



Chinese Cyberspaces

Technological changes and political effects

Edited by Jens Damm
and Simona Thomas

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Chinese Cyberspaces

Chinese Cyberspaces provides a multi-disciplinary study on the recent development and consequences of Internet expansion in China taken from social, political, cultural and economic perspectives. The book provides critical analysis of the effects of Internet technology on China's information policy and overall political stability as well as the political implications.

Original fieldwork from a leading group of international scholars carried out over the last two years suggests that although the digital divide has developed along typical lines of gender, urban versus rural, and income, it has also been greatly influenced by the Communist Party's attempts to exert efficient control. This compelling overview of the current situation regarding Internet development in China and its potential future trends will appeal to social science academics and decision makers in politics, business and international organizations.

Jens Damm is Research Associate at the Seminar of East Asian Studies, at Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany.

Simona Thomas was Research Associate at the Centre for Chinese and East Asian Politics at Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany, and works as a Scientific Author in Berlin.

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LONDON AND NEW YORK

First published 2006 by Routledge 2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN
Simultaneously published in the USA and Canada by Routledge 270 Madison Ave, New York,
NY 10016

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group
This edition published in the Taylor & Francis e-Library, 2006.

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thousands of eBooks please go to www.eBookstore.tandf.co.uk.”

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data A catalogue record for this book is available from
the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data Chinese cyberspaces: technological changes
and political effects/edited by Jens Damm and Simona Thomas. p. cm.—(Asia's transformations)
Includes bibliographical references and index. 1 Internet—Social aspects—China. 2. Internet—
Political aspects —China. 3. Information policy—China. 4. Digital divide— China. 5. Internet in
public administration—China. I. Damm, Jens. II. Thomas, Simona. III. Series. HN740.Z91565
2006 303.48'33'0951—dc22 2005018143

ISBN 0-203-40032-1 Master e-book ISBN

ISBN 0-203-68468-0 (Adobe e-Reader Format)
ISBN10:0-415-33208-7 (Print Edition)
ISBN13:9-78-0-415-33208-8 (Print Edition)

Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	xi
<i>List of tables</i>	xii
<i>Notes on contributors</i>	xiii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xvi
<i>Preface</i>	xix
1 Introduction: Chinese cyberspaces: technological changes and political effects	1
JENS DAMM AND SIMONA THOMAS	
2 Government policy and political control over China's Internet	11
ERIC HARWIT AND DUNCAN CLARK	
3 In the crossfire of demands: Chinese news portals between propaganda and the public	38
JOHAN LAGERKVIST	
4 Comrade to comrade networks: the social and political implications of peer-to-peer networks in China	57
MICHAEL CHASE, JAMES MULVENON, AND NINA HACHIGIAN	
5 China's e-policy: examples of local e-government in Guangdong and Fujian	90
JENS DAMM	
6 Industrialization supported by informatization: the economic effects of the Internet in China	117
XIE KANG	
7 Net business: China's potential for a global market change	131
SIMONA THOMAS	
<i>Index</i>	151

Figures

2.1	Control hierarchy and revenue flows of Internet service provision under the MII	18
2.2	Numbers of registered domain names by category	21
2.3	Internet use by age	27
2.4	Changing Internet use by gender, selected years	28
4.1	Schematic of client-server architecture	60
4.2	Schematic of brokered P2P architecture	62
4.3	Network diagram of SafeWeb's server model	63
4.4	Network diagram of Triangle Boy's server model	64
4.5	Schematic of unbrokered P2P architecture	66
5.1	Structure of Digital Fujian	102

Tables

1.1 Chinese language in the World Wide Web (2005)	5
2.1 Major networks and their leased international bandwidth (selected years 1998–2003)	16
2.2 Internet use by selected geographic location (2002)	29
2.3 Comparison of selected activities of American and Chinese Internet use patterns	30
5.1 Cases of “advanced” e-government websites in Fujian (2003–04)	99
6.1 Computers connected to the Internet in China (1997–2004)	121
6.2 Enterprise investment in e-commerce systems	124
6.3 Computer ownership (per 100 families) in different regions of China (2000)	125
6.4 Regional labor demand in the Top Ten sectors of industry in China (2001)	126
6.5 Changes in enterprises as a result of e-commerce activities	127
7.1 Worldwide e-commerce: some estimates and forecasts, compared to worldwide Internet users	136
7.2 Estimates for B2B e-commerce in China	137
7.3 Seven Internet business models in China	140

