

## MASTER'S THESIS

### Villagers' resistance against land expropriation: a case study of the Yin village in northern China

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**Villagers' Resistance Against Land Expropriation:  
A case study of the Yin Village in Northern China**

**WU Aijin**

**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of  
Master of Philosophy**

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Hong Kong Baptist University  
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## **Abstract**

With the study of peasant resistance against land expropriation in Yin village of North China, this thesis explores peasants' resistance and the duality of structure. It shows how the peasants in the Yin village resisted successfully for protecting their land right. Through the study of the whole process of peasant resistance and interactions with the government, this research also discloses a new analytic framework to study peasant resistance in contemporary China. I will use Anthony Giddens' structuration theory to link the gap between structure and action.

This thesis contains five chapters. In the first introductory chapter, I will introduce the research objectives, research methods and village background. In the second chapter, I will provide a literature review and introduce this work's theoretical framework. In the third chapter, I will elaborate the first stage of rural struggle called "collective petition and big arrest". In the fourth chapter, I will elaborate the second stage of rural struggle called "fight for village power". In the fifth chapter, I will introduce the third stage of villagers' struggle known as "bargain with the local government". The final chapter contains a conclusion with main arguments and policy implications.

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