Inquiring and visualizing large-scale space: Placing China's changing urban hierarchy from 1985 to 2010 into spatial system

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Inquiring and Visualizing Large-Scale Space: Placing China’s Changing Urban Hierarchy from 1985 to 2010 Into Spatial System

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For the past decades, anthropologists and sociologists have increasingly emphasized the importance of space. However, for most of them, "space" is a kind of analytical tool to identify "material culture, kinship systems, house form, and social institutions" and they concerned "space" with finding ways to integrate the results of traditional anthropological research. For example, anthropologists and sociologists generally consider the influence of "space" on an individual or a group of people. However, they seemed to ignore the day-to-day changes in space, such as the urban system, and contribute to the theoretical development of "space".

My case study is China, a giant country of 1.3 billion people. China's urbanization started to identify "material culture, kinship systems, house form, and social institutions" and they could hardly overlook the gap between China's eastern part and the western; third, in a bird’s eye view, the co-evolutional process. The discrepancy of China’s inland and coastal areas still exists, but the gap gradually decreases with the rise of the central and the western part of China. The political impact could be the "Open Up the West Program".

In 2005, China’s western development plan contributed to the western China to catch up with the eastern. The strategy includes: the development of infrastructure, improvement of living standards, and promotion of industrialization. The gap between China’s coast part and the west; third, in a bird’s eye view, the co-evolutional process. The discrepancy of China’s inland and coastal areas still exists, but the gap gradually decreases with the rise of the central and the western part of China. The political impact could be the "Open Up the West Program".

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