Villagers’ Representative Assemblies: Towards Democracy or Centralism?
By 1994, over half the villages nationwide had established VRAs. Those who support them believe that direct democracy is simply impracticable in modern life. Those who oppose them feel powerless in stopping continuous infringement of their democratic rights by higher-level governments and abuse of power by their elected officials.

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Parasites or Civilisers: The Legitimacy of the Chinese Communist Party in Rural Areas
The CPC is struggling to redefine its legitimacy in poor, rural areas. It is well aware that not only can public opinion potentially shake the leadership, but that the Party-state cannot get things done if it is not perceived as legitimate. The credibility of the Party appears to be particularly fragile at the township-village interface.

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Household Decisions and Gender Inequality in Education in Rural China
Improving girls’ enrolment in formal schooling is an important challenge in rural China. In a survey of four rural counties in Gansu and Hebei, parents clearly had higher educational expectations for boys than for girls. Gender inequality in education is inherent in China’s widening rural-urban disparities.

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The Quest for Good Governance: Hong Kong’s Principal Officials Accountability System
Since the Handover in 1997, Hong Kong’s government policies and operations have been subject to increasing scrutiny by the public, media and Legco. The POAS was introduced in Hong Kong in July 2002 in an attempt to enhance the quality of governance and accountability among its principal government officials.

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China’s Outward Direct Investment: Expanding Worldwide
Chinese business ventures have been established in more than 160 countries. The rapidly growing ODI reflects not only China’s increasing integration with the global economy, but also its continuing need to expand overseas to secure natural resources and advanced technology. However, compared to other countries, government support for ODI is weak.

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Joint Statement "The Special ASEAN-China Leaders Meeting on the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in Bangkok"