

THE

THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY'S

DICTATOR'S

STRATEGY FOR SURVIVAL

DILEMMA

BRUCE J. DICKSON

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR

THE DICTATOR'S DILEMMA

"A clear-headed, very useful guide to what the world can hope, fear, and expect as China's system faces an unprecedented set of challenges."

- JAMES FALLOWS, author of China Airborne

"The Dictator's Dilemma is that rare example of impeccable scholarship and highly readable prose. Bruce Dickson draws on remarkable nationwide surveys conducted in China before and after the leadership transition in 2012 to unpack sources of support and prospects of survival of the Chinese one-party state. In so doing, Dickson challenges many assumptions that have become conventional wisdom."

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"No topic is more hotly debated in the China field than the subject of democratization: Will China finally embark on a process of democratization—or be pushed into one? Dickson looks at the way the Chinese government generates support and suppresses dissent, the way it has evolved in response to societal change, and the attitudes of Chinese citizens to come to the level-headed conclusion that democratization, though possible, is unlikely. He also provides the sober warning that governmental breakdown does not always lead to democracy. *The Dictator's Dilemma* should be read by all interested in democratization."

— JOSEPH FEWSMITH, Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University and author of *The Logic and Limits of Political Reform in China*

"Dickson's refreshing book reminds us not to look too far ahead but to pay attention to the current realities in China, where rising incomes and an adaptive Chinese Communist Party are providing good enough governance to keep the show alive. He is neither optimist nor pessimist but something better: a realist. *The Dictator's Dilemma* should be widely read."

— BRUCE GILLEY, Associate Professor of Political Science, Portland State
University and author of The Nature of Asian Politics



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