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Abbreviations

aadn	administrative area domain name
AAS	Association of Asian Studies
ac	academic
ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line
aka	also known as
AoIR	Association of Internet Researchers
B2B	business-to-business
B2C	business-to-consumer
B2G	business-to-government
BAIC	Beijing Administration of Industry and Commerce
BBS	Bulletin Board Service
CAAC	Civil Aviation Administration of China
CAD	computer-aided design
CAEFI	China Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment
CAM	computer-aided management
CANet	China Academic Network
CAPP	computer-aided process planning
CAS	Chinese Academy of Sciences
CASS	Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CD	compact disk
CE	communication equipment
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CERNET	China Education and Research Network
CGI	Common Gateway Interface
CGWNet	China Great Wall Network
ChinaGBN	Golden Bridge Network
CHINAPAC	Packet-data network built by the MPT
CIETNet	Network of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation
CMNet	China Mobile Network
CNNIC	China Internet Network Information Center

com	commercial
CRM	customer relationship management
CRnet	China Research Network
CSNet	China Satellite Network
CSTNet	China Science and Technology Network
DDN	Digital Data Network
DDoS	Distributed Denial of Service
DFG	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
DFN	Digital Freedom Network
DNS	Domain Name Service
EACS	European Association of Chinese Studies
ECCF	E-Commerce China Forum
ECWG	E-Commerce Working Group
EDI	electronic data interchange
edu	educational
ERP	enterprise resource planning
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
GOP	Government Online Project
gov	governmental
HTTP	Hyper Text Transfer Protocol
HTTPS	Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Secure
ICA	International Communication Association
ICAS	International Convention of Asia Scholars
ICMP	Internet Control Message Protocol
ICP	Internet Content Provider
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IHEP	Institute of High Energy Physics
IIF	International Informatization Forum
IPSEC	Internet Protocol Security
IT	Information Technology
JIT	just in time
LP	linear programming
Mbps	megabits per second
MEI	Ministry of Electronics Industry
MOFTEC	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Co-operation

MP3	MPEG1 Layer 3
MPS	Ministry of Public Security
MPT	Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
MSS	Ministry of State Security
n.a.	not available
net	network
P2P	peer-to-peer
PC	personal computer
PRC	People's Republic of China
PTA	provincial telecommunications administrations
RMB	Renminbi
S/MIME	Secure/Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extension
SARFT	State Administration of Radio, Films, and Television
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SCM	supply chain management
SEC	State Education Commission
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SMS	Short Message Service
SMTP	Simple Mail Transport Protocol
SSH	Secure Shell
SSL	Secure Socket Layer
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UniNET	China Unicom Network
UNPAN	United Nations Online Network in Public Administration and Finance
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
VPN	Virtual Private Network
WTO	World Trade Organization

Preface

The chosen title *Chinese Cyberspaces* reflects the multifaceted development of the Internet in China. The editors were involved in an interdisciplinary research project funded by the DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft), May 2001–April 2003, on China's Internet policy at Freie Universität Berlin. The main theme of this volume represents the outcome of the research, which was on China's Internet Policy between Technological Development and Political Reaction. The project was based on the premise that the two main objectives of the Chinese leadership's regulative policy are contradictory: on the one hand, the Chinese state is attempting to exert control over Internet use for political reasons and, on the other hand, the state is attracted by the economic advantages offered by the technological modernization of information and communication. The project focused on three central aspects of Internet development in China: on e-government from a macro-perspective, on a content analysis of e-government from a micro-perspective, analyzing local and regional portals, and on the impact of e-commerce from the perspective of foreign enterprises in China.

In particular, we would like to thank the DFG for funding the project. Prof. Eberhard Sandschneider and Zhang Junhua developed the project and we would like to offer them our special thanks. Prof. Sandschneider, as the director of the project, introduced us to the concepts of the political impact of the Internet on the transformation of China today. Zhang Junhua shaped our understanding of the complex relationships in the field of governmental reforms. Karin Damman-Börger managed the administration of the project with the greatest enthusiasm; the student assistants supported us in every way and also helped with long and fruitful discussions and comments to shape the project: we would like to name in particular, Horst Schmidt, Eva Knoll, Yeeman Lee and Carola Milbrodt. We also would like to thank all the other staff at the Center for Chinese and East Asian Politics, Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science, Freie Universität Berlin, for their unremitting support.

This volume is the result of an intensive exchange between colleagues “online and offline.” A “virtual research community” network of international Internet researchers on China, the Yahoo group “Chineseinternet-research,” <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chineseinternetresearch>, became the starting point for information exchange and discussions, and supported the introduction of new members to the research community. This group is continuing to develop its international character by bringing together researchers from Asia including China, North America, Australia and Europe and has pushed the research towards interdisciplinary approaches ranging from political sciences, economics, media and communication sciences to sinology.

The editors and authors participated in various conferences focusing on different aspects and belonging to different academic disciplines: first, at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) in Washington DC in 2001; second, at the conference “Internet Research 3.0” in Maastricht, the Netherlands, in the following year, which was organized by the international Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR).