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Academic Interaction between Economists of Central and Eastern Europe and China (1978–1989)

(Abstract)

When starting economic reform in 1978, China had the socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe (SCCEE) as an alternative model. From 1978 to 1985 there were frequent contacts between Chinese economists and those with SCCEE background, who were introduced by Chinese economists of old generation (born in 1900s-1920s). The Chinese economists of middle generation (born in 1930s) led the criticism of the SCCEE economic reform in late 1980s, participated by their young assistants (born in 1940s–1950s). After 1989 China lost its interest in SCCEE economic reform, but the economists of middle and young generations who were familiar with SCCEE economic history became the principal consultants of policy-making in 1990s and even policy-makers in 2000s and 2010s. They were trained just in the studies of SCCEE economic theories and practice.