the other actors in broader social context are fundamentally important to the changes in organization structures and the other institutions in broader social context, and the changes in the efficiency of institutional patterns. Secondly, the present study follows the research approach opened by Schumpeter (1991) and develops a relatively complete framework to understand the changes in state institutions, and the efficiency of state extraction, not only in China, but also in the other countries after the fourteenth century (including the development of a relatively strong central representative institution in England in the seventeenth century and the establishment of bureaucratic monarchy in the major European continental countries in the eighteenth century).
Table of Contents

Declaration ........................................................................................................................................... i
Abstract .............................................................................................................................................. ii
Acknowledgements ......................................................................................................................... iv
Table of Contents ............................................................................................................................. vi
Tables ................................................................................................................................................ xi
Figures ................................................................................................................................................ x
Chapter 1 Introduction ................................................................................................................... 1
Chapter 2 Literature review ........................................................................................................... 9
  2.1 Concepts: organization and efficiency of state extraction ..................................................... 10
    2.1.1 Organization ....................................................................................................................... 10
    2.1.2 Efficiency of state extraction ............................................................................................ 16
  2.2 Understanding roles of local organizations in state extraction in Communist China: the totalitarian model, the state-building model, the institutional analysis model and the revised new institutionalism model ................................................................................................. 24
    2.2.1 The totalitarian model and the state-building model: the rational system perspective on local organizations in Communist China ................................................................................................................................. 26
    2.2.2 The institutional analysis model: the natural system perspective on local organizations in Communist China .................................................................................................................................................. 29
    2.2.3 The revised new institutionalism model: reconciling and combining the rational system perspective, the natural system perspective and the open system perspective on local organizations in Communist China .................................................................................................................................................. 33
  2.3 Research gaps in the existing studies of roles of local organizations in state extraction in Communist China .................................................................................................................................................. 37
Chapter 3 Research methodology: research site, data, unit of analysis and limitations ........ 41
  3.1 A County in Guangdong Province ......................................................................................... 41
  3.2 Data ........................................................................................................................................ 46
  3.3 Unit of analysis ....................................................................................................................... 47
  3.4 Limitations in the employed research method ..................................................................... 49
Chapter 4 Local organizations and efficiency of state extraction in the countryside in southeast China from the fourteen century to 1949 ................................................................. 52
  4.1 Labor productivity per average worker in peasant family in southeast China .................. 55
    4.1.1 Migration toward southeast China and the changes in cultivated acreage per capita ................................................................................................................................................................. 59
    4.1.2 Application of traditional labor-intensive agricultural technologies and the increase in per acre yield ................................................................................................................................................................. 69
    4.1.3 Decrease in labor productivity per average worker in peasant family and the changes in the efficiency in and the taxability of family farm .................................................................................. 75
4.2 Forms of state extraction, the structures of local organizations and the Confucian moral discourse interwoven with the Buddhist, the Daoist and the local cult discourses in southeast China…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..81

4.2.1 Changes in the forms of state extraction in the countryside in southeast China after the fourteenth century……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….82

4.2.2 Forms of local organizations: the structures of local organizations and the Confucian moral discourse interwoven with the Buddhist, the Daoist and the local cult discourses after the fourteenth century………………………………………………………………………………………………………….93

4.3 Actions of the state agents and the common peasants and the efficiency of state extraction in the countryside in southeast China……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….104

4.3.1 Varieties of transaction costs borne by the state, state agents and common peasants...105

4.3.2 Actions taken by the state agents (recorders in lijia organizations and lineage leaders) and the common peasants, changes in the variety of transaction cost, and efficiency of state extraction before twentieth century……………………………………………………………………………………………………………107

4.3.3 Actions taken by the state agents (local bosses) and the common peasants, changes in the variety of transaction cost, and efficiency of state extraction throughout the first half of the twentieth century…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………114

4.4 Conclusion…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..123

Chapter 5 Forms of state extraction, structures of local organizations and informal institutions in rural China from 1949 to 1956.......................................................................................... 127

5.1 Forms of state extraction in rural community in southeast China from 1949 to 1956: impost on normal annual grain harvest of land and a mixture of wage contract and tax-farming contract………………………………………………………………………………………………………….130

5.2 Structures of local organizations: the mechanism constraining the heads and the recorders in the collective, the mechanism allocating grain harvest among the member households in the collective, and the right of the member household to withdraw from the collective...........152

5.3 Class discourse, traditional moral values possessed by the peasants, and the legitimacy of the incentives imposed on heads and recorders in the local organizations...............176

5.4 Conclusion…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..184

Chapter 6 Actions and interactions of the state, heads and recorders in the collective and the common peasants, and efficiency of state extraction ............................................................ 185

6.1 Varieties of transaction costs borne by the state, rich and upper-middle peasant households, and poor and lower-middle peasant households…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….187

6.2 Decrease in transaction costs and improvement in the efficiency of state extraction for the whole society.........................................................................................................................................................201

6.3 Division of efficiency of state extraction among the actors in state extraction...........250

6.4 Conclusion..............................................................................................................................274

Chapter 7 Discussion and conclusion.................................................................................... 277
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1 Actions of the state, state agents and common peasants, transaction costs associated with modifying incentive structures of actors, and efficiency of state extraction</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2 Informal institutions, legitimacy of actions and efficiency of actions</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3 Actions of the state, state agents and constituents, transaction costs of state extraction and changes of state institutions</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4 The Process Institutionalism Model: Toward a Process Paradigm</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossary</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum Vitae</td>
<td>378</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>