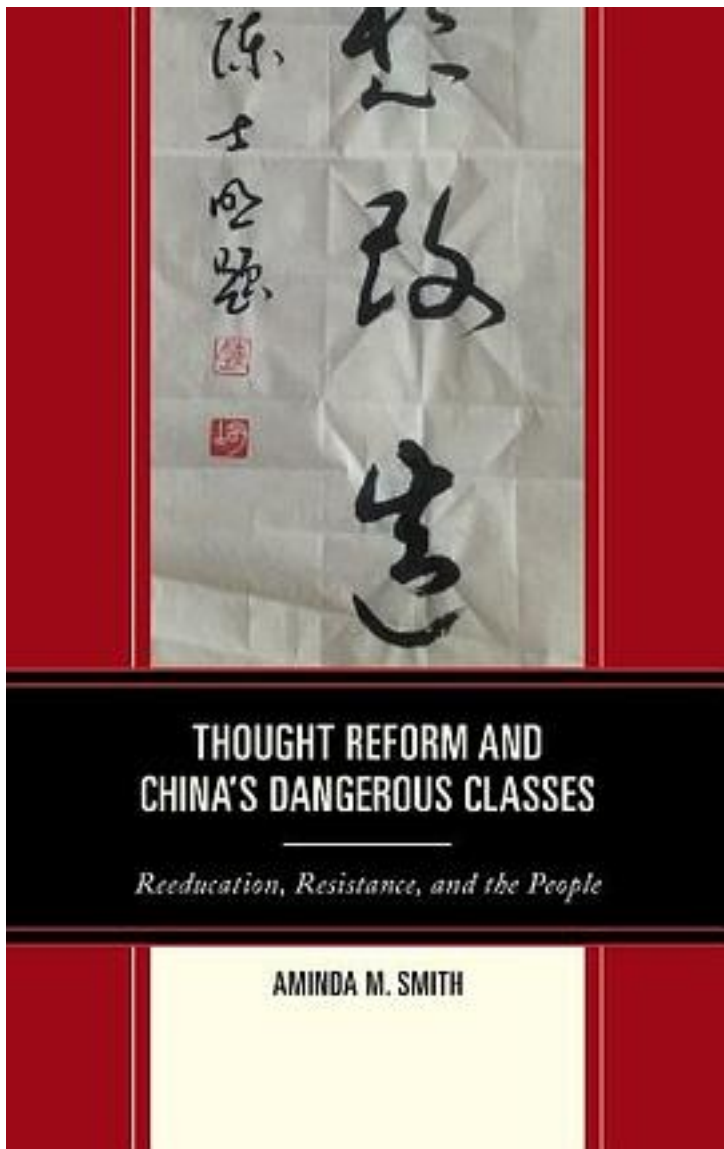


# Thought Reform and China's Dangerous Classes



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著者:Aminda M. Smith

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Thought reform is arguably China's most controversial social policy. If reeducation's critics and defenders agree on little else, they share the conviction that ideological remolding is inseparable from its Mao-era roots. This is the first major English-language study to explore one of the most important aspects of those origins, the essential relationship between thought reform and the "dangerous classes"—the prostitutes, beggars, petty criminals, and other "lumpenproletarians" that Communists saw as a threat to society and the revolution. Through formerly unavailable classified documents, as well as diaries, oral histories, and memoirs, Aminda Smith takes readers inside the early-PRC reformatories where the new state endeavored to transform socially marginalized "vagrants" into socially integrated members of the laboring masses. As sites where "the people" were literally created, these centers became testing grounds for rapidly changing discourses about the praxis of thought reform as well as the subjects it aimed to produce. Her book explores reformatories as institutions dedicated to molding new socialist citizens and as symbolic spaces through which internees, cadres, and the ordinary masses made sense of what it meant to be a member of the people in the People's Republic of China. She offers convincing new answers to much-debated questions about the nature of the crucial decade of the 1950s, especially with respect to the development and future of PRC political culture.

作者介绍:

Aminda M. Smith is assistant professor in the Department of History at Michigan State University.

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标签

海外中国研究

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评论

在共党社会改造工程中，划分敌我、构建”人民“认同和共同体是重要一环，而乞丐、妓女、短工、小偷等无组织散漫人群，在经典马列文献及共党创始人观念中，缺乏阶级意识、没有明确阶级经济地位、对革命与新社会不热情，但其地位低下而对现状潜在不满又可能被纳入革命势力中。建政后中共采取劳教结合方式试图将其改造为人民一分子，教养所遂成为敌我界线反复划分与再生产、身份认同与意义再造的场所：阶级压迫剥削体制取代迷信观念成为贫苦状况来源；敌我观念通过诉苦、记忆再包装、典型宣传和课堂灌输进入改造者头脑；在符合马列经典理论的劳动改造规管下，敌我界线在努力改造、消极怠工和反抗三者间游移，大部分被成功压服改造而使得中共可宣称消灭游民群体，少数个体则在随后激进政治运动中被再次打击。但改造思维和模式持续保留在后来的劳改制度中。

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Other than the author, no one knows this book better than me, haha!

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作者的博士论文修订补写而成

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书评

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