

News from

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

RIGHTFUL RESISTANCE IN RURAL CHINA

KEVIN J. O'BRIEN
University of California Berkeley

LIANJIANG LI
Chinese University of Hong Kong

Praise for this book:

"To the study of resistance, this superb book, is akin to the discovery of a major 'new species.' 'Rightful resistance' may well be the most significant form of popular protest in quasi-authoritarian systems. This closely-reasoned, broadly comparative and innovative book will inspire many new research programs in its wake."

James C. Scott, Yale University

"In six short but dense chapters, *Rightful Resistance in Rural China* gives the concept its fullest development and provides a sweeping picture of rural contention in contemporary China. Yet above all, this book marks the authors' systematic and innovative effort to converse with scholars of collective action, and as such, may perhaps best be seen as their gift to sociology. Readers of this journal will delight in it."

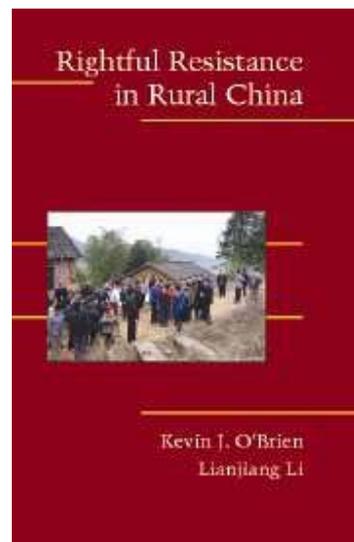
Guobin Yang, *Mobilization*

"Brief yet brilliant...highly recommended."

Choice

"This slim volume is a little gem. After spending more than a decade researching rural protest in post-reform China, O'Brien and Li have masterfully synthesized their collaborative work in this elegantly written book. While providing substantive new material from recent surveys and interviews, as well as from research by various Chinese scholars, this book is first of all a theoretical contribution to the literature on social protest. As such, it should attract the attention of scholars both within and beyond the China field... In conclusion, the book defines rightful resistance with utmost clarity and rigour. The size of the volume is deceptive: this is a theoretical book, never overburdened with empirical evidence. But nonetheless there is evidence, succinctly recalled where necessary. The same holds for the innovative theoretical advances. Thoroughly familiar with the literature on popular protest, the authors succinctly mention relevant works, wasting no space on secondary digressions. This closely reasoned, clearly argued book is eminently suitable for teaching adoption in the fields of Chinese studies and political science."

Lucien Bianco, *China Quarterly*



To order, please see the reverse or visit us at cambridge.org/us

Rightful Resistance in Rural China

How can the poor and weak 'work' a political system to their advantage? Drawing mainly on interviews and surveys in rural China, Kevin O'Brien and Lianjiang Li show that popular action often hinges on locating and exploiting divisions within the state. Otherwise powerless people use the rhetoric and commitments of the central government to try to fight misconduct by local officials, open up clogged channels of participation, and push back the frontiers of the permissible. This 'rightful resistance' has far-reaching implications for our understanding of contentious politics. As O'Brien and Li explore the origins, dynamics, and consequences of rightful resistance, they highlight similarities between collective action in places as varied as China, the former East Germany, and the United States, while suggesting how Chinese experiences speak to issues such as opportunities to protest, claims radicalization, tactical innovation, and the outcomes of contention.

Contents

1. Rightful resistance; 2. Opportunities and perceptions; 3. Boundary-spanning claims; 4. Tactical escalation; 5. Outcomes; 6. Implications for China.

20% DISCOUNT ORDER FORM ME6RIGHT

___0-521-86131-4 O'Brien & Li / *Rightful Resistance in Rural China* Hardback List: \$70.00 Disc: \$56.00
___0-521-67852-8 O'Brien & Li / *Rightful Resistance in Rural China* Paperback List: \$24.99 Disc: \$19.99

TERMS OF THE OFFER: All individual orders must be prepaid by check or money order or charged on American Express, Visa card or MasterCard (libraries excepted). The use of a credit card will expedite your order. Canadian residents, add 7% GST. Shipping and handling charges for North America are \$6.00 for the first book and \$1.75 for each additional book. Outside North America (only credit card orders accepted) - \$9.00 for first book, \$5.00 for each additional book (surface mail).

* All prices are in US dollars.

Name _____	Total prices from above \$ _____
Address _____	Add NY/CA Sales tax \$ _____
City _____	Canadians add 7% GST \$ _____
State _____ Zip _____	Add shipping charges \$ _____
Institution _____	Net Total \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express
Credit Card Number _____	Expiration Date _____
Signature _____	

RETURN TO:
ORDER DEPT • CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS • 100 BROOK HILL DRIVE • WEST NYACK, NY 10994
TOLL-FREE: (800) 872-7423 / FAX: (845) 353-4141
<http://cambridge.org/us>