

STATE, CIVIL SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT IN CHINA

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At a time when China surprises the world in virtue of its economic rates, it is easy to identify the environmental consequences of the political and economic choices adopted in that country. In the context of the risk society, a global governance is primordial to take action against the scenario of environmental changes that indistinctly strike the whole world. Understand how the environmental movements were historically formed in China, their action, limits and fundamental role played in the global society that we are in, are the main goals of this study, which aims to identify how the non-governmental environmental organizations are proceeding within China and how they stand between the State and the civil society. As a fundamental social actor in the 21st century, the Chinese environmental movement has global importance in identifying the risks and proposing new mitigation forms, that will impact the entire global society, aiming to lessen the consequences of environmental changes.



(ED JONES/AFP/Getty Images)

CHINA IS THE GREATEST ANNUAL EMITTER OF CO₂ IN THE WORLD

55% OF CHINESES BELIEVED THAT CHANGES IN WEATHER PATTERNS WERE DUE TO HUMAN ACTIVITY

THERE ARE MORE THAN 4.000 ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS IN CHINA

AUTHORITARIAN ENVIRONMENTALISM

STATE

ENVIRONMENT

CIVIL SOCIETY

Recovering the notion of authoritarian environmentalism, we can propose the idea that in the absence of space for political action of the Chinese environmental movement, it is shaped according to the authoritarian environmentalism of the State and distances itself from the direct political action. What the movements propose are not questionings of the politics adopted by the Chinese State or the direct political confrontation, what we have in China is an environmentalism endowed with delicacy and softness, that escapes from the political conflicts and is practiced distant from the political guidelines. Directly related to the structuring of the State and the constitution of the civil society, we identify that the environmental movements, throughout the 90's and early 2000s, are characterized by a large concentration in Pekin and Shanghai, but with limited diffusion in the rest of the country. Furthermore, there is a fragmentation in the movement and absence of constitution of a movement able to act throughout the country and represent interests of the Chinese society as a whole.



Environmental protest in Beijing (Reuters/Greenpeace/Lu Guang/Divulgação)