

Professor Qian Yingyi

Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*

Citation

Born in Beijing, Professor Qian Yingyi was sent to the countryside to work as a farmer for four years upon high school graduation. There he taught himself mathematics and English and discovered an interest in the social and economic issues China was facing at the time. The experience led to a later decision to study economics. After enjoying remarkable academic success overseas, he returned to China to make contributions to his home country.

In 1977, he took the first National College Entrance Examination held after the Cultural Revolution and was admitted to Tsinghua University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. In the following years, he received a Master of Arts in Statistics from Columbia University, a Master of Philosophy in Management Science/Operations Research from Yale University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics from Harvard University.

Professor Qian held appointments at the Department of Economics at Stanford University, the University of Maryland, and the University of California, Berkeley. From 2006 to 2018, he was Dean of the School of Economics and Management at his alma mater, Tsinghua University.

Currently, he is Professor of Economics in the School of Economics and Management and Distinguished Professor of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, both at Tsinghua University. He is also the Chairman of the Founding Board of Trustees of Westlake University, a private research university founded in 2018 in Hangzhou.

Professor Qian won the Sun Yefang Prize in Economic Science in 2009, became a Fellow of the Econometric Society in 2012, and in 2016, together with Prof Xu Chenggang, received the inaugural China Economics Prize, an award widely regarded as the most prestigious academic prize in economics in China, for “the contributions they made to the research of government and enterprise incentive mechanisms in the transition economy.”

As early as the 1980s, Professor Qian chose to study the reform and transition of planned economies to market economies. China was, of course, one of his research focuses. As a leading scholar in this area, Professor Qian’s papers can often be found in top academic journals, and his book *How Reform Worked in China: The Transition from*

Plan to Market was published by The MIT Press in 2017. While many others explore why the Chinese reform worked, his book emphasised how it worked. He observed that, for reformers, it is more important to find a feasible “second best” or even “good enough” reform than the “best” way, because implementation and execution is the key. He argued that “appropriate and adequate institutions,” not “best-practice institutions,” is the way to reconciling the apparent tension between China’s rapid growth and its flawed institutions.

In the end, the book offers a helpful guide for reformers: in order for reform to succeed, it is important to adapt universal economic principles according to local historical conditions and contemporary constraints. Professor Qian’s combination of thorough theoretical analysis and insightful practical guide is a rarity in the economic literature.

When Professor Qian was the Dean of the School of Economics and Management at Tsinghua University, he devoted most of his time to reforming higher education in China. His rich experiences and observations enable him to write a three-volume book titled *The Reform of the University* 《大學的改革》, in which he investigates the ongoing reform in China’s higher education in general and liberal arts education and business education in particular. As in his book on China’s economic reform, he proposes general principles, points out existing problems, and sketches out an action plan for Chinese university reform.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his great contributions to economics, China’s economic reform in general, and university education reform in particular, I now present Professor Qian Yingyi for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Larry Qiu Dongxiao

錢穎一教授

榮譽社會科學博士

贊辭

錢穎一教授生於北京，高中畢業後便上山下鄉，歷時四年。這段時間他自修數學和英語，亦對當時中國面對的社會和經濟問題產生了興趣。上山下鄉的經歷是促使他日後決定選讀經濟學的原因之一。錢教授回國報效國家前，在海外的學術成就已燦然可觀。

1977年，錢教授參加了文化大革命後首次復辦的普通高等學校招生全國統一考試（高考），獲清華大學取錄修讀數學，獲理學士學位。嗣後獲美國哥倫比亞大學統計學碩士學位、耶魯大學運籌學/管理科學碩士學位、哈佛大學經濟學博士學位。

錢教授先後任教於美國史丹福大學、馬利蘭大學及加州大學柏克萊分校的經濟學系。2006年至2018年，他於母校清華大學擔任經濟管理學院院長一職。

目前，錢教授是清華大學經濟管理學院經濟系教授及文科資深教授，亦為2018年在杭州成立的私立研究型大學西湖大學的首屆董事會主席。

2009年，錢教授獲孫冶方經濟科學獎；2012年當選為世界計量經濟學會院士；2016年聯同許成鋼教授，獲頒首屆中國經濟學獎，以表揚二人「在轉軌經濟中作用於政府和企業激勵機制的研究所做出的貢獻」。該獎為中國經濟學學術獎項之最高榮譽。

早於上世紀八十年代，錢教授決定研究計劃經濟走向市場經濟的改革過程，而中國當然是他重點研究的地區之一。錢教授在此學術範疇名重望隆，論文常見於頂級學術期刊，並由麻省理工學院出版社於2017年出版*How Reform Worked in China: The Transition from Plan to Market*。學者每每探討中國改革「為何」成功，而錢教授的書則強調中國改革如何克服種種困難，從而取得成果。他指出，在改革者而言，找到可行的改革方式，往往是「次優選擇」甚或「足夠好的選擇」，比找到「最佳實踐」的改革方式更為實際，因為改革的關鍵在於政策得以執行實施。他認為，中國制度雖尚欠完善，經濟卻能快速增長，關鍵在制度「合宜奏

效」。該書殿以建議，頗有益於從事改革者：改革要成功，便要按一國的歷史環境和當前的制約，把經濟通則斟酌運用，這一點至關重要。錢教授的專著理論實踐並兼，而其改革實踐建議足見他對問題的瞭解透徹，在經濟學的文獻中，實屬難能可貴。

錢教授擔任清華大學經濟管理學院院長時，致力改革中國的高等教育。他以豐富的經驗和敏銳的觀察，撰寫了一書三冊的《大學的改革》，既宏觀探討中國整體高等教育的改革，亦集中研究通識教育和商業教育的改革。就像錢氏分析中國經濟改革的書一樣，錢教授先為改革定下大原則，然後指出當前的問題，最後說明如何設計改革方案，並由此推動教育改革的落實。

主席先生，錢穎一教授既對經濟學貢獻卓著，亦對中國經濟和中國大學教育的改革建樹良多。本人恭請閣下頒授榮譽社會科學博士銜予錢教授，以表彰其貢獻。

贊辭由丘東曉教授撰寫及宣讀